

6/October/2023

To the Bursaries Panel of the ARU Foundation,

This letter is to thank you for your generous Entry Bursary of £800 for the academic year 2022-2023, from the ARU Foundation, Music Therapy Appeal funds (Music Therapy Charity) and to provide you with a report as to how this bursary has been used.

I am thoroughly enjoying the MA Music Therapy course with one highlight being my placements. My initial placement was at a care home, where I helped support my individual referrals, ran 'drop-in' sessions and lead group music therapy sessions – which included up to thirty residents in each group. Residents had a range of needs including various types of dementias and Charles Bonnet Syndrome. I feel privileged to have been on this placement and am proud that this has shaped my focus for my major project.

My current placement is at a children's hospice where I am learning to support four referrals, ages six-eighteen. I value learning from a diversely skilled team and having the opportunity to observe.

The bursary from the MTC has been extremely helpful and enabling, allowing me to purchase the large amount of study books required. As I have dyslexia, having personal copies of books is invaluable, allowing me to make markings and permitting me extra time to read. It has also helped me purchase instruments that have been useful to me in supporting clients.

After completing the course, I intend to become a practicing music therapist. While I continue to have an interest in forensic music therapy, my second-year placement at the hospice has shown me different aspects of music therapy. This has helped me to broaden and reshape my approach to finding work as a music therapist. My aspiration remains the same, however, as I would like to go on to complete a doctorate and to contribute to this developing field.

With gratitude,

Lauren Hollis-Hill

MA Music Therapy