

I've just completed my first year of the Nordoff-Robbins MMT at the new base in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. I moved to Newcastle for the course so it's been a big year trying to settle into the city and make the most out of the training programme. The support of the tutors and coursemates has really helped make this a positive experience.

The MTC bursary has been a big help in easing some of the financial pressure that comes with moving to a new city. From this I've been able to invest in some extra books and materials that are relevant to the course, but that I also feel will continue to guide my development as a music therapist in the future. I've also picked up a second-hand electric piano and joined a local community choir to keep broadening my own musicianship alongside the course.

Much of our learning is through our weekly placement days and supervision sessions. In order to benefit fully from this it's important to devote time to reading relevant literature and practising musical styles and techniques that could be effective in different situations. Although I've been working part-time, the MTC bursary has meant I can devote more time towards these aspects of the course rather than struggling for extra income.

Our most recent assessment was to write up a case study from our current placement. The information I'd gained from materials purchased with help from the MTC bursary helped me achieve an excellent grade for this assessment. I feel like it's helping me build a strong foundation from which to develop professionally in the years ahead.