OTM – Occupational Therapy in Mongolia

Setting up a Bachelor of Science program in Occupational Therapy in Mongolia by 2016.

A project of the Health Sciences University of Mongolia (HSUM) and the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Switzerland.
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Occupational Therapy is a health profession that promotes health and well being by enabling people to participate in the activities they want to, need to, or are expected to perform. Especially people with functional disabilities can greatly profit from such specialized health care. Performance in the areas of daily life, productivity and leisure of people will be increased, paving the way to greater independence from governmental economic and health care systems.

Currently, there are very few professionals and no education program for Occupational Therapy in Mongolia. Our partner, the Health Sciences University of Mongolia (HSUM), has realized the great need for the professionalization of the health sector and the implementation of Occupational Therapy as part of the national health care system.

Project Goal
We, HSUM (Mongolia) and ZHAW (Switzerland), want to close the gap and develop a Bachelor of Science program in Occupational Therapy. People in Mongolia will have the opportunity to benefit from specialized occupational therapy care which ultimately will increase their quality of life.

Approach
Therapy services working with individuals within their daily life settings such as Occupational Therapy need to be culturally appropriate. Therefore, the new Occupational Therapy curriculum for Mongolia has to be developed locally. The School of Health Technology at HSUM will take the lead. At first, pre-training is provided to Mongolian health professionals. The School of Health Professions of ZHAW will consult HSUM during the entire curriculum development process.
The four phases of the OTM project

2010-2014  **Train the trainer:** Pre-training of 30 Mongolian rehabilitation doctors and nurses in “Foundations of Occupational Therapy” at HSUM to allow the application of Occupational Therapy elements and raise awareness in existing multi-professional teams within the health care system for the potential of Occupational Therapy.

2015-2016  **Master in Occupational Therapy:** Training of 1-3 individuals from phase 1 to obtain a Master level degree in Occupational Therapy in Europe (incl. fieldwork experience) which will prepare them for a substantial role in phase 3.

2013-2014  **BSc curriculum development:** Development of an Occupational Therapy curriculum at Bachelor level at HSUM according to the standards of the profession while including local cultural specifics.

2014-2018  **Implementation of the BSc program:** Implementation and ongoing evaluation of the newly established BSc in Occupational Therapy.

Funding
The project comprises a variety of activities across a long time span and requires two general types of funding: 1) the funding of project activities and hardware, 2) the funding of individual students in phase 2.

1) For this challenging project, funding will be required for pre-training activities, consulting during the curriculum development process, marketing of activities, staff costs for the new Bachelor program, basic equipment needed at HSUM as well as evaluation activities. It's the donor's choice where to contribute.

2) Participating in the European Master of Science in Occupational Therapy poses a great challenge for our Mongolian students. It's about leaving home and family for one year, living in a foreign culture, studying in English. The main challenge, however, is the financial costs. Funding one of the five Mongolian students during the Master program in phase 2 will not only ensure the success of the project, but also contribute to their individual life long learning process.

We are happy to personally discuss project details and funding possibilities with you.

Come and join us in improving the quality of life for people with disabilities in Mongolia!

[www.project.zhaw.ch/de/gesundheit/er-mongolei.html](http://www.project.zhaw.ch/de/gesundheit/er-mongolei.html)