

What is the understanding and attitudes of external placement providers towards autistic allied health students, and what supports can be provided to facilitate inclusion?

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BACKGROUND

The aim of this project is to understand how current university placement requirements can be adjusted to better support autistic allied health students.

A shift towards autistic-led healthcare services in collaboration with, or administered by, autistic allied health professionals has begun to take place.¹ There is growing evidence that many autistic people feel that their needs and experiences are not understood by healthcare professionals, and that this could be addressed by having more autistic people working in all areas of healthcare provision, including allied health.² Previous research recognises the importance of evaluating how effective physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech pathology are for autistic people³ and how to support the needs of autistic university students; however these do not specifically address the needs of autistic allied health students across these three allied health professions.

This research project aims to understand how current university placement requirements can be adjusted to better support autistic allied health students. Specifically, what the knowledge and attitudes are of external placement providers on supporting autistic allied health students, the predictors of positive attitudes towards hosting autistic allied health students, and what information and support placement providers would like to assist them in including autistic allied health students.



Did you know that in the UK, there are an estimated 3000 autistic doctors or more? ⁴

1. Dorsey et al., 2020

2. Calleja et al., 2020; Beverley & Wooster, 2018; Dorsey et al., 2020; Doherty et al., 2021; McCowan et al., 2022

3. Beverley & Wooster, 2018

4. McCowan et al., 2022

FINDINGS

This study has not taken place yet. The participants will include allied health staff, external placement supervisors, and organisations that accept allied health students on placement.

If you are interested in participating in this study, or getting in touch, please contact Shadia at:

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Increasingly, employment research has indicated a need for organisations to take responsibility for facilitating disclosure and improving outcomes for autistic employees, rather than the onus falling primarily on the autistic individual.

Romauldez et al., 2021