

Breathe Magic Intensive Therapy Programme Magic Trainer – FAQ's

Who can apply to be a Magic Trainer?

Magic Trainers are typically Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy students looking for experience working with children and young people with disabilities. We have also accepted applications from graduate and qualified Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists. If you're a teacher or teaching assistant interested in the role, please feel free to get in touch!

What are the benefits of volunteering as a Magic Trainer?

Becoming a Magic Trainer offers the unique opportunity to see the Breathe Magic Intensive Therapy Programme in action. You'll be part of a team delivering life-changing outcomes for young people and their families.

Not only is this a rewarding and dynamic programme to be a part of, but it's also an excellent way to gain paediatric neurology experience. You'll receive support from our Joint Clinical Lead Occupational Therapists throughout the programme and work closely with young people aged between 7-19 years, with a wide range of hemiplegic presentations. You'll be exposed to factors such as tone, weakness, dystonia, passive range limitations, scaling and adapting activities, and much more – giving you invaluable hands-on experience in a paediatric neurological setting.

All of this will enhance your CV with solid clinical experience and knowledge. Plus, you'll experience the satisfaction of seeing young people grow and develop new skills – and yes, you'll even get the chance to learn a few magic tricks to impress friends and family!

What support and training will I receive?

Before the programme begins, all Magic Trainers are required to attend a full-day, compulsory online training session. During this session, our Joint Clinical Leads will cover the programme in-depth, explain the role and responsibilities of a Magic Trainer, and provide all the logistical information you need. You'll also receive an introduction to the therapy approach and learn some magic tricks from one of our talented Breathe Magicians!

Additionally, we provide an online resource hub filled with valuable information and resources to support your continued learning.

During the programme, our Joint Clinical Leads will provide ongoing support and guidance as you work with the children. They will assist with therapy strategies and help you with writing SOAP notes at the end of each day. You will also attend morning and end-of-day staff meetings, where you can ask any questions or raise concerns. The wider Breathe team,

including our Programme Manager and Magicians, will always be available to offer guidance and support throughout the programme.

After the programme ends, you'll be invited to a half-day CPD training session on upper-limb bimanual therapy (worth £200), led by our Joint Clinical Leads. You'll receive a letter of commendation and a CPD certificate after completing the training.

What is the minimum time commitment needed?

To get the most out of the experience and build your skill set, we require Magic Trainers to commit to the full ten days of camp. However, if you've volunteered with us before, we may consider a minimum commitment of five days.

Do I need DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) clearance?

Yes, as this role involves working with children, you are required to have an enhanced DBS certification. Breathe will process and cover the cost of this.

Do you accept applications from overseas?

Yes, following Brexit, EU nationals can still volunteer in the UK if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Settled or pre-settled status.
- A visa that does not prevent them from volunteering.
- Enrolment in an EU-funded volunteering programme with a placement in the UK, such as Erasmus+ or the European Solidarity Corps.

When will I hear if my application has been successful?

We aim to contact all applicants within two weeks of the application deadline to confirm whether you've been shortlisted for an interview. If successful, we'll invite you to an informal online group interview with a Joint Clinical Lead, and confirm your availability for the compulsory training day.

What if my availability changes or I can no longer attend?

If your availability changes or you are no longer able to attend, please notify us as soon as possible by email.

Do you provide accommodation and/or cover travel expenses?

Unfortunately, as a not-for-profit social enterprise, we are unable to cover accommodation or travel expenses. However, we will do our best to assist you in finding accommodation if needed by providing recommendations.

For professional Occupational Therapists, the Elizabeth Casson Trust offers financial support for career development. Funding is awarded based on the merit of the application and how the individual can apply the learning to their personal and professional development. [Find out more here.](#)

The location is too far for me to attend. Will you run the programme in other locations in the future?

Currently, as a London-based organisation, we only run the programme in London. However, in the past we've had volunteers join us from all across the UK, including Scotland and Northern Ireland. It is a fantastic opportunity for those able to attend, as you'll be gaining valuable experience while being part of an impactful programme. While we don't have plans to expand to other locations at this time, we will certainly keep it in mind as the programme continues to grow and if we build specific partnerships.

Is there a way for Magic Trainers to stay connected with Breathe and network with other Magic Trainers?

Yes! We've created a WhatsApp community where Magic Trainers can stay in touch, network, and remain engaged with the programme over the long term. It's a great space to share experiences, ask questions, and stay updated on upcoming events and opportunities.