



Job Details

JOB TITLE: Occupational Therapist – Animal-Assisted Therapeutic Provision

SALARY: Negotiable (depending on experience)

LOCATION: Based at one of Elysian's sites in Shamley Green, West Horsley (Surrey) or Liss (Hampshire)

JOB TYPE: Full-Time or Part-Time, Term-Time or All-Year Round

DETAILS:

We are looking for an experienced, passionate, and creative Occupational Therapist to join our vibrant therapeutic education team at Elysian. This is a unique opportunity to work with children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural needs, integrating animal-assisted and equine-based interventions into therapeutic practice.

You will be working in a supportive, skilled multidisciplinary team across beautiful outdoor sites where animals, nature, and therapeutic education go hand in hand. No two days are ever the same – and this is not your typical clinical setting.

If you enjoy working holistically, have a strong understanding of mental health and neurodiversity, and want to be part of something innovative and meaningful, this could be the perfect opportunity for you.

We're recruiting due to growth and have multiple positions available – both full-time and part-time. We welcome applicants available to work weekdays and/or regular weekends, and can offer flexibility around hours and contracts for the right candidate.

Why Join?

- Work in a unique, animal-assisted therapy setting that makes a real difference
- Join a passionate and creative therapy and education team
- Flexible hours – we are open to shaping the role around your availability
- Opportunities for professional development and animal-assisted training
- Meaningful, person-centred work with young people facing complex challenges

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Deliver therapeutic assessments and interventions for children and young people
- Set and oversee therapeutic goals in collaboration with the wider team
- Incorporate animals (especially equines) into therapeutic sessions where appropriate
- Facilitate small group work and psychoeducation workshops
- Maintain accurate, high-quality records and reporting
- Provide supervision to junior staff and contribute to service development

- Liaise with families, carers, and professionals as part of a holistic support approach
- Contribute to outcome evaluation, training, and wider organisational activities

ABOUT YOU

Essential:

- Qualified Occupational Therapist with HCPC registration
- At least 3 years' experience working with children or young people
- Skilled in supporting those with SEMH, SEND, trauma, and complex behaviours
- Experienced in clinical assessment and goal-focused therapy planning
- Confident working in a dynamic, outdoor setting and with a creative approach
- Excellent communication skills and ability to work within a multidisciplinary team

Desirable:

- Experience or training in Animal-Assisted or Equine-Assisted Therapy (EAGALA, PATH, etc.)
- Experience delivering group work or workshops using therapeutic tools and models (e.g., PACE, Zones of Regulation)
- Supervision qualification and experience
- Experience in alternative provision or therapeutic education settings

SCHEDULE:

- Flexible positions available: weekdays, term-time or year-round
- Minimum 3 days per week required
- Working hours: typically 9am–5pm

EMPLOYER:

Elysian is a therapeutic education and alternative provision provider that supports children and young people with emotional, social and mental health needs, ASD, ADHD, trauma and attachment difficulties. We use animals, nature, and creative therapeutic interventions to help young people thrive. The organisation is committed to Safeguarding Children and Young People. All roles are subject to Safeguarding scrutiny, including references and DBS Checks, prior to commencing employment.