

# Retain and motivate male students in occupational therapy education

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## Introduction

An ongoing research project called “Inclusion of Men and Boys through Education in the region of Zealand; IMODUS” focuses on how to retain male students in the Occupational Therapy Bachelor degree program. Both male and female students were invited to participate in focus group interviews. Based on the data teaching methods, that to a great extent correlates to the OT-practice, were developed and implemented in the OT education.

## Aim

To present and discuss how to explore and develop teaching methods which aims to motivate and retain male (and female) students in the OT-education.

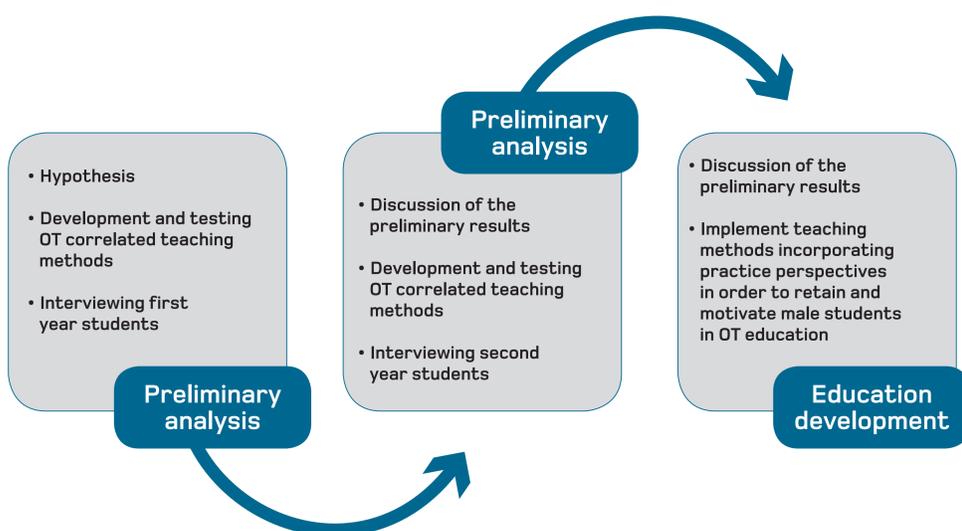
## Methods and participants

Based on the hypothesis, that particular male students become more motivated by teaching methods that to a great extent correlate to the OT- practice, data was generated using four qualitative focus group interviews with both male and female students who were sampled randomly.

### 17 students participated:

4 male students, age 24-46  
(in all 9 first year students, age 20-49)

4 male students, age 24-30  
(in all 8 second year students, age 22-30)



## Conclusion

The employed methods provided opportunities to explore and develop teaching methods that enhance motivation and help retaining male (and female) students. Furthermore the project contributes to develop the OT education.



“Well, that is for me, I think as a man, it is preferable to have hands on experiences”

## Findings

On the basis of the interviews and informed by the teachers’ observations it was found that teaching methods correlating to the OT- practice make good sense to and are experienced meaningful for male (and female) students.

The OT education can benefit from the development of teaching methods incorporating practice perspectives in order to retain and motivate male (and female) students.

