A Case Study from UK & Ireland:

Designing an E-learning University-accredited Postgraduate SI Clinical Training Programme for Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, and Speech and Language Therapists

Principles, Processes, Problems, Solutions, Results, and Future Developments

**Rosalind Gray Rogers** 





# So thrilled to be here



#### **Academic at Ulster University**



In 2015 Sensory Integration Network (UK & Ireland) had am ambitious plan!

Re-design and move the Sensory Integration Education-delivered interprofessional SI training provision to a fully e-learning Masters programme,

The first module ran online in May 2017 - the fourth and last module went 'live' in March 2020.



sensory integration education

Accredited, High-Quality Sensory Integration Cou

England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Ireland

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Created by the merging of four communities of Occupational Therapists who were passionately committed to the client benefits of this therapeutic approach ASI®, many of whom had either gone to California to work for a period alongside Jean Ayres, or who had been in communication with her about how to use the approach.

not-for-profit training organisation

25 years old

From its inception, there was a commitment to assure that the standard of education was excellent and was available to not just Occupational Therapists (OTs), but to Physiotherapists and Speech and Language Therapists.

For a sense of these early days: <a href="https://www.sensoryintegration.org.uk/SIE-Honorary-Fellowship-Award-DrGreg-Kelly/">https://www.sensoryintegration.org.uk/SIE-Honorary-Fellowship-Award-DrGreg-Kelly/</a>

#### Strategic Aims 2019-2023

- The voice and the 'lived' experience of those with sensory processing and integration challenges are central to our educational and training provision
- Our inclusive community of practice is supportive, engaged and dynamic in its pursuit of excellence
- Our students learn flexibly through academically rigorous methods and innovative, clinically focused materials

ADD FLEXIBLE
ADD UNIVERSITY ACCREDITED
ADD RESEARCH DRIVEN

- Our organisation is the 'expert' and 'preferred partner' for innovative initiatives and collaborations in the health, social care, education and third sectors
- https://www.sensoryintegration.org.uk/Aboutus



## Always partnered with a University

Since 2020 SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY, ENGLAND

2010-2020 ULSTER UNIVERSITY, NORTHERN IRELAND



## **Education Context**

In the UK we specialise early – Ireland has a broader school base

16 -18 years old A-levels 3 subjects

Health Courses -University vocational; no choice of Modules; 3 years

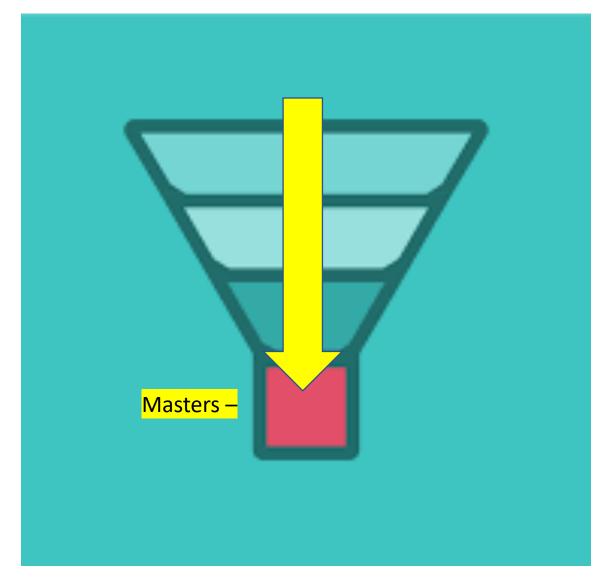
Bachelors Degree is the point of professional health registration

Post-registration Masters -180 credit points

60 credits - Postgraduate Certificate

60 credits - Postgraduate Diploma

60 credits -Masters





Whole team behind all the work I am presenting ..mistakes and views are my own

#### Structure

- Curriculum design, organisation, and content historical; current; future
- Student Learning historical; current; future
- Clinical Skill Development *historical; current; future*



# Curriculum design, organisation, and content current; historical; future



#### Curriculum Design, Organisation and Content Principles

#### Our aim is to:

integrate work-based clinical learning with explicit clinical reasoning

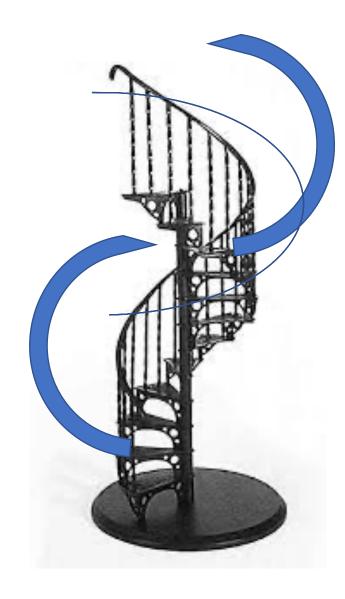


underpinned by SI knowledge and skills

### **Curriculum Organisation**

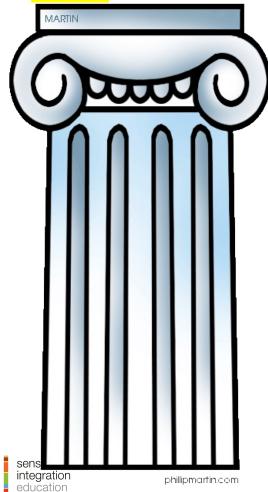
The curriculum is organised around the spiral curriculum design.

Students are introduced to knowledge, clients and conditions, which are then revisited with increased challenge in respect of complexity in assessment, diagnosis and intervention.

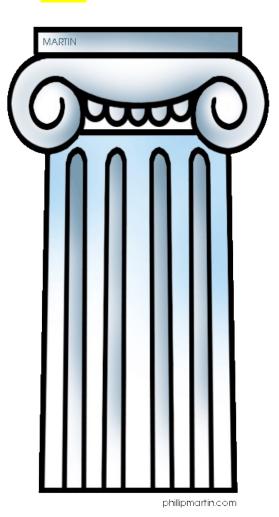


#### KEY CURRICULUM THEMES

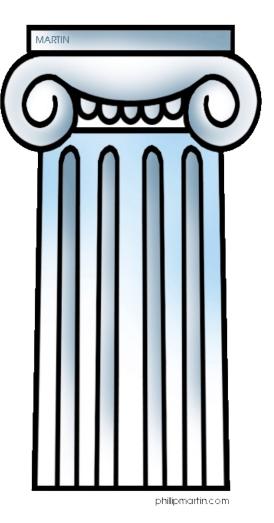
Knowledge and application of SI theory and neuroscience to practice



Enhancing clinical reasoning skills



**Inquiry based learning** 



# So how did we design and organise the curriculum in practice?

## Process of Course Design -between two positions

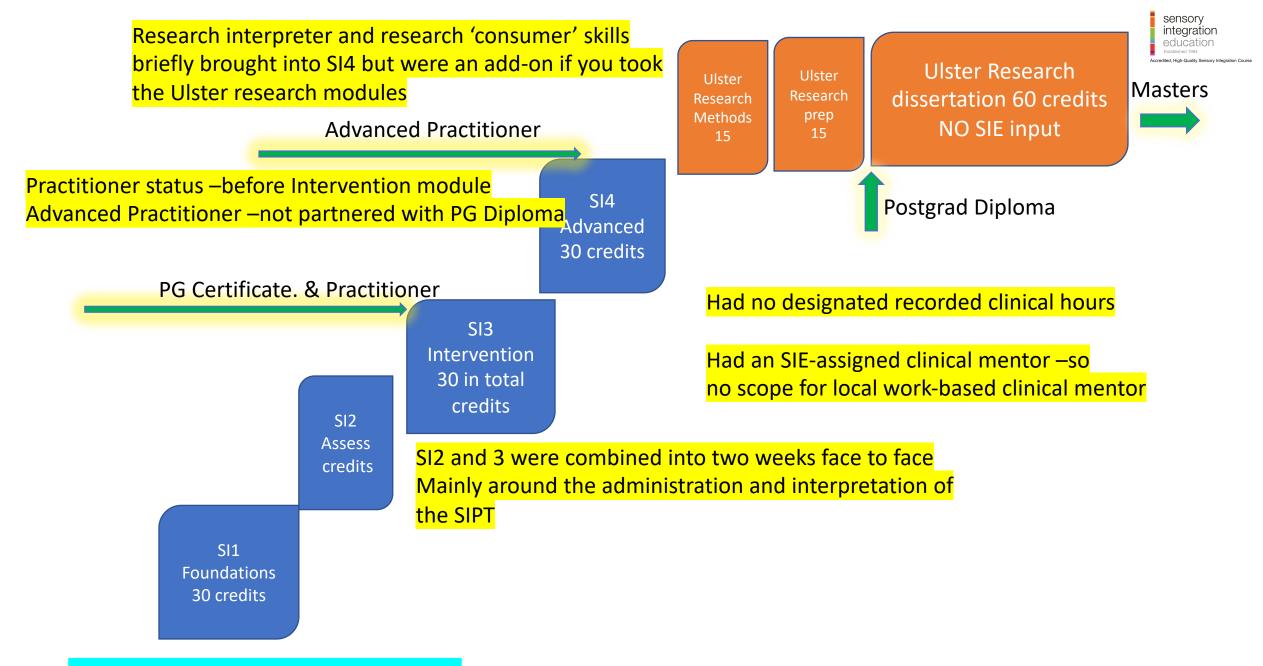
1. Zero based Curriculum review Paulsen & Peseau (1992)

Good example of how to do this is Borin, Metcalf and Tietje (2007)

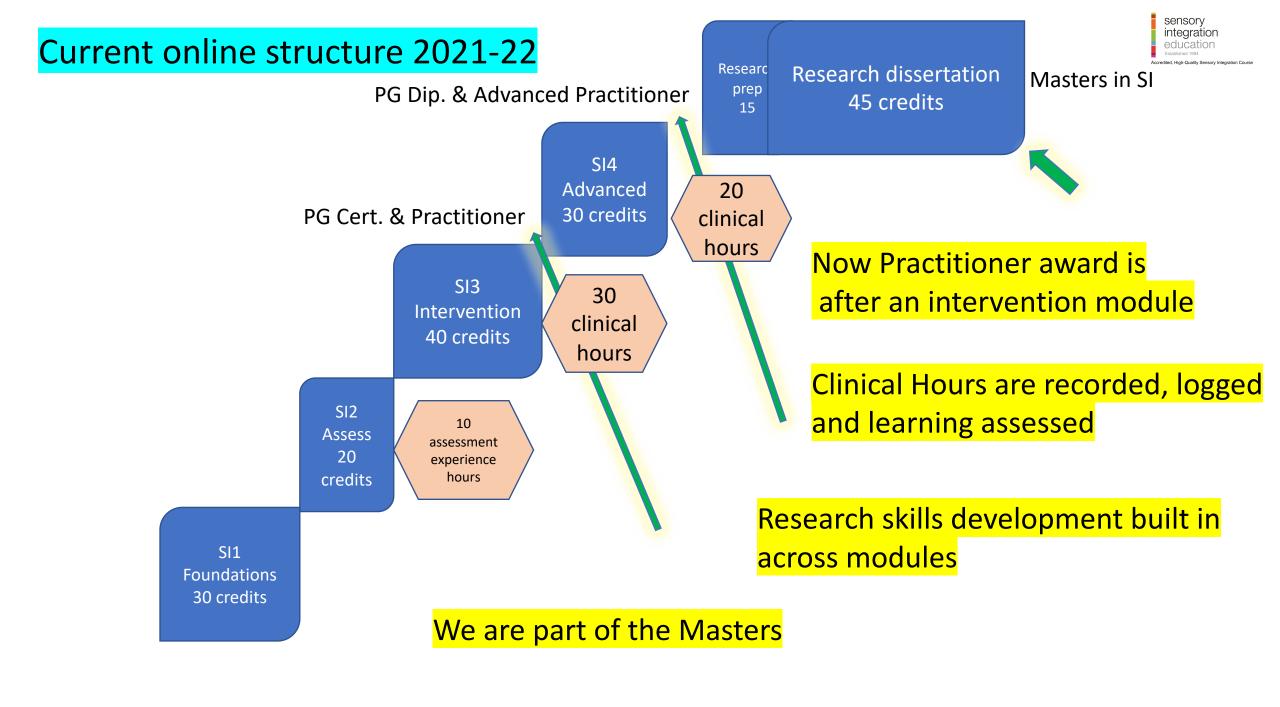
2. Evolutionary (Gray-Rogers in prep.) – use existing structure and adapt it; Minimise existing weaknesses -add to, adapt, innovate

Example –development of the upper cortical tracts to manage the brainstem spinal tracts and activity Development of the cortical areas in the Emotional brain network influencing the lower areas Sapolsky, R

Paulsen, M. B., & Peseau, B. A. (1992). A practical guide to zero-based curriculum review. Innovative Higher Education, 16, 211-221. Borin, N., Metcalf, L., and Tietje, B. (2007). A Replicable, Zero-Based Model for Marketing Curriculum Innovation. Journal of Marketing Education, Vol. 29 No. 2, August 2007 164-174 DOI: 10.1177/0273475307302018



Previous face to face structure



#### Currently – in my opinion best course design so far

Students are progressing through the course in more numbers and we have a significant growth in Masters students

In the medium term future -I would like the Postgraduate Diploma as the target award

In the longer term, I would like the Masters as the target award

## How did we design and organise the student learning methods around the content for online?

....how to teach it .....how students are facilitated to learn

#### PROCESS OF CREATING ONLINE MODULES

So we started with Module 1 –Foundations of SI

- Set out a project specification
- Agreed an overall budget and budgetary control checks
- Recruited a team of content developers
- Recruited a project lead
- Generated a structure for the module —sections sub divided into units
- Captured learning outcomes by section and unit

### How did we do?



**COMMON MISTAKE**: to take the face to face content and student learning methods and convert it to online



MISTAKE: to assume that online content can be created by therapists — no matter how experienced and specialised

### Developing learning content requires a professional educator

We planned a development period of one calendar year per module to develop it online

The first module took 21 months and many tens of thousands of British pounds

After the first content development stage which did not work,

#### WE ENGAGED PENNY STEWART

...every course developer needs a 'Penny'

#### **HER BACKGROUND**

OT —clinical background in mental health as a manager and university experience as a lecturer and online learning champion Sympathetic to SI Trained in South Africa -had pre registration SI knowledge



Rigorously challenging -as editor and converter to online she would not let any statement/content pass if it did not have objective evidence to support it.

Clinical 'nuggets' did not get used unless there was objective evidence to support them, or they were critiqued for evidence.

### Opportunities for learning

Macro -We had/have too much dense neuroscience without opportunities to apply it throughout the module

We are currently refreshing the module to re-organise/reposition neuroscience underpinnings

We have an active in house conversation about how much neuroscience, to what level and where and when and how the content should be woven across the modules and expected in the student assessed work.

We look outwards for interactive neuroscience methods -i.e. attending IamBrain.org for their interactive methods Day 1

## For the remaining three modules, our process became more streamlined

Across the three modules, our design starting point was:

What do we want the successful student to know, think, do, feel at the end of the module post assessment submission and feedback?

Contrasted with

What content do they need to know and skills to learn?

- Each module was different in its challenge
- Each module had different needs regarding content creation

In my view, SI3 was the most ambitious – developing the clinical work-based learning workstream; creating effective, efficient student assessments

## **Current Student Learning Strategy**

Challenge: to create learning content and harness learning methods that would help students transform their thinking and their practices in a safe, effective, challenging, 'just right', flexible, adaptable manner.

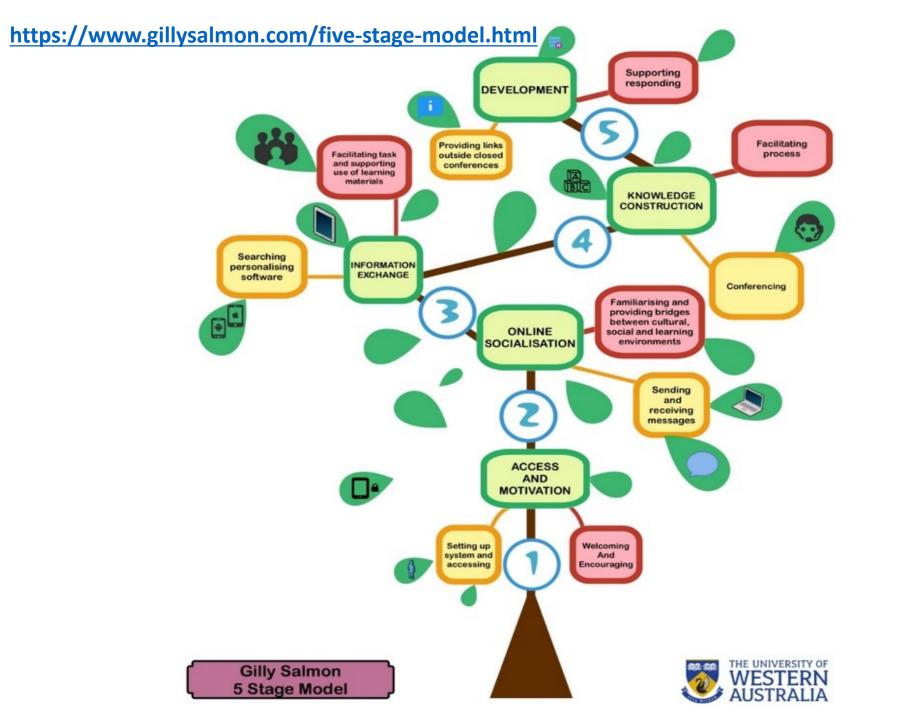
#### So need to make sure that we apply best practice principles for online learning

We sought expert advice within the HE sector.

We attended relevant conferences and events —and still do

Salmon's Five Stage model (Salmon, 2011) provided each module development team with a structured framework to scaffold the student's building up of comfort and skill, increase intrinsic motivation, and ultimate completion and success.

The five stages are built into each module



#### Example:

#### Salmon Stage 1: Access and motivation

The welcome guidance includes clear details about what technology to use, including the best browser.

This advice has been developed from student feedback as to what would have helped to know earlier in the engagement process. The use of short videos to walk through the steps to get online and onto the university's library and blackboard site are also there, using previous student feedback and FAQs.

#### 'Storyboarding' the module

- The value of having an academic expert as Sensory Integration Education's Lead for Technology Enhanced Learning (Penny) ensures that the 'story-boarding' of each unit within the module, and the overall shape of the module, is coherent with Salmon's model and also the learning outcomes of the module's units and overall module learning outcomes.
- In addition, she also makes sure that the more innovative technologically-driven creative learning resource plans are tempered with the reality of what is best and easiest for the student to access.
- This realistic focus on the student guides decisions about the learning technologies used, such as the online platform, the access method for video teaching content, and associated online design of learning units.

## **Technologies for Communication**

## What are the most useful methods of student and Module e-Mentor communication?

Learners, rather than embracing a range of communication channels, can be overwhelmed by too many channels (Knox, 2014).

So, the channels used are closed to only the student cohort and are through the Sensory Integration Education-owned student forums.

- Each student within a module has a dedicated Module eMentor, who hosts an online forum for her Module e-Mentor group
- There is a coffee shop forum which is student-led
- Email is mainly used only by the administration of enrolment and university services
- Students can privately message their Module e-Mentor. Meetings can be set up through this route
- Social media, such as Sensory Integration Education's Facebook and Twitter accounts, are used as professional, open channels, and not related to students' progression through their module

#### **Importance of E-tivities**

This is the name given by Salmon (2013) for 'enabling active and participative online learning'.

As the modules progress from the more knowledge-heavy first module, these activities are critically important in allowing students to personalise their learning.

## Main principles that drive the E-tivities and student assessment methods, overlaid by Salmon's framework:

- Ascertain and activate prior knowledge
- Build on existing knowledge and challenge misconceptions
- Use active learning techniques
- Encourage learners to think about how they learn and give learners responsibility for their learning
- Ensure learners get the experiences they need
- Reflection is helped by log-books, portfolios and feedback
- Build up mental models, practical skills and attitudes
- Allow learners to engage in hypothesis testing and action planning
- Respect learners and acknowledge who they are and where they are coming from

	Online Learning Unit	Self-Directed Activity	Learning Activity		Self-generated		Mapped to Stages of Salmon's Model Highlight the cell -if 2-3 highlight both etc.					Mapped to Curriculum Themes using key above		
W el		Description	Description	YES	NO		for 1,2,3; If more than one, highlight cell for the dominant one, if appropriate							
0-			EMentor & Student Introductions	Х		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	
1	Welcome & Orientation to Module, SIE & SH. Introduction to online learning.		Week 1 Tips & Tasks		х	1								
1	Ayres Sensory Integration® Theory & Practice Part One:  a. Historical context  b. Theoretical assumptions & model of sensory integration  c. Research / evidence base		Any questions?	x			2				1			
1	Ayres Sensory Integration® Theory & Practice Part Two:  a. Models explaining patterns of difficulty  b. Modulation / discrimination / perception / praxis  What is ASI Intervention?	SWOT analysis	Reflections & Questions	x			2				1			
2	Finding & Managing Literature skills	Library Treasure Hunt	Find, download & read a paper & work through critiquing literature worksheet. Share & discuss		X		2	3					3	

## Development of E-mentors

- Recruited Advanced Practitioners, many of whom have additional qualifications such as Masters, PhD study
- Developed a bespoke training package with a Specialist Online Education-trainer
- Cathy Maguire, Director, led on this development and initial bedding in as lead E-mentor
- Next phase: develop synchronous sessions; increase student participation —training needed under new Lead E-Mentor Moira Veira, mentored by Cathy Maguire

So we need to also think about how to develop clinical reasoning/critical thinking skills across the course

#### Facione and Facione 2008

#### ALWAYS NEED TO CRITICALLY REFLECT AND REVIEW

Time to think —avoid pressure to respond too quickly

**COMFORT IS NO** 

JUDGE OF

COMPETENCE

IN CRITICAL

**REASONING!** 

Deliberate

Reflective

Analytical

• Procedural-internal scripts – externally developed protocols

Van Merrienboer and Sweller (2010)

Design Principles and Strategies in health professional education

#### AIM:

1. Decrease 'extraneous load' -superfluous processes that do not contribute to the learning directly

2. Manage intrinsic load which is direct function of the task

## Decrease extraneous load by using

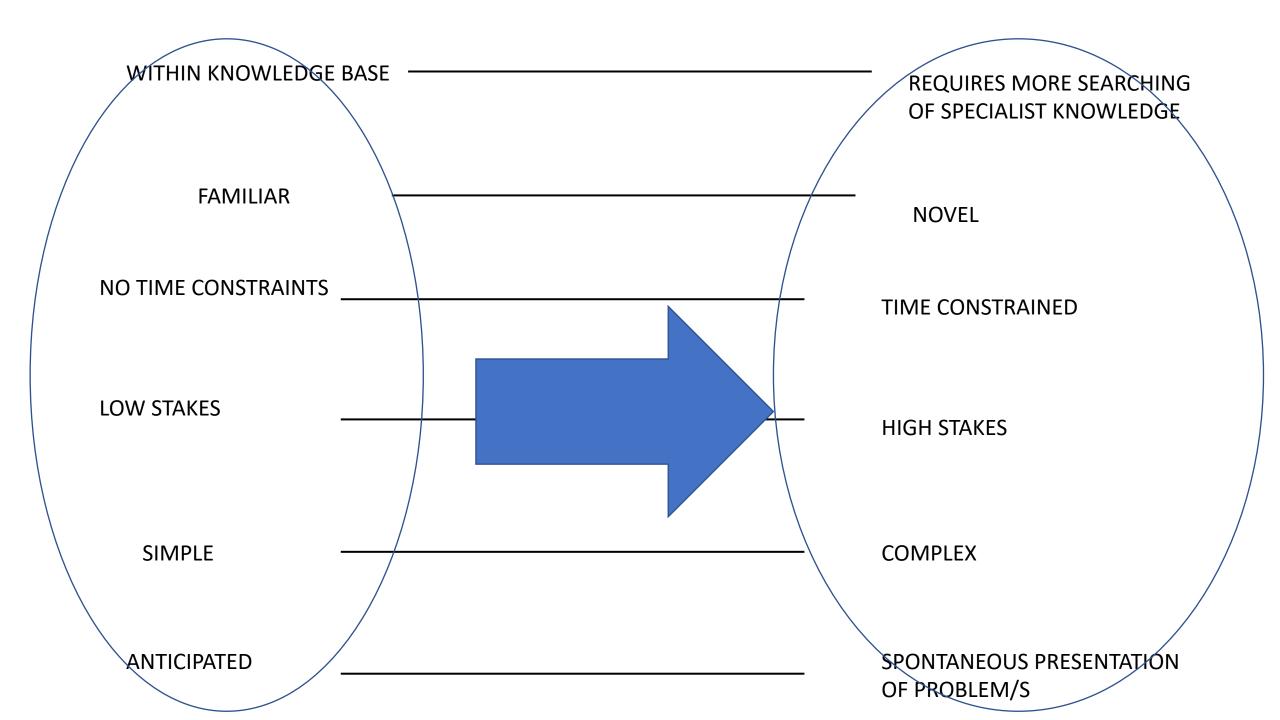
- 1. Goal free tasks
- 2. Worked examples
- 3. Completion tasks
- 4. Integrate different sources of information
- 5. Use multi modalities
- 6. Reduce redundancy

## **Intrinsic Load Management**

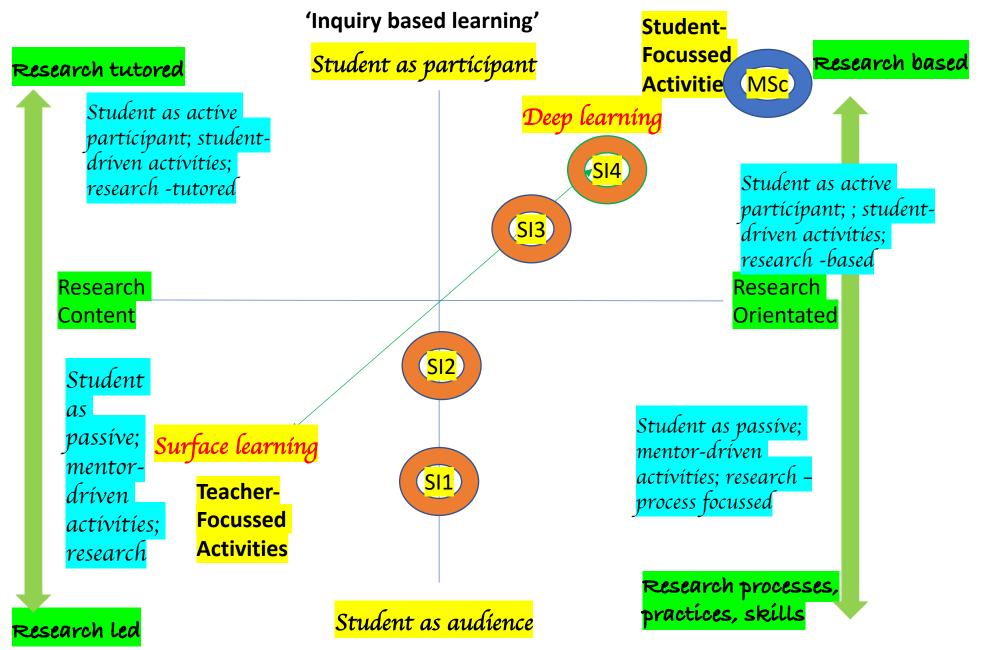
Simple to Complex ordering of learning tasks

Work from low to high fidelity

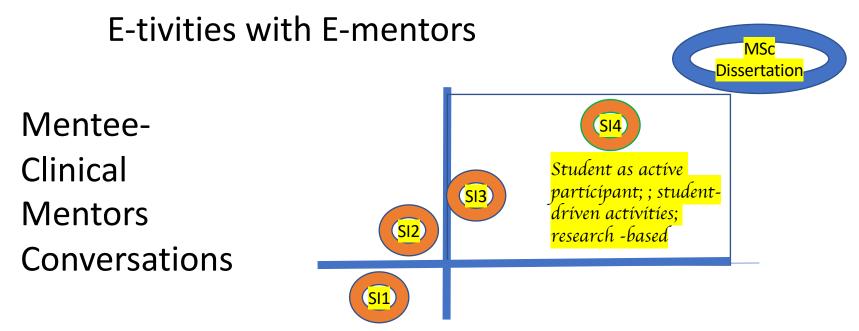
Increase variability; evoke self explanation



So we need to also think about how to develop inquiry-based learning across the course



#### Dissertation Supervisor: Student relationship



Library online resources

Self directed learning activities

Creative learning resources

Interaction with peers on coffee shop and E-mentor forums



#### Research – Masters work

Each student has 2 supervisors, one of whom is a specialist in SI Each student is allocated 12 hours per supervisor which also includes dissertation marking

Optional research interest group evening zoom meetings approx. every 6 weeks with Sheffield Hallam tutor and Dr. Sylvia Taylor-Goh, SIE

## Current working titles

- Experiences and attitudes of multidisciplinary therapists on using SI with adults with ID
- Educators knowledge of sensory processing in enabling children with ID to achieve
- Educators perceptions about barriers to learning for secondary children with ADHD
- Relationship between Looked After Children who had adverse childhood experiences and their results on the sensory profile
- . Investigation of play and praxis in children who were premature
- . Implementing ASI principles in community-based interventions
- The use of sensory modulation by Occupational Therapist's within the mental health population

### Past titles

Talcer MC, Duffy O, Pedlow K. A Qualitative Exploration into the Sensory Experiences of Autistic Mothers. J Autism Dev Disord. 2021 Jul 12. doi: 10.1007/s10803-021-05188-1. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34251566

McGill, C. and Breen, C. 2020 Can sensory integration have a role in multi-element behavioural intervention? An evaluation of factors associated with the management of challenging behaviour in community adult learning disability services. Journal of Learning Disabilities, ISSN: 1468-3156, Vol: 48, Issue: 2

Matson Rebecca The Experiences of Women with a Diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) Using Sensory Modulation Approaches in an Inpatient Mental Health Rehabilitation Setting

Presented at Thessaloniki ISIC 2019

# Clinical Skill Development historical; current; future

## Historical

- No clinical hours recorded
- Clinical experience with one case required for SI 4 assessment
- Had to have sessions with a SIE-appointed clinical mentor to help develop the case; no training for the clinical mentor-'time served'
- ICEASI Retreat agreed a minimum of 30 clinical hours working within an ASI framework in 2015

Myth –

We were going to develop practical clinical skills online

Clinical Practice is key —always was!



Developed Clinical Mentor quality assurance process – led by Director, Lelanie Brewer

#### 1. Clinical Mentor Guidance

Welcome and thank you for agreeing to be a clinical mentor for one of the modules of the SIE SI practitioner training pathway.



My name is Lelanie Brewer. I am the Director of Student Development for Sensory Integration Education and the academic lead for the SIE SI modular training pathway.

We value your expertise and experience in the field of Ayres Sensory Integration and look forward to working with you. For ease of communication and understanding during the COVID-19 pandemic we have condensed, updated and simplified the information we are sharing with you in this document and instead of providing a separate clinical mentoring handbook we are giving you access to the student handbooks to use for guidance instead. This will ensure that both you and your mentee(s) are working from the same information at all times and enable us to keep it updated efficiently and quickly.

## 1.1. 1. Why have Clinical hours and Clinical Mentoring been introduced to different stages of the SIE Pathway

Sensory Integration Education (SIE) has introduced an assessed clinical hours component into modules 2, 3 and 4 of the SI practitioner training-pathway to ensure students are as confident in the hands-on-work of assessing, planning and treating sensory integration (SI) difficulties as they are in the theoretical underpinnings of the client's neurophysiology. In the past, face-to-face skills were not assessed in the UK until SI Module 4: Advanced Practice and were historically both unspecified and unlogged. In the refreshed SIE SI Modular Pathway, students will begin gaining SI clinical experience earlier and in their own clinical setting. This approach, supported by clinical mentoring sessions at module 3 and 4 levels, will ensure that the skills students develop are relevant to the client group that they support and are of key value to them.

Below, is an overview of the clinical hours and clinical mentoring requirements for each module plus a brief outline of the different routes available for accruing these hours during the COVID-19 pandemic when direct, in person client working may be difficult to undertake for some students.



We will be adapting to Health Education England's Guidance on Advancing Practice training, specifically around clinical/workbased learning and assessment

## HEE 7 key principles



- Practice Context
- Competence and Capability
- Multiple Professional Registrations
- Individual Learning Plan
- Professional Development and Transition
- Integrated Approach
- Supervisor Development

## Would we do it again...move online?

