I was very pleased to receive a bursary from the Music Therapy Charity following my graduation from UWE Bristol. I carried out my dissertation research into the musical experiences of people with aphasia, and was also fortunate to receive some funding towards the cost of carrying out this research through the MTC small grants scheme.

The process of carrying out research and writing up the dissertation allowed me to share the voices of people with aphasia, to represent their lived experiences to music therapists, speech and language therapists and people running community groups for stroke survivors and people with aphasia.

I was awarded a distinction for my final dissertation and masters degree, and was proud to be awarded the SAGE Publications prize for the best Masters Dissertation in Psychology at UWE Bristol.

Since graduating I have presented my research findings at the The Social Value of Music conference, hosted by Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy in London in December 2019. I was due to present the research as a poster presentation at the 2020 BAMT conference and hope to do this at the rescheduled conference in 2021.

I have also had the opportunity to revisit my dissertation in order to prepare it for publication. I plan to submit it to the journal *Aphasiology* once some sections have been reworked and edited for a specialist audience.

I am very grateful to the MTC for their support, especially during a challenging time for newly qualified music therapists as we attempt to start careers in such an uncertain climate. The bursary has allowed some financial support while much of my work has been on hold, and I am now looking forward to starting various new clinical roles over the next few months.