

1. COURSE DETAILS

Qualification:	MSc
Course Title:	MSc Osteopathy (Pre-Registration)
Awarding Body:	University College of Osteopathy
FHEQ Level:	FHEQ Level 7
UK Credits:	180 at Level 7
ECTS Credits:	90 ECTS Credits
Professional, Regulatory and Statutory Body (PSRB) Accreditation:	General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) (2023)
Mode of Study:	Full Time
Length of Study:	2 Years
Location of Delivery:	University College of Osteopathy, London, UK, SE1
Entry Month:	August

2. COURSE SUMMARY

The MSc in Osteopathy (Pre-Registration) (MScPR) for qualified chiropractors, sports therapists, physiotherapists and medical practitioners is a two-year full time pre-qualifying course designed to give these practitioners the opportunity to achieve the required competence profile for autonomous osteopathic practice, thus fulfilling the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) professional requirements for registration as an osteopath in the UK. Whilst enabling these practitioners to develop the required clinical competence profile for registration with the GOsC, the course aims to produce clinicians who have the knowledge and skills to integrate osteopathy with their existing healthcare practice in sports therapy, chiropractic, physiotherapy or medicine.

Entry onto the programme will be dependent upon the possession of a suitable academic qualification (honours degree or equivalent overseas qualification in the following: physiotherapy chiropractic or sports therapy or a degree in medicine) plus experience in research methods and methodologies and/or a dissertation at undergraduate level. Applicants will also be required to demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate material and study independently, and to provide evidence of recent engagement in musculoskeletal care through the presentation of a clinical portfolio of evidence where they will be invited to reflect on previous clinical encounters to support their decision to train as an osteopath. Their evidence of experience and skills in musculoskeletal care will also be evaluated through a practical skills assessment using an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) format.

3. COURSE AIMS

The aims of the MScPR course are:

1. To enable you to apply for registration with the General Osteopathic Council, through successful completion of an accelerated learning pathway that recognises and embraces your pre-existing academic and professional competence.

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2. To enable you to achieve the General Osteopathic Council's Osteopathic Practice Standards competence profile required for autonomous osteopathic clinical practice.
3. To promote an approach to teaching and learning that embodies effective management of change and the ability to operate within the context of clinical uncertainty that encourages a commitment to self-managed, life-long learning.
4. To enable you to develop the professional capabilities required to integrate osteopathy with your existing professional clinical practice.

4. COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the MScPR course, you should:

- 1) Be able to critically appraise models of osteopathic health care, their history and distinctive features.
- 2) Be able to demonstrate a critical understanding of adaptation and maladaptation and altered human structure and function focusing on their integrated nature, in order to inform effective osteopathic clinical decision-making.
- 3) Be able to demonstrate a critical understanding of how healthy human functioning can be compromised by environmental, psychological and social conditions, resulting in illness and disease, and how this informs effective osteopathic clinical decision-making.
- 4) Be able to critically evaluate current healthcare related research and methodologies, review data and evaluate outcomes of clinical interventions and propose new hypotheses.
- 5) Effectively manage complex and unpredictable clinical situations both systematically and creatively, make sound clinical decisions in the absence of complete data and communicate your findings and proposed management plans to other healthcare practitioners and patients. This includes making referrals to other health care practitioners where indicated, and collaborate where appropriate, utilising both verbal and non-verbal skills to a high standard.
- 6) Be able to demonstrate proficiency in the application of a range of manual techniques ranging from soft-tissue and tissue release type techniques to articulation and high velocity thrust techniques, whilst critically appraising their modes of action, effectiveness, and indications and contraindications for their use.
- 7) Be able to select and apply a limited range of cranial, visceral, and functional techniques, whilst critically appraising their modes of action, effectiveness, and indications and contraindications for their use.
- 8) Effectively, ethically and autonomously manage clinical problems including the delivery of appropriate treatment interventions, while acknowledging the inherently uncertain nature of health care practice.
- 9) Be able to competently produce, present and store high quality and organised clinical records and data (both qualitative and quantitative) in compliance with appropriate legal requirements, for the purposes of effective patient care, and continuing professional development.
- 10) Be able to undertake the independent learning required for continuing professional development demonstrating self-direction and originality in problem-solving and autonomy as an osteopathic healthcare practitioner.

5. KEY FEATURES

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to achieve the required competence profile for autonomous osteopathic practice whilst further developing your pre-existing knowledge and skills in the area of musculoskeletal care. To this end, on completion of this course you will be able to apply for registration with the GOsC and therefore practise as osteopath in the UK.

This emphasis of this course is on developing new knowledge and skills within an osteopathic paradigm while appropriately extending your pre-existing capabilities, to enable you to be a competent osteopath capable of

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working in autonomous osteopathic clinical practice and integrate osteopathy with your existing clinical practice. You will be exposed to a student-centred learning environment to promote the critical acquisition, development and integration of clinical knowledge and osteopathic evaluative and treatment skills, within the context of your pre-existing clinical knowledge, skills, professional values and norms. This is underpinned by a critical understanding of osteopathic philosophy and principles. Newly acquired professional capabilities will be developed and consolidated in a supervised student-centred clinical education setting.

During your journey to becoming an osteopath, you will build upon your knowledge of human structure and function by further developing an integrated knowledge of the inter-relationship between structure, function and dysfunction in clinical presentations and integrated osteopathic care. You will also build upon your knowledge and skills of evidence-based practice and research to complete a small scale research project. Your existing skills in patient care will be developed to further refine and enhance your capabilities in areas such as diagnostic palpation and manual therapeutic techniques within an osteopathic context. Whilst developing the required competence profile for osteopathic practice, you will further refine your clinical competence in your own professional clinical area. Importantly, your learning will be set within the context of a critical understanding of the underpinning philosophy of osteopathic practice so that you will be able to provide osteopathic care from a critical and informed standpoint.

The experiential clinical education component of the course takes place in the UCO's purpose-built clinic. This will provide you with unrivalled opportunities to care for a wide range of patients from a diverse range of backgrounds that will enhance your clinical experience and enable you to hone the development of your osteopathic skills. As part of your clinical education, you will be able to treat patients in our specialist and community clinics.

The MSc will provide you with grounding in setting up a practice, covering business skills, medico-legal aspects, marketing and financial information. Recent graduates may be invited in to speak to you of their experiences post-graduation.

All of the units on the course are supported with on-line resource available through BONE (the UCO's online learning environment) which allows you to access your learning materials from anywhere in the world. The academic and clinical content of the degree course are underpinned by the scholarship and research undertaken at the UCO.

As MSc students you will have your own bespoke Level 7 lectures in osteopathic technique/patient care which is part of the *Functioning Human* Unit on the MSc Course. You will also have seminars in *Research & Enquiry*, *Functioning Human* and *Being an Osteopath*, all at Level 7 in line with the course design. In your first year you will also attend Level 6 classes with undergraduate osteopathy students in *Patient Care*, *Functioning Human*, *Being an Osteopath* and *Professionalism* where the content and teaching is relevant to your and their learning. This allows you to be part of the academic discussions with this wider group of students, who you also know from working alongside them in clinic, and it also gives you the opportunity to practice practical skills on a wider group of people which is important in the development of your skills in this area. The content and themes of these classes are then picked up on in your weekly *Being an Osteopath* seminar so that you can explore these subjects beyond Level 6. Specific related content is covered in these sessions so that your Level 7 outcomes are still met. Classes are specifically designed to ensure that the bridge between the Level 7 and Level 6 outcomes is reinforced.

All teaching and clinic staff are briefed on MSc students' backgrounds and expertise at the start of the academic year and are informed of which classes you will be joining, In both lessons and in clinic your existing skills will be considered so that tutors can work with you to ensure your development as a dual practitioner in a way that meets the demands of Level 7 study, while still responding to your own particular learning needs as they change throughout the course.

6. EXTERNAL BENCHMARKING

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

This course has been benchmarked against the following external reference points to ensure that the course aligns to UK expectations for standards and quality:

- The Quality Assurance Agency's [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(FHEQ\) \(2014\)](#)
- The Quality Assurance Agency's [Higher Education Credit Framework for England \(2008\)](#)
- The Quality Assurance Agency's [Subject Benchmark Statement for Osteopathy \(2019\)](#)
- SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education [SEEC-Credit-Level-Descriptors-2021.pdf](#)

PSRB STANDARDS

This course has been benchmarked against the following professional, statutory and regulatory body standards:

- The Osteopathic Practice Standards (2018) (The General Osteopathic Council)
- Graduate Outcomes and Standards for Education and Training (2022) (The General Osteopathic Council)

7. COURSE ACCREDITATION

The course is accredited by the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) in the UK. The title 'osteopath' is protected by law (Protection of title) and you have to be registered with the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) to practise in the UK, Isle of Man and Gibraltar.

Upon successful completion of the MSc course (including all mandatory assessments & professional requirements) and achieving a minimum of 1000 clinical hours as a student osteopath as defined by the GOsC [Graduate Outcomes and Standards for Education and Training](#) you will be eligible to apply for [registration with the GOsC](#) to practise as a registered Osteopath.

8. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to agree to the [UCO's Student Terms & Conditions](#).

All students are required to be bound by and comply with the [UCO's Academic Quality Framework](#).

All students are required to be bound by and comply with the [UCO's Regulations, Policies & Procedures](#).

All students are required to be bound by and comply with the Definitive Course Documentation which includes, the Course Specification Form, Course Unit Forms and Course Handbook.

Admission to the UCO is competitive and decisions will rest primarily on the qualifications, needs and aspirations of the applicant, and the reasonable expectation that they will be able to fulfil the objectives of their chosen course.

The normal minimum requirements for entry onto the MScPR course are:

- Suitable academic qualification (honours degree in physiotherapy or equivalent, honours degree in chiropractic or equivalent, honours degree in sports therapy or rehab or equivalent or equivalent overseas qualifications, or a degree in medicine).

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- Applicants with an Honours degree in sports therapy or equivalent overseas qualification should normally have achieved a minimum high 2:1 (or equivalent). In addition, they should have a good A-level or equivalent profile.
- Evidence of recent engagement in musculoskeletal care, preferably two years minimum, through the presentation of a clinical portfolio of evidence which contains a structured reflection on previous clinical encounters to support the decision to train as an osteopath.
- Experience in research methods and methodologies and/or a dissertation at undergraduate level.
- Ability to critically evaluate material and study independently.
- Successful completion of an IPA event at the UCO or through UCO agreed virtual channels. Applicants will undergo an interview and a practical skills assessment. Applicants will be assessed on their ability to take a basic musculoskeletal clinical case history and conduct a patient examination with the emphasis on the use of palpation, passive range of motion evaluative procedures and diagnostic clinical reasoning. Their ability to communicate appropriately in English will also be evaluated.
- Selection will be by application form.
- Pre-selected applicants will be invited for an interview and selection day.

The UCO is committed to a policy of “inclusion”, actively seeking to widen participation and to increase opportunities for high-calibre students with the aptitude and potential to become osteopaths to undertake a degree in osteopathy. Students from diverse ethnic and social backgrounds, mature ‘second career’ applicants and students with a range of seen and unseen disabilities are all warmly welcomed. Every application to the UCO is considered on its own merits.

Over the course you are required to meet the Osteopathic Practice Standards to be eligible for registration as a practitioner with the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC). This is the professional body which oversees “Fitness to Practise,” certifying you as ‘ethically and clinically competent’ to work safely with patients. As professional bodies do not interview or train students, the onus is on institutions such as the UCO to ensure that only students who are ‘fit’ to study and practise their vocation are admitted to, and graduate from, the UCO course.

As a prospective applicant, you and the MScPR Admissions Team will need to take into consideration your physical abilities (due to the essential practical requirements of the course), the implications of your disability for your own and others’ safety during the course, and your ability to communicate with and treat patients safely and effectively. This is assessed during the interview and if issues are raised, the Student Support Officer is available to assist you further. You may be advised to contact the GOsC to clarify their competence standards.

For further information about Admissions at the UCO please see Section 8 of the UCO’s Academic Quality Framework published here: <https://www.uco.ac.uk/academic-quality-framework>

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Check: All students will be required to complete an enhanced DBS registration check at the point of registration, in line with the UCO’s Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Policy & Procedure (for UCO Applicants & Students) published here: <https://www.uco.ac.uk/about-uco/who-we-are/policies-procedures-and-privacy>
- Applicants to the UCO will be asked at the application stage to declare whether they have spent or unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands, or warnings. Their attention will be drawn to the UCO’s Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Policy & Procedure
- Students are asked to complete of Health Questionnaire to support the UCO in meeting individual learners’ health requirements, in line with the [Health Policy for Students](#)

For further information about Admissions at the UCO please see Section 8 of the UCO’s Academic Quality Framework published here: <https://www.uco.ac.uk/academic-quality-framework>

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

English Qualification:

Applicants with English as an additional language will normally be required to provide evidence of having achieved IELTS level 7.0 or equivalent. Applicants with IELTS 7.0 and above will also be considered as part of an Interview and Practical Assessment (IPA) event where ability to effectively communicate in English will be evaluated.

Student Visa (General) Requirements:

Applicants from outside the UK may require a Student Visa to study the MScPR and are advised to refer to the UK Government's website here: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

The attendance of international students with a Student Visa must be monitored as part of their visa conditions.

International students requiring a visa to study in the UK will be required to provide evidence of specific English as appropriate to comply with policies published by the [UK Home Office \(UK Visas & Immigration\)](#) and comply with the conditions of their visa.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Due to the nature of this course, there are no opportunities for recognising prior learning.

WIDENING PARTICIPATION

The UCO is committed to a policy of inclusion and actively seeks to widen participation and increase opportunities for high-calibre students with aptitude and potential.

Students from under-represented groups (which include those with a seen or unseen disability, black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, those who have been in care, those who are carers and care for a friend or family member who could not cope without their support, mature students, and those from low higher education participation, household income and socioeconomic status) are all warmly welcomed and will be supported appropriately at the UCO to fulfil their potential.

We endorse the view that higher education should be accessible to all, regardless of background or financial status and are dedicated to providing prospective students from all backgrounds with advice and assistance to access our courses of study in addition to supporting you throughout your time at the UCO to ensure that you go on to have a fulfilling career.

The UCO runs a range of [Widening Participation Activities](#) for students from under-represented groups to aspire to higher education and beyond, including making study choices that are right for you, university and course taster days, life as a university student, managing your money, and more. If you are from an under-represented group you are recommended to contact our [Admissions Team](#) to find out more about how we can support you.

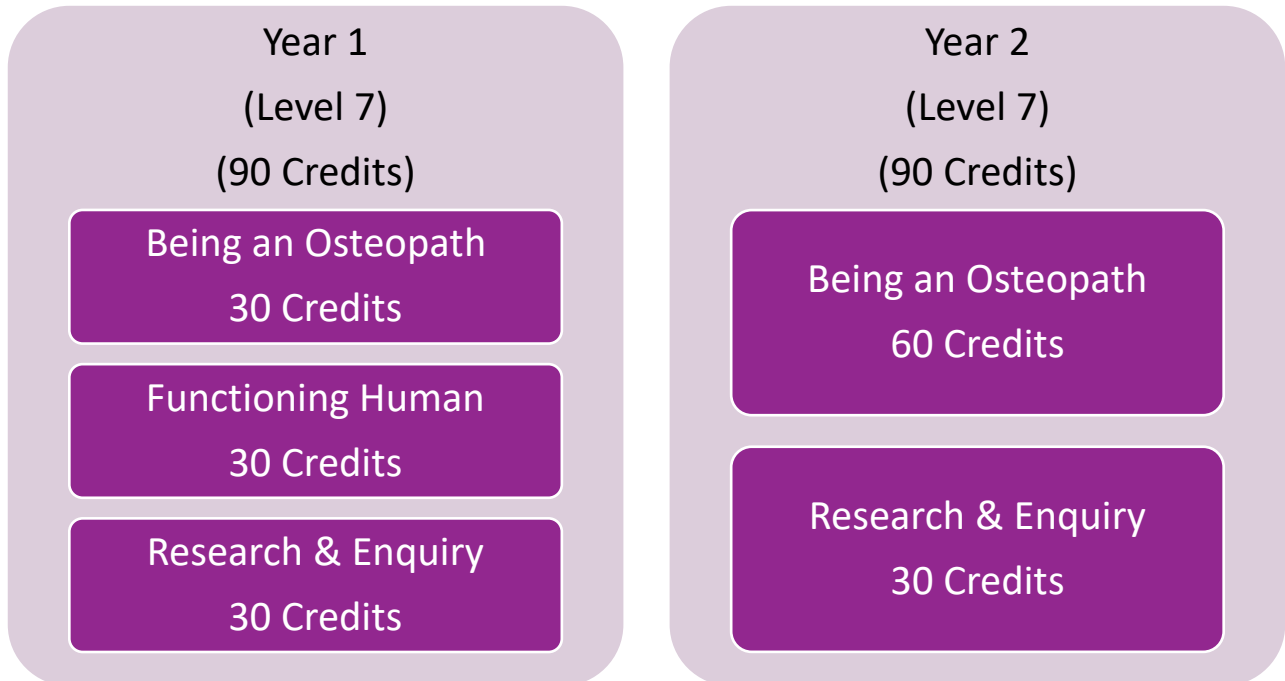
Our [Access & Participation Plan](#) sets out our commitment to providing access to higher education for learners from under-represented groups and the pastoral and financial support that may be accessible to students from under-represented backgrounds.

Every application to the UCO is considered on its own merits in line with our [Admissions Policy & Procedure](#).

9. STRUCTURE & DELIVERY

COURSE STRUCTURE

The MScPR course is studied over 2 years during which you will study a number of units per year. Each unit is assigned a specific number of academic credits that reflect the estimated notional learning hours required for that unit (where one credit represents 10 notional hours of learning). You will accumulate academic credits as you progress through the course in recognition of your achievement of unit learning outcomes at each level of study. By the end of this course, you will accumulate a total of 180 Level 7 Credits.



Throughout your learning you will be supported by an experienced and dedicated faculty of whom the majority are qualified, practising osteopaths. Our team of full-time teaching and research faculty are supported by additional staff and guest lecturers, who bring subject-specific expertise to deepen your knowledge and understanding in key areas of the programme.

COURSE DELIVERY

Each academic year is divided into three terms during which you will attend scheduled teaching sessions. You will be provided with three vacation sessions per year during which you will be required to complete some clinical sessions.

- Term 1 (12 Weeks) from September – December
 - Winter Vacation (4 Weeks) in December
- Term 2 (12 Weeks) from January – March
 - Spring Vacation (4 Weeks) in April
- Term 3 (8 Weeks) from April / May – June
 - Summer Vacation (12 Weeks) from June – September
- Resit & Deferred Assessment Period July-September

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Term dates are subject to change, specific dates for current and future academic years are provided on the [UCO's website](#). Scheduled classes include a range of learning activities including, lectures, seminars, work-based sessions, demonstrations, practical and clinical sessions. In addition to attending your scheduled classes and clinical training sessions, you will also be expected to undertake digital learning tasks and directed reading, practise practical skills with your colleagues, undertake research and independent study, prepare assignments and revise for exams appropriate to your year of study.

Classes and clinical sessions may be scheduled Monday – Friday from 8:30am – 6:30pm and full-time students are expected to be available during this time to attend classes and clinical sessions.

It is a regulatory requirement for you to complete 1000 hours of clinical training by the end of the course. You will be required to complete a number of clinical hours each year to ensure that you meet this requirement, as follows:

Year 1: 602 Clinic Hours.

Year 2: 399 Clinic Hours.

10. UNIT INFORMATION

The table below provides you with details about the units you will study as part of this course.

For this course all units are compulsory.

Year of Study	Unit Title	UK Credits	FHEQ Level	Summary	Compulsory / Optional
Year 1	Being an Osteopath	30	7	This unit introduces the knowledge and skill of osteopathic evaluation and patient management critically applying these in the context of patient care. Under the guidance of clinical staff you will develop your understanding of professionalism and how this relates to osteopathy. Whilst the conceptual basis of osteopathy will play a central role, so that you critically evaluate each patient in turn with an osteopathic focus from the outset, analysing complex patient information in a guided, but increasingly autonomous manner.	All units are compulsory.
	Functioning Human	30	7	This unit is designed to utilise and build upon existing knowledge and skills acquired during your professional training and subsequent clinical practice, by exploring and critically analysing dysfunction and disease in relation to structure and function, relevant to osteopathic practice.	
	Research & Enquiry	30	7	This unit equips you with the knowledge and skills required to locate, appraise and use research, and to plan and design a research project. The newly acquired knowledge and skills will be applied to the development of a viable and relevant research project in your own area of interest. On completion of this unit, you will be able to plan and outline a rationale for a piece of primary research or secondary data analysis, which is relevant to osteopathic practice.	
Year 2	Being an Osteopath	30	7	This unit will enable you to become increasingly confident with the complexity and uncertainty of clinical practice and to evolve into a safe, autonomous osteopath capable of making	

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				reasoned professional judgments in collaboration with, and in the best interests of, the patient. You will integrate all aspects of your acquired cognitive, affective and psychomotor skills and knowledge to provide osteopathic patient care and to develop individualised treatment and management plans.	
	Research & Enquiry	60	7	This unit will enable you to build upon your current competence profile and attain a high level of independently managed academic work which demonstrates your ability to analyse and synthesise new and/or existing data. This unit will enable you to consolidate as autonomous, critically aware, reflective osteopaths to enhance your skills in evaluating the nature and strength of current evidence underpinning osteopathy.	

11. TEACHING & LEARNING

The emphasis of this Masters' course is on developing new knowledge and skills within an osteopathic paradigm while appropriately extending your pre-existing capabilities, to enable you to be a competent osteopath capable of working in autonomous osteopathic clinical practice and integrate osteopathy with your existing clinical practice.

You will be exposed to a student-centred learning environment to promote the critical acquisition, development and integration of clinical knowledge and osteopathic evaluative and treatment skills, within the context of pre-existing professional knowledge, skills, values and norms. This is underpinned by a critical understanding of osteopathic philosophy and principles.

The course is structured as a spiral curriculum with the concept and practice of being an osteopath at its heart. It is designed to retain a degree of flexibility to allow for effective context specific delivery where content, resources and materials allow. The model assumes that as you learn and develop as you progress through the curriculum, you will be revisiting material at ever increasing levels of complexity and uncertainty off-set by increasing confidence in your ability to respond in clinical situations. Your development of knowledge, skills and attributes necessary for osteopathic practice will be explored in a staged manner and you will revisit key themes throughout the two years of study thereby deepening your knowledge and critical understanding osteopathy in theory and practice. This takes place throughout each of the themes in the programme and is contextualised within the clinical setting.

The course team will support you in your professional development in osteopathy by building upon your pre-existing professional knowledge and skills rather than expecting you to un-learn these pre-existing capabilities so that your full expression of clinical competence is achieved.

The course is of two years in duration and consists of three 30-credit units in year 1 and two units in year 2 one of 30 credits and one of 60 credits. The course is structured to promote the integration of acquired knowledge skills and experience across the three themes of the curriculum, i.e., Being an Osteopath, The Functioning Human and Research & Enquiry; This is centered on the discussion and learning that originates from real case scenarios drawn from clinical practice. In exposing you to a CBL approach, particular attention is devoted to the development of your clinical reasoning process, to ensure that it is rooted in sound, yet critical understanding of osteopathic philosophy and principles. In addition to this, you will be exposed to a range of practical classes, tutorials and lectures during formal classroom contact and your developing capabilities will be reinforced and integrated within an extensive osteopathic clinical education experience.

The integration of the curriculum is facilitated by both the case-based approach and by the support provided by a managed and planned clinical education wherein you will integrate your increasing theoretical and practical osteopathic capabilities. You will be supported by a dedicated team of experienced clinic tutors and

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academic staff who have the necessary knowledge, skills and professional competence profile to effectively promote the development of your clinical competence within the context of your existing professional roles.

Further support for integration of these newly acquired capabilities will be gained through close personal tutorial support, online teaching and learning activities, and group discussions with both post graduate and undergraduate osteopathy students. Following a necessary orientation phase into osteopathy and the nature of osteopathic education and clinical practice, where you be primarily supported by this dedicated team of experienced tutors, you will participate in organised clinic and classroom-based learning activities with other osteopathy students and staff as a means of promoting the development of communities of professional practice. The development of these communities of practice within the context of student-centered learning experience play a central role in your further professional development as a healthcare practitioner who will have a dual practitioner status.

The programme makes use of a wide variety of teaching methods to help you effectively learn and develop. Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes and clinical experience are applied in a variety of ways, so that your learning experience allows you to gather, interpret, discuss and reflect on your learning. You will also be expected to work in groups outside of the classroom, collaborating with your peers in completion of specific assignments, and will be responsible for managing your own self-directed learning as necessary.

Central to the teaching, learning and assessment strategy is the focus on enabling you to build upon your existing professional capabilities and code to an osteopathic philosophical framework. This is achieved through progressive development and integration within the supervised clinical context, where all their learning is applied within the context of supervised osteopathic clinical practice. Clinical education, through the Being an Osteopath theme is delivered through 602 clinical practice hours in year 1 and 399 hours of clinical practice in year 2. You will be given progressively greater responsibility for the management and care of patients within the UCO's clinics under supervision of osteopath clinical tutors. Whilst you will also take responsibility for providing mentoring and leadership to junior students within your team. Clinical education provides you with the opportunity to practice your newly acquired and developing osteopathic competences with real patients and this is the core theme enabling you to:

- a) refine your developing osteopathic identity and to locate your existing professional identity within this new framework;
- b) to apply, test and evaluate your developing practical, technical and clinical reasoning skills on real patients within a safe and controlled clinical environment;
- c) to integrate your existing professional skills with your newly acquire osteopathic skills to aid the refinement of your new professional identity whilst appraising the value of integrating osteopathy in your existing professional practice;
- d) to practice the high-level clinical reasoning and judgment skills in a logical deductive context that will enable you to refine your own models of clinical reasoning;
- e) to engage in reflection on and in practice with colleagues that will facilitate the development of your meta-cognitive skills required for autonomous practice and CPD.

Our teaching, learning, and assessment strategy promotes deep and meaningful learning underpinned by scholarship and research, whilst providing you with opportunities to develop and practice core knowledge and skills in a supportive environment.

Opportunity is provided for you to discuss your learning and address any questions or concerns you may have at any time. Tutorials offer close contact with teaching staff to discuss broader issues. More individual needs can be addressed outside the classroom, either with individual lecturers or Unit Leaders, or with your Academic Tutor. Further assistance can be obtained through the Student Welfare and Support team (See Student Support During the Course and Support for Students with a Disability below for further information)

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As a Post Graduate student, you are expected to manage your own learning. You will be expected to use the multi-media resources made available to you on the UCO's on-line learning environment called BONE. BONE contains a variety of core course content documents, such as PowerPoint presentations, Learning Resource Packs (LRP's) in Word documents and PDF's. BONE also includes on-line formative and summative assessments, forum discussions and other interactive resources.

In your second year of study, you will undertake a major piece of project work within the Research and Enquiry theme. You will conduct an in depth, empirically based piece of work incorporating an understanding of research ethics and governance. Your work will be to a standard suitable for publication and presentation to peers and colleagues.

The outcome of this piece of work will provide evidence of your deepening knowledge, ability to critically analyse a topic of relevance to osteopathy and your own personal development as a professional. As a result of this process, you will be able to develop a strategy with which to respond to formal and informal feedback, and gain an understanding of the development needs of your skills.

Throughout your learning you will be supported by an experienced and dedicated faculty, most of whom are qualified, practicing osteopaths. Our team of full-time teaching and research faculty are supported by additional staff and guest lecturers, who bring subject specific expertise to deepen your knowledge and understanding in key areas of the programme.

12. ASSESSMENT & FEEDBACK

ASSESSMENT

Each unit normally contains at least one practice or 'formative' assessment for which you will receive feedback from your tutor enabling you to monitor and review your understanding and progress. Grades of formative assessments do not count towards your final mark.

Each unit also normally contains at least one formal or 'summative' assessment for which you will receive a grade which will count towards your final mark.

A range of summative assessment methods are used to enable you to demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and competence and include coursework (where you are required to produce a written piece of work that you work on over a set period of time and submit for marking), written or online examinations (where you are required to answer a question paper under examination conditions), practical, and clinical examinations (where you are required to demonstrate your knowledge and skills to an assessor typically with a simulated or real patient).

Types of summative assessments for this course include:

- a) Written & Online Assessments
- b) Individual & Group Presentations
- c) Coursework & Reflective Activity
- d) Research Project & Presentation
- e) Integrated & Station Based Assessments (OSPE, OSCPE)
- f) Clinical & Practical Assessments

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The approximate percentage of the course by each of these assessment methods is as follows:

Year 1

55% Coursework

12% Written Exams

33% Practical Exams

Year 2

60% Coursework

0% Written Exams

40% Practical Exams

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Below are the indicative dates of when you will undertake assessment throughout your course (in date order):

Year	Unit	Assessment	Indicative Date
1	BAO1	Continuous Assessment 1	Term 2
	FH1	Critical Evaluative Essay	January
	BAO1	Business Development Essay	March
	RAE1	Critical Literature Review	February
	BAO1	Continuous Assessment 2	Term 3
	FH1	Case Based Viva	May
	RAE1	Research Proposal	May
	FH1	Integrated PMP (1 hour 40 minutes)	June
	BAO1	Reflective Presentation	June
2	BAO2	Continuous Assessment	Term 2
	BAO2	Continuous Assessment	Term 3
	RAE2	Research Paper / Dissertation	April
	BAO2	Career Development Project & Presentation	June
	RAE2	Research Presentation	June

FEEDBACK

You will receive feedback and a grade for all coursework and practical examinations. For written examinations you will receive a grade with feedback available on request from the Unit Leader. Feedback is intended to help you learn and you are encouraged to discuss it with your unit tutors.

We aim to provide you with feedback on formative assessments within 3 weeks of the hand-in date, and within 6 weeks for summative assessments.

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Progression criteria are used by the UCO's Board of Examiners to determine whether you have achieved the required level and number of credits and any other requirements (such as clinical hours) to progress to the next year of your course and to be awarded the course award.

Courses are divided into stages. To be eligible to progress from one stage to the next you must have gained the required number of academic credits at the appropriate level in line with your course progression criteria. For postgraduate courses, a stage corresponds to one year of study.

The progression criteria for the MscPR are:

- a) Students are expected to complete the course within the normal period of time as approved at validation, i.e. 2 years. The maximum time for a student to complete this course is normally 4 years
- b) 90 credits from the first phase (year 1 units) are required to progress to the subsequent phase (year 2) of the MSc Osteopathy (pre-registration) programme.
- c) In the final stage of your course, you must normally accumulate all academic credits needed for the award for which you are registered.
- d) A student who has not attained a minimum of 30 credits by the end of a phase will be regarded as not having made sufficient academic progress. The student will normally discontinue the course and will be required to leave the UCO.
- e) An overall unit grade of a Grade D- or above is required for the award of the appropriate credits for each unit.
- f) To pass a unit, you must attempt all assessments.
- g) If a unit contains more than one assessment, provided the unit is passed with an overall grade of D-, one of the assessments may be condoned. Normally only grades of E+ may be condoned.
- h) Any assessment awarded a Grade E+, E-, F or a G normally results in a re-sit of that assessment.
- i) Any re-sit assessment awarded a Grade E+, E-, F or a G normally results in a re-take of that unit.
- j) Failure to submit an assignment will result in the award of a Grade F, i.e. an automatic failure of that assessment.
- k) Failure to attend an exam will result in the award of a Grade F, i.e. an automatic failure of that exam.
- l) If a Grade G for issues of safety is awarded for any assessment, an automatic failure of this assessment will result.
- m) Normally all students are offered one opportunity to re-sit failed assessments.

Condoned Passes

If you are awarded a Grade E+ for one of the assessment components of a unit, the Examination Board has the discretion to award a condoned pass for that component. This will only happen if the overall unit grade is a Grade D- or above.

Condoning is normally offered for non-practical assessments in The Functioning Human and Research and Enquiry Units.

Only one assessment per year may be condoned at the main Exam Board. If a student fails more than one assessment, they are required to re-sit all of the failed assessments.

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Certain unit assessment components are not normally condoned due to the professional or practical element of the assessment and the implications this may have on standards of proficiency and safety issues. These include the following assessments:

Unit	Assessment
Being an Osteopath Yr1	Continuous Assessments
Being an Osteopath Yr2	Continuous Assessments
Functioning Human Yr1	Integrated PMP Case-Based Viva

Retrieval of Failure in a Unit

If you fail elements of an assessment within a unit, you may attempt a referral assignment(s) and / or re-sit the examination (if part of the assessment regime). Re-sit and referrals may be attempted on one occasion only, and attract a maximum pass grade of D-(5). You will however be informed of the un-capped grade your work would have attracted.

If you fail to pass the unit you may retake the unit once more during the next academic year. You cannot, however, re-take a unit to improve your grade.

Retrieval of a failure in a unit is made at the discretion of the Board of Examiners only.

DEGREE CLASSIFICATION

This course is classified to reflect your overall level of performance and attainment in relation to your:

- a) Knowledge and understanding
- b) Cognitive skills
- c) Practical skills
- d) Transferable skills
- e) Professional competencies set out in the:
 - a. [Osteopathic Practice Standards](#)
 - b. [Graduate Outcomes and Standards for Education and Training](#)

You may achieve an award with Distinction if you meet the following criteria:

For both years of this course your overall unit grades are allocated scores as follows: A = 6 points, B = 5 points, C = 4 points. These scores are totalled over both years of study.

Students who achieve a total score of 30 or more are eligible to be awarded an MSc in Osteopathy (Pre-Registration) degree with Distinction.

Boards of Examiners do not have the discretion to award an MSc in Osteopathy (Pre-Registration) with Distinction where the totalled score is 29 or less.

EXIT AWARDS

If you are unable to complete the course in its entirety for example due to personal circumstances, you may be eligible to receive an exit award that recognises the number of credits and level of learning that you have achieved.

The Exit Awards for this course include:

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Exit Award	Criteria for the Exit Award
Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences	60 Credits Level 7
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences	120 Credits at Level 7

The exit awards are not recognised qualifications for registration with the General Osteopathic Council and graduates with the exit awards are not permitted to practise as an Osteopath.

13. FURTHER STUDY & EMPLOYABILITY

Further Study:

There are a growing number of postgraduate qualifications in the field of osteopathy and the UCO's own portfolio of postgraduate programmes is developing. The UCO also offers a portfolio of postgraduate certificate courses designed to support graduate development in areas of career specialisation. This will enable further postgraduate self-development and will contribute to the development of the profession. In addition, we offer a PhD programme to enhance your own research interests. You must have a Recognised Qualification to be eligible for entry onto all of these courses.

Career:

The course will enable you to apply for registration with the GOsC and practise as an autonomous osteopathic practitioner within the UK. This course will enable you to maintain your existing professional role whilst further enhancing your competence profile as a specialist primarily in the area of musculoskeletal care. To this end, you will develop the knowledge and skills required to integrate osteopathy with your existing area of clinical practice.

Although most osteopaths work on a self-employed basis in the private sector, there are increasing opportunities to develop your career in a multidisciplinary environment. Developing links between the National Health Service and the osteopathic profession mean that there are opportunities to work within hospitals, in partnership with doctors in general practice and in community health centres.

With your previous experience, you may discover opportunities to pursue individual specialist interests and to develop work with particular client groups.

With further experience, some osteopaths go on to teach at one of the approved osteopathic education institutions. Research in osteopathy is also a growing area of the profession and there more opportunities to undertake research into particular areas of specialism.

There are opportunities to work abroad, subject to the country's registration requirements.

14. STUDENT SUPPORT

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The UCO recognises that students new or returning to study at higher education level can be challenging. You will need to take more responsibility for your own learning, be responsible for attending classes and completing assessments on time and for participating in group and individual learning activities.

The UCO's experienced Learning Advisors is available to help you develop the study skills you need to reach your full potential at the UCO and beyond. They provide individual sessions and group workshops on:

- Understanding your learning style

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- Goal setting and planning your studies
- Self-directed study
- Academic reading, writing and referencing
- Effective literature searching
- Developing communication skills
- Time management
- Note taking
- Revision, exam and memory techniques
- English as an additional language
- Studying with Dyslexia or Specific Learning Difficulty

You will also have access to your Course Leader, Units Leaders and tutors with whom you will be able to discuss your studies and academic progress within and outside of teaching sessions.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Our dedicated Student Support Team operate drop-in sessions that means you are welcome at any time to discuss issues that may be affecting your studies or wellbeing and are always willing to listen and support you through any difficulties.

Our Mental Health & Disability Coordinator is committed to strengthening mental health, wellbeing and disability support within the UCO and provides a confidential and impartial service on a wide variety of issues which may directly or indirectly affect your studies including:

- Providing a welfare advisory service and to advise staff on related matters.
- Providing specialist advice, information and support about student finance and assisting students in sourcing other funding from external organisations such as educational charities.
- Providing specialist advice, information and support about students' physical and mental health and wellbeing, including personal issues related to family, relationships, identity, gender and sexuality.
- Providing advice and information about accommodation, living arrangements and travel.
- Advising on Higher Education student finance, bursaries, and loan schemes available within the UCO.
- Providing a confidential impartial service, where no information is disclosed without students' written consent.
- Referring students on to appropriate help within the UCO and the local community.

In many cases where personal circumstances have an impact on your studies, reasonable adjustments and individual learning plans can be made to enable you to continue studying and fulfil your potential.

Our fully qualified Counsellors also provides a counselling service to help you if you feel overwhelmed or experience psychological or emotional difficulties throughout your studies. Appointments to use this confidential service are free and anonymous.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The UCO recognises that studying for a degree involves a significant financial commitment and that sometimes changes in circumstances can be difficult financially. We therefore offer [Tuition Fee Discounts](#) for

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early payment of tuition fees and former UCO students and [Payment Plans](#) for self-funding students who wish to spread the costs of their fees out over a nine month period. For students who face unforeseen financial difficulties whilst they are studying with us we offer a limited number of [Grants, Bursaries, Funds and Interest-Free Loans](#) that are available for those in need. Our Student Support Team also offer advice and guidance on budgeting and other sources of funding from external organisations such as educational charities.

DISABILITY SUPPORT

The UCO welcomes students with a disability or specific learning difficulty and has enabled many such students to successfully complete the course and fulfil their potential.

If you have a disability or specific learning difficulty, you are recommended to disclose this on your application form and / or to inform our [Admissions Team](#) or contact our [Student Support Team](#) confidentially in writing. This will help us to provide you with advice and guidance about how we may be able to support you throughout the admissions process and throughout the course.

A review of your needs may be undertaken by our Student Support Officer, who may take advice from an occupational health or health care professional, to ensure that you can achieve your full potential at the UCO on your chosen course, and to determine reasonable adjustments that can be offered to you, such as:

- Documents in your preferred format, font and size
- Adjustable desks and chairs
- Extra time in exams
- Working from a laptop in exams
- Using a scribe in exams
- Taking an exam in a quieter room
- Rest breaks during exams
- Assistive technology
- Providing staff training and awareness raising
- Providing study skills support

The Mental Health & Disability Coordinator also provides a confidential and impartial support service to all students with a declared disability, by initiating and supporting students through the process involved in applying for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA). DSA covers any extra study-related costs you incur due to an impairment, mental health condition, or learning difficulty. It is neither a benefit nor a loan, so doesn't need repaying.

We recognise that you may not know whether you have a disability or learning difficulty that affects your studies until after you start the course. If this is the case, you are recommended to discuss this with the Mental Health & Disability Coordinator who may arrange for you to undertake a full diagnostic assessment.

Having a disability or specific learning difficulty should not preclude you from applying to study at the UCO, however due to the nature of this course you are recommended to read the following guidance from the General Osteopathic Council - [Guidance for applicants and students with a disability or health condition](#) so that you are fully informed and will help you to decide whether this course is right for you.

15. COURSE FEES, ADDITIONAL COSTS & VALUE FOR MONEY

COURSE FEES

The tuition fee per year for this course is as follows:

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Home/UK fee for the year: £10,400

Overseas/EU fee for the year: £11,900

Our [Course Fee Policy](#) details essential information relating to tuition fees and fee payment which you are strongly recommended to read and understand.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

You should be aware that there may be other costs associated with your course in addition to the course fees. For this course these include:

- **Accommodation and living costs:** The UCO does not currently offer student accommodation but can offer advice and support about this and general living costs on our [Additional Costs](#) webpage (these will be variable and dependent on your choice of accommodation and lifestyle).
- **Refreshments / Lunch:** The UCO does not currently offer a full canteen service, but does provide students with free filtered water, tea, coffee, milk and kitchen facilities to prepare your own food. There are also plenty of local cafes and supermarkets where you can purchase food and drink at your own expense.
- **Travel costs:** You will need to consider the cost of travelling to and from the UCO from your accommodation and between the UCO and Community Clinics. This will be dependent on the type of transport available to you and the distance travelled.
- **A Locker Key:** The UCO provides students with the option of storing their belongings in a locker at the UCO which costs £10.00. This is refunded when you no longer need the locker or are no longer a student at the UCO. If you lose your locker key, you will be required to pay £10.00 to cover the cost of a replacement.
- **Replacement Student Card:** You will be provided with a UCO Student Card when you register for your course, however if you lose this you will be required to pay £10.00 to cover the cost of a replacement.
- **Texts:** Our library is well stocked with textbooks and you are provided with free online access to journals and e-books which should meet your learning needs for this course, however if you wish to purchase your own texts the cost of this to you will be dependent on your preferred supplier.
- **Computer / Laptop / Storage Devices:** You will require access to a computer and the internet to access the UCO's Virtual Learning Environment, online learning resources, participate in online discussions, email your tutors and colleagues and prepare and submit written assessments. Our ICT suite contains desktop computers and internet access for your use in addition to your own personal Microsoft OneDrive storage area, however if you wish to purchase your own laptop, storage device or use the internet at home the cost to you will depend on your chosen supplier.
- **Printing / Photocopying:** The UCO provides you with £12.00 of free printing / photocopying credits each year, however once you exceed this allowance you will need to pay for these costs yourself (£0.05 per colour sheet per side and £0.005 per black and white sheet per side).
- **Graduation Ceremony:** You will be required to hire your Graduation Robes which costs approximately £55.00. If you wish to invite friends and family to the Graduation Ceremony ticket prices per person are as follows: Adult (£35.00), Child Aged 6- 16 Year (£15.00) and Children Aged 5 Years and Under (Free). Graduation costs are reviewed annually, and these prices are indicative.
- **Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Check:** A condition of registration for this course is completion of an enhanced DBS check which costs £50.00.
- **Clinic Uniform:** You are required to wear scrubs within the clinical environment which cost from £15.00 - £50.00 depending on your choice of supplier. You are recommended to have three sets of scrubs and will need these for your first practical and clinical sessions.

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- **Clinic Equipment:** Standard equipment required typically includes Littman stethoscope, Sphygmomanometer, patella hammer, tuning forks 128Hz & 512Hz (with base/foot plate), pen torch, neurotips or medipens (neurological testing pins), and a digital thermometer. This equipment is required for Year 1 of your course and costs approximately £200.00 - £300.00 depending on your supplier.
- **Plinth Cover & Pillowcase:** You will require your own plinth cover and pillowcase for your first and subsequent technique classes from Year 1 onwards. These cost approximately £15.00 - £20.00 depending on your supplier.
- **Optional Overseas Trips / Exchanges:** Optional overseas trips/exchanges may be available to other destinations which are self-funded. Air travel, accommodation and living costs will vary depending on your choice of supplier.

VALUE FOR MONEY

We recognise that you make a significant financial investment by studying at the UCO and that you may be interested to know how your Tuition Fees are invested into the UCO. We believe that sound investment of your Tuition Fees and careful management of the UCO's finances will ensure that you receive the best return by providing you with:

- A high-quality academic and student experience
- An academic community that is diverse, inspiring and culturally vibrant, stimulating, healthy, safe and supportive.
- Knowledge and skills that will serve you over a lifetime
- Enhanced employment prospects

To learn more about the UCO's finances and how we invest your Tuition Fees, visit our [Value for Money](#) webpage.

CIF MODIFICATION RECORD

Level of Modification	Summary of Modification	Modification Approved by	Date of Modification Approval
Minor	Updated Weblinks Updated Course Assessment Map to reflect Year 1 Unit Assessment Amendments. Updated Course Progression Criteria to better reflect course requirements.	EESC	Jun 2019
Administrative	To reflect the new GOsC Osteopathic Practice Standards effective from Sept 2019.	PRAG Chair	Aug 2019
Minor	Assessment Grid to reflect modifications to BAO2 assessments.	TQSC	Sep 2020
Minor	Changes to standardise duration of course, nomenclature of clinical assessments and clarify specialism opportunities.	TQSC	May 2021
Administrative	Assessment Grid to reflect assessment modifications.	Head of Quality	Jul 2022
Major	Periodic Course Review Amendments made throughout to reflect current practice following an in-depth review of this course.	Academic Council	Jul 2023