

Course Information Form: *Postgraduate Certificate in Animal Osteopathy*

SECTION 1: COURSE DETAILS			
Awarding Institution:	The University College of Osteopathy		
Award:	Postgraduate Certificate		
Course Title:	Postgraduate Certificate in Animal Osteopathy		
FHEQ Level & Credits:	Level 7 (60 CATS Credits) (30 ECTS Credits)		
Intermediate / Exit Qualifications:	None		
Location of Delivery:	Osteopathic Centre for Animals (OCA) Orchard House, Portway, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 9BU.		
Duration of Course:	One Year (Normally Sep – July)		
Mode of Delivery:	Part-Time The course is normally over 10 weekends which include Friday morning, afternoon, and evening. Saturday morning and afternoon.		
External Benchmarks to which the Course is Mapped:	SEEC Level Descriptors (2021) The QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree Awarding Bodies (Level 7) (2014) The QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement (2015) The QAA Osteopathy Benchmark Statement (in terms of continuing professional development) (2015)		
Professional, Statutory & Regulatory Body (PSRB) Accreditation:	N/A All Osteopaths must be registered with the General Osteopathic Council (or equivalent if not registered in the UK).		
	Accreditation Date:	N/A	Renewal Date: N/A
UCAS Course Code:	N/A		
QL Course Code:	PGCERTAOOCA		

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SECTION 2: COURSE SUMMARY, DISTINCTIVE FEATURES, FURTHER STUDY & EMPLOYABILITY

Course Summary:

This is a one year 60 credit course that consists of 2 x 30 credit units and leads graduates to a Post Graduate Certificate in Animal Osteopathy. The course is designed so that you can apply your undergraduate learning to postgraduate training in the treatment of animals, enabling you to be autonomous in the osteopathic evaluation, treatment and management of animals.

The course mixes different teaching styles from lecture and small group discussion-based work to a range of practical sessions with dogs and horses at kennels and stables local to the Osteopathic Centre for Animals (OCA) in Wantage. Whilst the course focuses on the osteopathic examination, evaluation and treatment of equines and canines, these principles are used to apply to other animals so that graduates will be comfortable working with a wide range of animals. The practical and theory equine: canine weighting is 70% equine and 30% canine.

The ethos of the course is focused on providing a positive learning environment where constructive feedback is provided from expert teaching staff to enable you to develop as autonomous practitioners. This is in line with the University College of Osteopathy's (UCO) teaching and learning strategy.

You will learn about the behaviour, psychology and interactions of animals, their working and/or recreational environment and the implications this may have on the physical and psychological health of the animals. Again, whilst the emphasis will be on canines and equines, the principles of animal behaviour will be applied to a wide range of animals. Theoretical and discussion-based work will lead into practical sessions that form a significant part of the course. Making effective risk assessments so that you can practice safely and effectively and within the limits of your legal and professional responsibilities is integral to the course.

The course enables you to have an applied understanding of functional anatomy, conformation and biomechanics and a critical understanding of how these relate to gait, force transference and the life of the animal. Small animal dissection is also included along with the integration of patho-physiology and pathology.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

- This one-year credit bearing course will enable you to build on your existing knowledge and clinical skills so that you can work within the field of animal osteopathy and enable you to confidently treat a range of small and large animals.
- The course provides ample opportunities for reflective practice and development of your clinical skills in theoretical and practical settings.
- Central to the PGCert Animal Osteopathy is the understanding of the psychology and behaviour of animals so that as practitioners, you are able to make appropriate risk assessments and work safely and effectively.
- Areas of the course focus on equines and canines; however, the knowledge, skills and expertise gained can be applied to other animals. This is reinforced during the course as lecturers include cases and examples from other species, as part of their teaching, including in anatomy, biomechanics, and animal psychology.
- The course features a mixture of lectures and discussion-based work and has a strong emphasis on practical sessions in order to promote deep learning of the range of clinical skills and expertise necessary to work in this interesting area.
- You will learn about common patho-physiological and pathological changes in animals and how this may relate to your osteopathic evaluation.
- You will be able to explore current thinking on areas such as animal welfare, animal husbandry and farriery and how these may relate to your osteopathic understanding.
- You will explore the legal and ethical responsibilities of an osteopath working with animals; your

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role in animal welfare is a central part of the course. This will be covered in theoretical sessions and embedded during the many practical sessions so that you develop inherent good practice in this field.

- Practical sessions include dissection work and a significant amount of time spent working with a range of dogs and horses in different stables and kennels, enabling you to develop your skills as an osteopath working with animals.
- The teaching staff are all hugely experienced in the field of animal osteopathy and have been teaching nationally and internationally.
- The course will encourage you to consider a critical and evidence approached basis to your osteopathic thinking and application, including some of the challenges this presents.
- The course is delivered on a part-time basis enabling you to continue with work and other commitments.

Further Study & Employability:

Graduates who complete this course will be sufficiently confident and competent to apply their skills and expertise to the osteopathic treatment of animals. This may be as a sole-practitioners, as part of a larger osteopathic team or as part of a team of healthcare professionals working with animals, such as a veterinary practice.

The course will produce graduates who:

- Have a sound understanding of their legal and ethical responsibilities of an osteopath when working with animals; this will come from a sound theoretical basis that has been reinforced across a range of practical sessions, many of which are work based
- Are able to make safe and effective risk assessments based on the unique clinical case and environment
- Are confident to osteopathically evaluate, manage and treat animals, based on best practice

Completion of the PGCert Animal Osteopathy will enable you to work in a rewarding and fulfilling career with the veterinary profession. Such skills will enable diversification of your practice and may lead to increased practice turnover.

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SECTION 3: COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	
Standard Entry Requirements:	<p>Entry qualifications are that students must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be a practising Osteopath with UK registration with the General Osteopathic Council; <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>Be an EU or overseas osteopath registered where applicable with the relevant regulatory authority or association.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possess appropriate professional indemnity insurance that includes working with animals
Additional Entry Requirements:	<p>You will need to take into consideration your physical abilities (due to the essential practical requirements of this course), the implications of any disability for your and others' safety during the course, and your ability to communicate with owners and animals and to safely and effectively work in an environment with animals.</p> <p>If you have, or think you may have, a disability or special learning need which is likely to affect your studies, then you are advised to disclose this to Course Leader at the OCA. Similarly, if you would simply like to speak to someone about any of this or concerns that you may have, then you should contact the Course Leader at the OCA. You are also able to contact the Student Support Officer at the UCO.</p> <p>If you are a student with a disability, you can be supported in a number of ways and this usually starts with a review to establish how your disability affects you and how we can best support you. This may include making reasonable adjustments to your studies and assessments; we may also be able to identify additional support and resources that may be of help to you. This is a confidential process; information is only shared with relevant staff when you have provided your consent to do so.</p> <p>Students whose first language is not English are required to demonstrate fluency in both written and spoken English. A wide range of English language qualifications are accepted and given the nature and complexity of this course, an IELTS level 7.0 language qualification (or equivalent) would be expected.</p> <p>You will be asked to sign a declaration that you have never been banned from keeping or working with animals.</p> <p>If you are an International or EU student applying for this course, you will need to ensure that you meet UK immigration and visa requirements appropriate for this course.</p>
Recognition of Prior (RPL) Learning Arrangements:	None.

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SECTION 4: COURSE AIMS, LEARNING OUTCOMES, REGULATIONS & STRUCTURE

Educational Aims of the Course

The educational aims of the course are for graduates to be able to work safely and effectively in applying osteopathy to the care of animals.

Upon successful completion of this course, you will:

- a) Have a clear understanding of your legal and professional responsibilities and your role in animal welfare, both in a theoretical and practical sense.
- b) Be able to make effective risk assessments based on a sound understanding of animal behaviour and psychology.
- c) Have the necessary range of knowledge, skills and understanding to effectively evaluate, treat and manage an animal using osteopathic principles.
- d) Be able to make appropriate clinical decisions as to the best care pathway for an animal, including referral to a veterinary or related healthcare professional, as appropriate.
- e) Be able to develop an understanding of an animal in context; that may include its environmental or working life and psychological wellbeing.
- f) Be able to liaise with and work with, if necessary, veterinarians and other associated animal healthcare practitioners, in order to provide the best care for an animal.
- g) Be able to reflect on your current practices with the aim of refining and improving your approaches to osteopathic healthcare in animals.
- h) Develop critical skills that you will apply to your own work as an osteopath, from the theoretical understanding to the practical implications and the inherent challenges that present themselves.
- i) Aspire to develop this area of osteopathy through continuing professional development and integrating your work and knowledge into the osteopathic and animal welfare community.
- j) Be able to identify and consider opportunities for further research and critical enquiry into animal osteopathy.

Course Learning Outcomes

A typical graduate of this course will be able to:

- 1) Evaluate animal behavioural signals based on a sound understanding of animal psychology and behaviour and, inclusive of your legal and professional responsibilities, make appropriate risk assessments on how best to interact with animals in different situations.
- 2) Critically assess equine and canine structure and function using a range of clinical evidence including the case history, observations, active and passive examinations and any other osteopathic or veterinary assessments as are appropriate.
- 3) Take full responsibility for your reflective and critical approach to clinical decision making that encompasses a breadth of understanding of the animal in context and sets out to provide care in the best interest of the animal.
- 4) Develop an evidence-informed rationale for the osteopathic treatment and management of an animal and / or non-osteopathic care pathway/s as appropriate, taking full responsibility for your legal and professional responsibilities and your role in animal welfare when working with animals.

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Course Regulations

This course will comply with the UCO's Academic Regulations as stated in the UCO's Academic Quality Framework: <https://www.uco.ac.uk/about-uco/who-we-are/academic-quality-framework>

Course Structure

Unit Title	Year 1	
	Credits	FHEQ Level
Unit 1: Functional Anatomy and Biomechanics in the Osteopathic Evaluation of Animals	30	7
Unit 2: The Osteopathic Evaluation, Treatment and Management of Animals	30	7

SECTION 5: TEACHING, LEARNING & ASSESSMENT

Teaching & Learning Strategy

The teaching and learning strategy for the PGCert Animal Osteopathy aims to build on your prior knowledge, skills, understanding and experiences that you have as an osteopath and aims to help you translate these into the osteopathic assessment and evaluation of animals. Students are expected to use their own laptops or computers in support of their learning.

The overarching ethos of the course is to enable you to develop as a safe, autonomous practitioner so that you can make reasoned judgements in the osteopathic evaluation, treatment and management of animals. The teaching and learning strategy sets out to support this in a number of ways. Firstly, the course makes use of a range of teaching styles including lectures, seminars and case-based work where discussion and feedback are central. The teaching team have a great depth and breadth of experience in the area of animal osteopathy and animal welfare which provides for rich discussions and in-depth learning. The teaching sessions make use of clinically relevant cases so that you are developing your existing clinical understanding and applying this in real-life situations in a meaningful way. This is further supported as the course develops by peer-to-peer discussions and shared learning in a community of practice.

The course also has a strong practical component to enable deeper learning and to provide you with opportunities to develop your practical and reasoning skills in environments that replicate the working environment. These may include local kennels, stables and racing yards. Furthermore, a number of related professionals from the animal industry provide input into the course, including farriers, saddlers, experts in equitation and in animal behaviour and psychology. This provides you with opportunities to consider the different aspects of an animals' health and enables you to develop your skills in making safe, effective clinical decisions. You will also explore your legal and ethical responsibilities as an osteopath working with animals.

In order to support your development, there are a number of formative assessments throughout the course to assess your knowledge base, theoretical and practical skills. These are set out as helpful building blocks as you progress through the course so that you can monitor your own progression and reflect on your areas of strength and areas where further development is needed.

Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Animal Osteopathy**Assessment Strategy**

The assessment strategy, in keeping with the teaching and learning strategy, is aimed at supporting your development as a safe, autonomous practitioner so that you can make reasoned judgements in the osteopathic evaluation, treatment and management of animals. To that end, the assessment strategy is set out to provide a structure for staged progression that is level and workload appropriate for a course of this nature that consists of 2 x 30 credit units at level 7.

There are a number of formative assessments throughout the course to assess your knowledge base, theoretical and practical skills. These also provide lecturers with an opportunity to review your progress and provide you with additional support as needed.

Across all assessments, you are required to demonstrate your critical skills in different areas, and this is essential in your development as an autonomous practitioner. Such skills are central to your work as an osteopath working with animals and your employability in the future.

Unit 1: Functional anatomy and biomechanics in the osteopathic evaluation of animals

In this unit, you will be required to demonstrate how you have developed your own safe practices when working with animals and your rationale for such practices. This should include your legal and professional responsibilities and your understanding of animal behaviour, psychology and best practice in related disciplines. This is an essential first step in your development as an osteopath working with animals.

You will also be required to demonstrate your abilities in gathering clinical evidence and synthesising this in a critically informed way to reach a reasoned evaluation.

The summative assessments for Unit 1 include:**1. Critically Reflective Account on Safe Practice**

You will write a 2000 word critically reflective account on the development of your own safe practices when working with animals and your rationale for such practice, which should include your legal and professional responsibilities, your understanding of animal behaviour, psychology and best practice in related disciplines.

You should draw on relevant evidence and research to support your approaches.

2. Case Presentation

You will present an individual case report around a given scenario that details the clinical evidence that you have gathered from a range of sources in a particular case and how you have synthesized this in a critically informed way to evaluate the structure and function of an equine.

You should prepare a ten-minute presentation which will then be followed by up to five minutes of questions that extend and elaborate on the scenario.

Both of these summative assessments require a reflective consideration of your development and a critical consideration of the evidence. This supports your development in areas including communication, analytical and evaluative skills and the development of academic writing, all of which are pertinent to practice life.

Unit 2: The osteopathic evaluation, treatment, and management of animals

This unit builds on the skills and understanding that you will have developed during Unit 1. In Unit 2, the aims are to expand your critical understanding of the different factors and domains that may be influencing an animal. For example, the environmental and social domains of an animal, along with how patho-physiological and/or pathological changes may be of relevance. This is assessed through a reflective case report that should be constructed in an evidence informed way.

For your final summative assessment, you are expected to demonstrate a range of level 7 skills, comprehension and decision making that underpins your osteopathic approach. You will be expected to produce two case analyses that explore your evaluation process, the clinical decisions that you made in the treatment and management phase and how you achieved best care for the animal, given your professional responsibilities.

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The summative assessments for Unit 2 include:

1. One Case Analysis

You will be required to complete one case analysis, either for a canine or for an equine, where you have evaluated, treated and managed the animal in the last year. The case should be 1500 words and explore the evidence informed rationale for the treatment and management plan, how the progression of the animal was monitored and what additional action could have been/was taken to provide best care in light of your legal and professional responsibilities and your role in animal welfare. You should include a critical appraisal of your approach to the care of the animal and how this relates to best practice and current evidence in the field.

2. Practical Skills

You will be expected to demonstrate your practical skills in using osteopathic assessment techniques to evaluate canine and equine structure and function. This will also include soft tissue evaluation.

You will be invited to demonstrate approximately 20 therapeutic techniques on equines and canines so that your tutors can assess your practical application of techniques. This will be a pass/fail assessment where your tutors will provide you with immediate feedback.

As with Unit 1, these summative assessments require a high level of criticality, reflection and should be informed by current evidence and best practice. Such skills are essential for an osteopath in clinical practice and support the development of you as a practitioner and that of the profession.

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Course Assessment Map												
Year of Study	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
1					Unit 1: Critically Reflective Account on Safe Practice	Unit 1: Case Presentation			Unit 2: Practical Skills	Unit 2: Case Analysis & Practical Skills		

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SECTION 6: STUDENT SUPPORT

Student Support During the Course

Throughout your studies you will be supported by the Course Leader and your lecturers who are available to discuss any matters, academic, practical or otherwise, that may be affecting your studies.

The number of students attending the course at any one time is relatively small allowing plenty of opportunity for you to meet with staff as needed. Administrative support will be provided by the Course Administrator who is also available as a first point of contact for any queries that you may have.

Students are also able to access support via the UCO Student Support Officer who provides a range of academic and pastoral support and can include referral to other services if needed.

Support for Students with a Disability

The UCO and OCA are keen to support any students who have a disability, and you are encouraged to declare your disability at enrolment or as soon as you become aware of it so that we can better support you.

Under the Equality Act 2010, you are disabled if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities (Ref: <https://www.gov.uk/definition-of-disability-under-equality-act-2010>). This of course covers a range of conditions. For example, there are specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, mental health difficulties and mental health illnesses, sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, impairments with fluctuating or recurring effects such as rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia and epilepsy and other longer-term conditions.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability or special learning need which is likely to affect your studies, then you are advised to disclose this to Course Leader at the OCA. Similarly, if or would simply like to speak to someone about any of this or concerns that you may have, then please contact the Course Leader at the OCA. You are also able to contact Student Support Officer at the UCO.

Students with disabilities can be supported in a number of ways and this usually starts with a review to establish how your disability affects you and how we can best support you. This may include making reasonable adjustments to your studies and assessments and we may also be able to identify additional support and resources that may be of help to you. This is a confidential process and information is only shared with relevant staff with your consent.

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SECTION 7: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
Communication:
You will develop your communication skills through your work with peers, lecturers, other experts in their field, animal owners and any others in a professional and ethical manner. In addition, the course will enable you to modify your communication dependent on your audience and the requirements of the situation through a range of media.
Information Literacy:
You will develop information literacy skills by finding, retrieving, analysing and using academic literature and information as part of your academic studies whilst on the course. You will be proactive in searching out your own lines of enquiry to inform your knowledge base and development, including exploring different literary platforms such as research papers, blogs, websites, books and journals, to draw on a variety of information.
Research & Evaluation:
You will develop research and evaluation skills by being proactive in exploring existing literature in the field of animal osteopathy and related fields that will expand your current understanding of osteopathy and allied professions and areas. This should be done in a critically informed way that supports your development and that of the profession.
Creativity & Critical Thinking:
You will be encouraged to think creatively and critically on the course as you explore the role of osteopathy in the treatment and management of animals and develop your skills in evaluating, treating and managing animals. You will also have numerous opportunities to explore creative and critically informed solutions during work based situated learning that will require a flexible and adaptive approach.
Team Working:
You will be encouraged and expected to work collaboratively with a number of people whilst on the course. Whilst your peers and lecturers may be the people you collaborate with regularly, you are likely to work collaboratively with others, such as owners, veterinary or other experts who are involved in the course and in the care of animals. Such collaboration and teamwork enables the sharing of good practice, a deeper learning experience and is again representative of clinical practice.
Improving Learning & Performance:
You will receive a range of learning opportunities whilst on the course and your learning will be further supported by immediate and constructive feedback from your lecturers and peers as part of a formative process. The feedback you receive from your formative assessments will also enable you to improve your learning and performance as will the structured feedback you will receive from your summative assessments.
Career Management Skills:
You will work with experienced osteopaths in animal osteopathy as well as related professionals in the animal industry. This contact provides you with ample opportunity to consider the ways in which you may develop your career in the short, medium and long term and how you may go about this. You will also be working alongside the owners of animals, the owners of kennels, and stable yards etc. and so will gain additional experience into the workings of these environments and how these may relate to you as an osteopath working with animals.

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Different Approaches to Learning (Progress Files):

You will have the opportunity to develop your understanding, knowledge and skills through a range of approaches including lectures, seminars, discussion-based work, a range of practical sessions and opportunities for dissection work. The aim is to provide students with effective and varied learning environment where discussion and feedback are central to your ongoing learning and development.

Professional Standards:

To study this course all students must be registered with the General Osteopathic Council (or equivalent for students not registered in the UK), regardless of whether they plan to treat humans or animals. Whilst there is currently no professional body for osteopaths working with animals, it is possible that paraprofessionals working with animals may be required in the future to demonstrate their competence.

SECTION 8: ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Course Leader:	Stuart McGregor DO
Portfolio:	Postgraduate
Date of Course Approval:	26 th July 2016
Date of Course Re-approval:	13 th Oct 2021
Date of Next Periodic Review:	2026-2027
Version:	V7.0

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CIF MODIFICATION RECORD			
Level of Modification (Administrative, Minor or Major)	Summary of Modification	Modification Approve by	Date of Modification Approval
Course Approval V1.0	Course Approval	Academic Council	Jul 2016
Administrative V2.0	Administrative amendment to update institution name change from British School of Osteopathy to University College of Osteopathy.	PRAG Chair	Aug 2017
Administrative V3.0	Administrative amendment to correct typographical error.	PRAG Chair	Aug 2018
Administrative V4.0	Administrative amendment to reflect current staff role titles.	PRAG Chair	Jul 2019
Minor V5.0	Minor amendment to reflect modification to mode of delivery (removal of Sunday morning session).	TQSC	Jun 2020
Major V6.0	Revised date of Periodic Review.	Academic Council	Jun 2021
Major V7.0	Periodic Course Review: Major Amendments to include CATS & ECTS Credits, amend Entry Criteria, and clarify proportion of canine/equine delivery.	Academic Council	Jul 2022
Administrative V8.0	Administrative Amendment to update Assessment Map reflecting Unit Assessment Strategy Modifications.	CPSC	May 2023