



THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHY

Disability Statement

This statement is intended as a resource for potential applicants and current students. It provides information on support and facilities available for students with disabilities at the British School of Osteopathy (BSO). This statement is available in other formats, upon request, e.g. Braille, large print or audio tape. If required please contact the Disability Advisor on 0207 089 5335.

Current Policy

Equal opportunities

The BSO is committed to a policy of 'inclusion', actively seeking to widen participation and to increase opportunities for high-calibre students. Students from diverse ethnic and social backgrounds, school-leavers, mature second career applicants, and students with a range of seen and unseen disabilities, are all warmly welcomed. Every application to the BSO is considered on its own merits.

We have committees that monitor the facilities and support we provide for our students: the Equality Committee provides feedback to senior management regarding academic and equality related matters.

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Is this the right course for me?

Preparing to join one of the healthcare professions is a challenging and demanding enterprise. The maintenance of a supportive, safe and inclusive environment for patients and students is of paramount importance. This statement of BSO policy on how disabled students are included into its training and education environment is designed as a guide to help you to establish the facilities and support available to you. Disability issues come within the remit of the Student Support Department based in Room 3.06 of the Borough High St building: telephone: +44 (0)207 089-5335. Full details of the support team are given in the Appendix.

The M.Ost Course

Graduation from the BSO with a University of Bedfordshire-validated M.Ost degree requires the successful achievement of the academic and the practical technique aspects of the degree course, and it includes extensive work with patients in clinical settings. The final element involves passing the Clinical Competency Assessment (CCA) 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. The BSO can offer a student the opportunity to obtain an M.Ost but it cannot guarantee final registration as an osteopath as this outcome rests with the General Osteopathic Council.

If you are a prospective applicant, you and the BSO's Admissions Team will need to take into consideration your academic ability (competence standard entry criteria), your physical abilities, 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. The BSO will implement reasonable adjustments to teaching, learning and assessments, wherever possible, to ensure it is accessible to all.

How do I apply to the BSO?

Admissions Officer: Jordan Stokes

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7089 5316

Email: admissions@bso.ac.uk

Initially you should write to, phone or email the Admissions Officer who will discuss your personal situation with you, and arrange for you to be sent a prospectus (available on disc, PDF format and other formats). Initial selection is made on the basis of whether or not you meet the course entry requirements, without reference to disability. However, we do encourage all prospective applicants to disclose disabilities as early as possible to the Admissions Officer so that arrangements may be made to accommodate your needs as a visitor in the first instance.

What about access and the BSO environment?

A considerable number of BSO users have disabilities: our Estates and Facilities Team have ensured our clinical centre and teaching centre are accessible to all. In our teaching centre, there are automatic doors, a lift-hoist, and wheel-chair accessible lavatories. Lift buttons are marked with Braille. Students' Union facilities are on the ground floor and are also fully accessible.

The Students' Union welcomes students with disabilities, and focuses effort on help, advice, fun and entertainment for all. They want everyone to enjoy equally all aspects of their BSO experience.

Accommodation

The BSO does not own its own Halls of Residence (student accommodation). Students rent privately, share houses or flats, or live in privately owned student accommodation.

Travel

Borough, the part of London where the BSO's teaching and clinical centres are based, is very well connected by train, tube and bus services. A Freedom Pass may be available for certain forms of travel for London residents who are registered blind or disabled.

Library and learning resources

The Library Team are happy to provide assistance in using the library, for example by retrieving books, finding research papers, and helping with photocopying. A range of assistive equipment and technology is available, including book rests, screen magnification software, study skills software and a ClearView low vision magnifier. The librarians can also arrange extended loans for you, should you need this provision. This is one example of the reason we encourage disclosure of disability, so that we can put in place assistance where appropriate.

Health and safety

Under Health and Safety regulations the BSO has tried to provide a safe and healthy environment for all staff, students and visitors. Should you have any concerns regarding this, please contact the Principal, Mr Charles Hunt.

What support facilities will be available to me?

General support available to all students

Once you have begun your studies, you can gain advice and support from:

- Academic Tutors
These tutors have been appointed to help you with personal and academic problems and to oversee the development of Learning Portfolios.
- The Student Counselling Service.
The BSO's Counsellor is based in Room 3.12 at the teaching centre. The Counsellor can help you cope with major or minor crisis, or simply to clarify your own thinking in relation to your current concerns.
- Welfare Advice
The Welfare Advisor is available at most times during the week if you should feel the need to discuss any problems you might be having, in any sphere of your life, regarding your personal welfare.
- Learning Support Advisor
Study Skills/Learning Support Workshops are embedded into the M.Ost course. Students from all courses can seek 1:1 general advice or support from the Learning Support Advisor.
- The Disability Advisor can:
 - Advise you in the pre-application process.
 - Assist you through your initial induction period to the BSO.
 - Liaise with BSO staff to assist them in meeting your needs.
 - Take you through the whole Disabled Students' Allowance process (see below).
 - Coordinate and monitor the effectiveness of the support provided.
 - Continue to liaise with your Study Needs Awards Officer if your documentary needs require adjustment.

Finance

Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)

Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) helps home students, on higher education and postgraduate courses pay any extra costs that arise because of a disability. DSA is paid to:

- Undergraduate students
- Foundation degree/HND students
- Postgraduate students

DSA is paid by Student Finance England (SFE), the Students Award Agency for Scotland (SAAS), Student Finance Wales (SFW) or, Student Finance Northern Ireland (SFNI).

If you are a student from overseas you are not usually eligible for DSA. Students from overseas or home students planning to start the Access Course are advised to speak to the Disability Advisor regarding support available and extra costs that may be incurred.

DSA is not means-tested. This means it does not depend on your personal finances. You can receive DSA even if you do not qualify for help with tuition fees or a student loan (second degree students for example).

There are three parts to DSA:

- **Specialist Equipment Allowance** pays for equipment such as: computers and software, tape recorders, specialist furniture (one amount to cover the entire period of study).
- **Non-Medical Helpers Allowance** pays for specialist tuition (for example dyslexia study skills), for helpers such as sign language interpreters or communicators, note takers and mentors. This allowance may be granted to meet such costs each year of study.
- **General Allowance** pays for extra (non-core) text books or photocopying, tapes, discs and so on. You can get this allowance to meet these costs for each year of study.

You can also apply for travel expenses if you have extra costs because of disability.

To apply for DSA: contact Student Finance England to find out what information, including evidence of disability, they will require before you start your course. We suggest that you apply for the Disabled Students Allowance as soon as possible.

For further information on the DSA application process and what you may be entitled to visit: <http://www.yourdsa.com/>

The BSO's Student Disability Advisor can advise you on:

- Filling in the application form
- The supporting documents you must provide
- The assessment process
- Ordering your equipment
- Support arrangements & reasonable adjustments
- Any other questions you might have about DSA

The Student Welfare Advisor can also advise you on:

- The Access to Learning Fund
- Charities and Trust Funds

Specific Learning Difficulties

The term 'Specific Learning Difficulty' (SpLD) refers to a difference / difficulty people have with particular aspects of learning. The most common SpLDs are: dyslexia; dyspraxia; attention deficit disorder (ADD); attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; dyscalculia and dysgraphia.

In order to apply for Disabled Students Allowance students with a SpLD will need to provide a diagnostic assessment, from a chartered psychologist, or another qualified practitioner, that was carried out after their 16th birthday. Students whose evidence is out of date may be eligible for financial support from the University of Bedfordshire Access to Learning Fund, towards reassessment. Please contact the Disability Advisor to find out more.

The Student Support Team can provide:

- Screening for dyslexia using the LADS Plus screening tool
- Help in finding a chartered psychologist for a diagnostic assessment
- One to one tuition with a study skills tutor, for those with a DSA

Mental Health

Your mental well being is important to us. Students with long term or temporary mental health difficulties may access:

- Student Support drop-in facilities
- The BSO Counsellor
- Referral to appropriate sources of external advice and support
- Links with relevant community agencies or national organisations
- Mentoring support, for those with a DSA

Deaf students and students with a hearing loss

Hearing loops are provided throughout the School. If you require a note taker or communicator it is advisable you contact the Disability Advisor as soon as possible, the advisor will arrange for this service to be in place for the start of your course and will help you apply for DSA funding.

Students with sensory, mobility or visual impairment and long term seen or unseen medical conditions

In line with the Equality Act 2010, the BSO is accessible to all students. There is adequate parking at the rear of our teaching centre, which has lift access to all floors. All facilities in our clinical centre are on the ground floor and are fully accessible. Prospective students are advised to contact the Disability Advisor well in advance of their course, as so that the appropriate provisions (within reason) can be made for the course start date. The advisor will also help you apply for DSA to fund assistance required e.g. note takers, readers, scribes and computer software.

Reasonable adjustments

The Disability Advisor can liaise with the Registry and Faculty teams to ensure reasonable adjustments are made to teaching, learning and assessments. Particular adjustments will be assessed individually.

Examples of reasonable adjustments include:

- Extra time allowances
- Use of a scribe
- Using specialist equipment or software
- Access to a separate room
- A person to take notes for you

Confidentiality

Information disclosed is treated with the strictest confidence. We strongly advise students who have, or think they may have a disability, to inform the school as soon as possible. Only with your prior consent will we inform others (to whom it is relevant) of your condition and needs.

If you do not want us to pass information on to relevant others, we will respect your confidentiality request and seek to put in place any modified reasonable adjustments.

Checklist for prospective students

- **If you are interested in applying for the M.Ost or the Access Course please arrange to attend a BSO Open Afternoon where you will be able to ask about the course and support available.**
- **If you are interested in applying for a postgraduate course you should contact the Disability Advisor to discuss your support needs.**
- **You may also want to contact the Disability Advisor for further advice and information on support for disabled students, funding and accommodation.**
- **If you are invited for an Interview Event day you may like to speak confidentially beforehand. You should contact the Disability Advisor in Student Support.**
- **Use the Interview Event day as an opportunity to decide whether the course is right for you. Look around the building and its facilities. Discuss any exam or assessment arrangements you may need with the Course Leader or the Disability Advisor.**
- **If you decide to apply for a degree course and are eligible for funding, contact Student Finance England to apply for Disabled Students Allowance (DSA).**

Useful organisations

Student Finance England

<https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas>

Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)

105 Jubb Street, London, WC1H 9HE

020 7388 1266

www.rnib.org.uk

The City Literary Institute for Deaf People Further and Higher Education Support Service

16 Stukeley Street, London, WC2B 5LJ

Tel: 020 7492 2725/6

Text phone: 020 7492 2746

http://www.citylit.ac.uk/cou_sub_cfdp.php

The British Dyslexia Association

Unit 8 Bracknell Beeches,

Old Bracknell Lane,

Bracknell,

RG12 7BW.

Tel: 0845 251 9003

<http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>

Useful Contacts within the BSO

The Student Support and Equality Manager (Disability/Welfare Advisor)

Sarah Matthews

020 7089 5335

s.matthews@bso.ac.uk

The Student Learning Advisor

Lucia Evans

0207 089-5334

l.evans@bso.ac.uk

The Counsellor

Clive Carswell

020 7089 5333

c.carswell@bso.ac.uk