



THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHY



**MSc OSTEOPATHY (Pre-registration)**

**Enabling Physiotherapists and Doctors to extend their practice**

**Subject to Recognised Qualification Status being granted by the Privy Council**



## INTRODUCTION

Osteopathy is a growing profession that has been practised since the 1870s. Qualified osteopaths are able to work autonomously as primary healthcare providers, in private practice and in some areas within the NHS. In recent years, the number of people who seek care from osteopathic practitioners has increased steadily and an increasing number of osteopaths operate in specialist areas of clinical practice such as paediatrics, obstetrics, and sports medicine.

The British School of Osteopathy (BSO) has devised a new fast-track MSc specifically designed for those who are qualified in medicine or physiotherapy but want to expand their competence profile in the area of musculoskeletal care to include osteopathic techniques.

### Course Overview

- The course lasts for two years and is full-time
- The course takes place over 45 weeks per year
- Upon successful completion, you will be able to apply for General Osteopathic Council registration and be able to practise as an Osteopath
- The MSc aims to promote integrated osteopathic care into your existing practice
- The course is tailored to the challenges and needs of both medical doctors and physiotherapists
- During your time at the BSO, you will be able to build a network of contacts within the osteopathic community
- Having completed 1,000 hours of clinical education, you will be prepared and ready for practice

### Eligibility

All candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Hold a degree in Physiotherapy, Medicine or international equivalent qualification
- Be able to critically evaluate material and study independently
- Provide evidence of experience and interest in musculoskeletal care via a clinical portfolio of evidence

### Assessment

The course combines taught modules, original research and clinical practice elements. Over the two years, you will be exposed to a range of assessments including written examinations, practical skills assessments, a research dissertation, and real-life clinical assessments.

## COURSE INFORMATION

YEAR 1	OVERVIEW
Core Osteopathic Capabilities for Clinical Practice 1	This unit equips you with new knowledge and skills concerning osteopathic healthcare practice. This includes the development and consolidation of knowledge of human structure, function and dysfunction within the context of the osteopathic paradigm of diagnosis and practice. In addition, you will develop manual skills that enable you to effectively assess and manage your patients.
Osteopathic Clinical Education 1	This unit enables you to develop knowledge and skills of osteopathic evaluation and patient management, and critically apply these in the context of patient care under the guidance of clinical staff. To this end, you will have the opportunity to learn and practise your developing osteopathic capabilities in a classroom-based setting, and to subsequently apply these in the osteopathic management and treatment of your own patient list.
Criticality and Evidence-Informed Osteopathy 1: Developing a Research Project	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. To this end, this unit is the first of a two-year dissertation unit.
YEAR 2	OVERVIEW
Core Osteopathic Capabilities for Clinical Practice 2	This unit consolidates your developing knowledge and skills concerning osteopathic healthcare practice. This includes an ability to critically evaluate the influence of psychological, socio-cultural, economic and occupational factors on health and illness behaviour, in order to inform clinical decision-making. In addition, you will further develop manual skills that enable you to effectively assess and manage your patients.
Osteopathic Clinical Education 2	This unit enables you to effectively, autonomously and critically apply the skills of osteopathic evaluation and patient management, within the context of complexity and clinical uncertainty. You will be able to make reasoned professional judgements and translate these into effective osteopathic treatment and management plans that are in the best interests of your patient. You will critically draw upon your acquired knowledge and skills to inform your osteopathic patient care, and to develop individualised treatment and management plans, which fully acknowledge inter-professional collaboration and are informed by relevant evidence.
Criticality and Evidence-Informed Osteopathy 2: Dissertation	This unit is the second of a two-year dissertation unit. Depending on your personal interest, you will be able to conduct and complete the research project which you developed in the unit 'Criticality and Evidence-Informed Osteopathy 1: Developing a Research Project'. The outcome of this piece of work (research paper and presentation) will provide evidence of your deepening knowledge, ability to critically analyse a topic of relevance to osteopathy and your own continuous personal development as a professional. As a result of planning and carrying out your research project you be able to develop a strategy to enable you to respond to formal and informal feedback, and gain an understanding of your own skill development.

## WHY QUALIFY AS AN OSTEOPATH?

In the UK, osteopathy is a statutorily regulated healthcare profession and its members are equipped with the knowledge and skills to operate as autonomous primary contact practitioners. Although the way in which osteopaths manage patients with musculoskeletal problems can be similar to physiotherapy; our holistic approach to evaluation and treatment will enhance your ability to treat a wide range of clinical conditions. We developed the MSc Osteopathy (pre-registration) in response to demand from potential students and the reasons below highlight the benefits of studying osteopathy:

### **Improve and refresh your knowledge base**

The MSc is designed to engage and stimulate those who already have a significant body of clinical knowledge. Osteopathy is constantly evolving and as you will be taught by active researchers, you will gain up-to-the-minute knowledge that will further your understanding of the structure and function of the human body.

### **Widen your appeal to patients and employers**

Osteopathy is gaining popularity each year and successful graduates of the course will have a broad skill set to attract patients and set up in private practice. Equally, for those who wish to work within the NHS and other healthcare organisations, graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to provide and integrate osteopathic treatment into their practice.

### **Pursue specialist interests**

Osteopathy is a wide and varied healthcare discipline, not only covering the structure and function of the whole body but with application to specialist areas such as obstetrics, paediatrics, and sports injuries. You will have the opportunity to practise in our community and specialist clinics and gain experience of working with a diverse patient base.

### **Develop your own mixed style of practice**

As a course for currently qualified healthcare professionals, the MSc is designed to equip you with another way of providing care to your patients. By combining your current discipline with osteopathic concepts – knowledge and clinical skills garnered from the MSc – you will be able to treat patients in a more versatile and personal manner. Working alongside professionals from different backgrounds in an osteopathic environment will enrich the shared knowledge and understanding of everyone on the course.

### **Start a career in research**

The BSO has an active research centre and this Masters course is a suitable route into pursuing a doctorate and further academic study.



THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHY

[www.bso.ac.uk](http://www.bso.ac.uk)

**The British School of Osteopathy**  
275 Borough High Street, London SE1 1JE

**Student Admissions Department**  
Our student admissions team can be contacted at: [admissions@bso.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@bso.ac.uk)  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7089 5316