

# Osteopath

Osteopaths prevent, diagnose and treat of a wide range of health problems using manual therapy, exercise and advise. Their aim is to promote the best health, based on the individual needs of the patient.

## Working life

You'll work as a self-employed primary care [1] practitioner who's able to diagnosis and treat a wide range of health issues. You'll able to spend substantially more time with patients than most professionals in primary care [1]. There are also opportunities to work within the NHS and in secondary care [2].

You'll be an expert in the musculoskeletal system and its relationship to other systems of the body in the promotion of good health.

You'll provide care that includes a range of interventions specific to each patient, including:

- manual therapy techniques
- physical therapy (rehabilitation and exercise prescription)
- health advice
- self-management guidance

## Who would I work with?

You'll be trained to work with patients of all ages and skilled at identifying a wide range of health conditions. You'll refer to other healthcare professionals to achieve the best outcomes for the patient. You may also work in private healthcare with other healthcare specialists.

Most osteopaths are self-employed with increasing opportunities to work in the NHS in multidisciplinary musculoskeletal units, where they may work as part of a team including acupuncturists, physiotherapists, podiatrists and psychotherapists.

## Entry requirements and training

You'll be trained to degree level gaining either a Bachelor's (BSc) or Masters of Science (MSc). Courses typically last four to five years and are a combination of academic, research and over 1,000 hours of patient-facing clinical training. This intensive medical training will equip you with an in-depth knowledge of anatomy, physiology, psychology and pathology combined with clinical examination techniques.

Following your training, you must register with the General Osteopathic Council [3] to practise in the UK.

## Where the role can lead

After graduating, you may choose to set up your own private clinic, work in the NHS or in private healthcare. You may then choose to become an advanced clinical practitioner through postgraduate training in a specific area of practice such as sports injuries, care of the elderly or working with children. There are also opportunities for study at MSc and PhD level. Non-clinical career roles also exist in teaching, professional development and research.

In the NHS, you may choose to expand your post by taking on the management and leadership responsibilities.

## Pay and benefits

In the NHS, your standard working week will be around 37.5 hours. As an NHS osteopath, you'll be paid on the Agenda for Change (AFC) pay system [4], typically starting on band 5. You'll also have access to our generous pension scheme and health service discounts, as well as 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays.

You are more likely to work for yourself, which many osteopaths find an attractive option as it allows for greater flexibility and choice for career progression.

- [Live NHS vacancies](#) Expand / collapse
  - [View Vacancy \[5\]](#)

### **Osteopath (Immunisations)**

London, E1 8PR

- **Salary:**  
£24,907 - £30,615 per annum
- **Type:**  
Fixed term
- **Employer:**  
Barts Health NHS Trust
- [View Vacancy](#)

- [Find your course to become an osteopath](#) Expand /

collapse

Region

- Any -

Type of qualification

- Any -

Full or part time

- Any -

Search

Displaying 1 - 5 of 17 matches

## M.Ost Masters in Osteopathy

London, The British College of Osteopathic Medicine (validated by Plymouth University)

View course Opens in a new window  
[6]

Region **London**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**4 years**

Contact details  
admissions@bcom.ac.uk [7] **020 7435 6464**

Course webpage <https://www.bcom.ac.uk/courses/masters-osteopathy-m-ost/> [6]

Admissions address

British College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Lief House  
Finchley Road  
London  
NW3 5HR

Course webpage <https://www.bcom.ac.uk/courses/masters-osteopathy-m-ost/> [6]

Successful students graduate from BCOM with a validated integrated Masters degree from Plymouth University, BCOM's Diploma in Osteopathy (DO) and Diploma in Naturopathy (ND). Please contact the College directly for further information.

## **MSc Osteopathy (pre-registration)**

London, University College of Osteopathy

View course Opens in a new window  
[8]

Region **London**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Full time**

Duration  
**2 years**

Contact details  
admissions@uco.ac.uk [9] **020 7089 5316**

Course webpage <https://www.uco.ac.uk/courses/msc-osteopathy-pre-registration> [8]

Admissions address

Teaching Centre  
275 Borough High Street  
London  
SE1 1JE

Course webpage <https://www.uco.ac.uk/courses/msc-osteopathy-pre-registration> [8]

This fast-track course is specifically designed for those who are already qualified in medicine, sports therapy, chiropractic or physiotherapy. Please contact the School for more information.

## **M.Ost Master of Osteopathy (part-time)**

London, University College of Osteopathy

View course Opens in a new window  
[10]

Region **London**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time

**Part time**

Duration

**5 years**

Contact details

admissions@uco.ac.uk [9] **020 7089 5316**

Course webpage <https://www.uco.ac.uk/courses/masters-osteopathy-most-degree-part-time> [10]

Admissions address

Teaching Centre

275 Borough High Street

London

SE1 1JE

Course webpage <https://www.uco.ac.uk/courses/masters-osteopathy-most-degree-part-time> [10]

## **M.Ost Master of Osteopathy**

London, University College of Osteopathy

View course [Opens in a new window](#)

[11]

Region **London**

Type of course

**Undergraduate**

Full or part time

**Full time**

Duration

**4 years**

Contact details

admissions@uco.ac.uk [9] **020 7089 5316**

Course webpage <https://www.uco.ac.uk/courses/masters-osteopathy-most-degree-full-time> [11]

Admissions address

Teaching Centre

275 Borough High Street

London

SE1 1JE

Course webpage <https://www.uco.ac.uk/courses/masters-osteopathy-most-degree-full-time> [11]

## **BOst (Hons) Osteopathy**

London, College of Osteopaths, London and Stoke-on-Trent (validated by Staffordshire University).

View course [Opens in a new window](#)  
[12]

Region **London**

Type of course  
**Undergraduate**

Full or part time  
**Part time**

Duration  
**5 years**

Contact details  
[admin@collegeofosteopaths.ac.uk](mailto:admin@collegeofosteopaths.ac.uk) [13] **020 8905 1937**

Course webpage <https://www.collegeofosteopaths.ac.uk/osteopathy-programme/> [12]

Admissions address

13 Furzehill Road  
Borehamwood  
Hertfordshire  
WD6 2DG

Course webpage <https://www.collegeofosteopaths.ac.uk/osteopathy-programme/> [12]

This course is delivered in collaboration with the University of Derby

- [Load more](#) [14]

## **Other roles that may interest you**

- [Physiotherapist](#) [15]
- [Podiatrist](#) [16]
- [Psychotherapist](#) [17]
- [Experienced paramedic](#) [18]

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**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/osteopath>

**Links**

- [1] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Primary\\_care](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Primary_care)
- [2] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Secondary\\_care](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Secondary_care)
- [3] <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk>
- [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates>
- [5] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916344047>
- [6] <https://www.bcom.ac.uk/courses/masters-osteopathy-m-ost/>
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- [8] <https://www.uco.ac.uk/courses/msc-osteopathy-pre-registration>
- [9] [mailto: admissions@uco.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@uco.ac.uk)
- [10] <https://www.uco.ac.uk/courses/masters-osteopathy-most-degree-part-time>
- [11] <https://www.uco.ac.uk/courses/masters-osteopathy-most-degree-full-time>
- [12] <https://www.collegeofosteopaths.ac.uk/osteopathy-programme/>
- [13] [mailto: admin@collegeofosteopaths.ac.uk](mailto:admin@collegeofosteopaths.ac.uk)
- [14] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/3372?page=1>
- [15] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/physiotherapist>
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- [17] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/psychotherapist>
- [18] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/experienced-paramedic>