

Entry requirements and training (osteopath)

This page has information about the entry requirements and training needed to become an osteopath.

All osteopaths must be registered with the General Osteopathic Council to be able to practise in the UK.

Osteopaths are trained to degree level attaining 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 hands-on patient-facing clinical training. This intensive medical training equips osteopaths with an in-depth knowledge of anatomy, [physiology](#) ^[1], psychology and pathology combined with robust clinical examination techniques.

Both full-time and part-time pathways to training are available.

Want to learn more?

[Find a list of institutions running approved degree courses in osteopathy on our course finder](#) ^[2]

[Find out more below about working as an osteopath](#) ^[3].

- Skills, qualities and interests needed

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To work in osteopathy, you will need:

- a patient-centred approach, with an interest in people and how the body works
- an ability to work by themselves and think independently
- an ability to work with others, and follow rules
- a scientific, enquiring mind
- curiosity and creativity
- independence and individuality
- integrity, and the ability to take responsibility
- Continuing professional development

