

Admissions Policy & Procedure 2017 Entry

We hope that the following information will help guide you through the application process for the Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) degree course at the British College of Osteopathic Medicine. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Admissions Team on 020 7435 6464 or at Admissions@bcom.ac.uk.

On initial contact with the College

The caller should normally receive a clear and comprehensive telephone enquiries service from a member of the Admissions team. Information on funding, fee levels, term dates, entry requirements, applying through UCAS, open days and the interview process will be given quickly and unambiguously to callers.

The caller should expect to have a prospectus promptly sent out to them on request.

As well as the comprehensive contents of the prospectus, additional sheets on funding and fee levels for the 2017/18 academic year will be included.

On receipt of the UCAS application form

The applicant can expect the College to have normally contacted them within a week of receipt of the UCAS form if they are to be called for interview. An interview date will be set during this conversation even if it is to be a date far in the future.

Applicants who are not offered an interview will be informed through UCAS of this decision within four weeks of the application being received, wherever possible, depending on the point of the UCAS cycle and how busy UCAS are.

For applicants being called to interview, their UCAS form will be thoroughly checked and relevant information flagged for use at interview. This information will include educational qualifications and the personal statement and reference that may be discussed during the interview. The forms will be checked for information that the applicant may have provided about disabilities. This would enable the interview panel to discuss this information with the applicant at the interview stage in order to ascertain what assistance the College is able to provide should the applicant commence the course.

The interview invitation letter will contain clear information about the time, date and venue of the interview.

The interview

The interview panel will be made up of at least two members, in most instances, Mr Manoj Mehta, Head of Osteopathy and a member of the Admissions Team will conduct the interviews.

Applicants can expect to talk about the following areas during the interview: their knowledge of the work of an Osteopath; their motivation for becoming an Osteopath; what skills an Osteopath needs and whether they possess these skills; their knowledge of the M.Ost course content and what they need to do in order to qualify; whether they understand the implication of Holistic Osteopathy. For more mature students who perhaps do not perfectly fit the standard entry requirements, their knowledge, work and life experience will be discussed.

The interview panel will then answer any questions related to the course, application process, funding and accommodation. The applicant's answers to these questions will have no bearing on the outcome of the interview process.

Where possible, the panel also make sure that interviewees are offered the opportunity to come and visit the College on an open day or tour.

In most cases, applicants are informed at the time of their interview whether they will be offered a place on the course. Offers are subject to applicants providing a completed Confidential Criminal

Record Self Declaration form and DBS clearance. In situations where further discussion or documentation is required, applicants will be informed of the outcome of the interview as soon as possible after we have received the relevant documentation.

Admissions criteria (Entry Requirements)

The Masters in Osteopathy degree course is an integrated masters, it's also known as an undergraduate masters, whereby the first three years of the course are provided at an undergraduate level (levels 4, 5 and 6) and the fourth year is provided at masters level (level 7). Entry onto the M.Ost course is normally available via two pathways: standard-level or degree-level entry.

The standard academic profile is three A levels normally including biology (112 UCAS Tariff points). Other UK qualifications/Educational pathways in combination with biology are also considered, such as BTEC, HND, science foundation courses, science access courses, Baccalaureats and Scottish Highers.

Applications from those with previous degrees and from mature students are also welcome. All such applications are considered on an individual basis, taking into account the applicant's academic and life experiences to date. Demonstrable evidence of the study of biology and chemistry will usually be required but applicants holding good degrees (2.1 or above) in non-science/-health subjects will be considered on merit.

Student with medical qualifications recognised in the UK may be able to complete the M.Ost in 2 years.

Foreign nationals may also be a requirement to hold either an IELTS certificate for English as a second language. The minimum requirement for IELTS is 6.5 points overall.

Fees for the Masters in Osteopathy

The tuition fee for the 2017/18 academic year for UK/EU students eligible for funding is £9,000 per year for the M.Ost degree course.

The tuition fee for the 2017/18 academic year for international/private students is £10,500 per year.

UK/EU students who do not hold a previous degree should be eligible to apply for a government loan towards their tuition fee. Further information on funding can be found on our website or by visiting the Gov.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>, to speak to a dedicated Student Finance advisor call 0300 100 06 07 (from outside the UK, please call 0044 141 243 3570).

DBS & Health Statement

In addition to the above criteria, all successful applicants will be required to have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance prior to enrolling onto the Masters in Osteopathy course. The estimated cost of a DBS check is £52 (based on 2016 charges). Payment for the DBS check is required at/or prior to enrolment. The College will provide guidance for the DBS process.

Applicants are also required to submit a Health Statement and Student Health Questionnaire that is supported by a medical letter from the GP. All necessary forms will be provided by the Admissions team, as required.

Additional Information

Structure of the Course

BCOM offers a four-year, full time course leading to a Masters in Osteopathy qualification. The M.Ost is an undergraduate integrated masters programme. The first two years are pre-clinical years when basic science subjects are covered and the subsequent two years are clinical years during which clinical subjects are covered and students engage in supervised clinical practice, treating patients in BCOM's out-patient teaching clinics. Students attend three practical lectures in Years 1, 2, 3 & 4. During the practical lectures, students are required to play a role of a 'patient' and a 'practitioner' whilst practising osteopathic techniques under supervision and strict professional environment. Whilst playing a role of the patient, students will be required to undress down to appropriate undergarments.

Length & Location of Course

The Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) course takes place at BCOM's Finchley Road campus for each academic year, except for dissection classes in Year 1 and 2, which are held at University College Hospital (UCH) near Euston Station. The M.Ost course is a four years, full-time course with approximately 28 contact hours. A student may take no longer than five years' study at the College to complete the course, unless the student is able to demonstrate serious mitigating circumstances.

Mandatory & Optional Modules

All modules delivered within the Masters in Osteopathy degree course are mandatory (core) modules except for the Year 4 Cranial (optional). For full details of the syllabus for the M.Ost please visit our website at <http://www.bcom.ac.uk/students/undergraduate/masters-in-osteopathy/syllabus>.

University Validation & Professional Accreditation

The Masters in Osteopathy degree course at BCOM is validated by Plymouth University and accredited by General Osteopathic Council.

Awards

Successful students graduate from BCOM with a validated Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) degree from Plymouth University. In addition to the M.Ost qualification, students are also awarded a Diploma in Naturopathy (N.D.) and those students who successfully complete the optional Cranial module in Year 4 are awarded a Diploma in Osteopathy (D.O.).

Costs

The College will make every effort to keep additional costs for students to a minimum. To assist students in preparing for these expenses the College has prepared a list of equipment and its approximate cost based on 2015-16 rates (indicative costs).

Pre-enrolment: Enhanced DBS check - £52.

Year 1: Massage oil for - approx. £10; Flexible spine - £30 deposit (refunded in Year 2); Return train ticket (Oyster card) Finchley Road to University College Hospital (dissection room) Euston Square: £4.80.

Year 2: Diagnostic Equipment - approx. £65; Littman stethoscope - approx. £40; Sphygmomanometer - £10; Thermometer - £2; Correct Patella Hammer - £3; Otoscope - approx. £10; Clinic Coat - approx. £25; First Aid course - approx. £30.

Year 4: Graduation ceremony - approx. £60, guest tickets £10 each.

Re-sit fees for written and practical (viva) examinations - £25 per re-sit.

Clinical students are required to wear black trousers and black shoes when in the Clinic.

Assessment

Modules for the M.Ost are assessed in a variety of methods including final written examinations, final practical/oral examinations (viva voce's), course work, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE's), research project (dissertation) and continuous assessment in practical and clinical subjects. The pass mark in Years 1, 2 and 3 modules is 40% and the pass mark in Year 4 modules is 50%.

Course Specific Requirements

1. Students must successfully complete each module prior to progression and/or graduation.
2. Students are required to achieve minimum of 80% attendance in osteopathic technique lectures.
3. Students are required to play a role of a 'patient' and 'practitioner' during practical lectures.
4. Students are required to achieve 100% attendance in clinic prior to progression and/or graduation. Students will be required to make-up the missed clinic sessions during summer vacation period.

BCOM provides a staff to student ratio of 1:4 in clinic and 1:5 for practising students in practical classes. The M.Ost programme integrates academic knowledge (lectures) with applied clinical skills (practical classes). BCOM uses specialist lectures to teach or lead a number of the theoretical subjects such as psychology, research methods, anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and imaging. Please refer to BCOM's website for further details on lecturers and other staff members.

For an example of a BCOM Year 1 timetable please contact the Admissions Team.

Fitness to Practice

It is the legal duty of the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) to set the standards of competence and conduct that are expected of osteopaths so that they can protect the public and maintain public confidence in the osteopathic profession. The guidelines for the safe and competent practice of osteopathy are set out in two documents published by the GOsC, the Fitness to Practice and the Standards of Practice.

Applicants are strongly advised to read the Standards and Guidelines published by the General Osteopathic Council (please see links below).

Fitness to Practise: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/resources/publications/Student-fitness-to-practise-guidance/>

Standards of Practice: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/resources/publications/standards-of-practice/>

Training & Registration: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/training-and-registration/becoming-an-osteopath/management-of-health-and-disability/>

Disability or Health Impairment Guidance: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/fitness-to-practise/students-with-a-disability-or-health-impairment-guidance-for/>

BCOM educates osteopathic students on the basis of these documents, the requirements of the Council and its own duty to graduate osteopaths appropriate for registration. Therefore, the College requires all students, regardless of known health or disability status, to confirm at admission that to the best of their knowledge, they are/will be fit to practise (both as a student of Osteopathy with other students and as a supervised student practitioner within the context of the College's teaching clinics).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the College.

Best regards,
BCOM Admissions Team