

# Special Needs Statement

## Single Equity Scheme and Action Plan

BCOM publishes a Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan, which is available to its students and staff via the College intranet, Osteonet.

Each applicant to the British College of Osteopathic Medicine is considered on an individual basis and we welcome applications from students with disabilities and learning difficulties. You can obtain advice from the Admissions team at any stage of the application process.

Email [Admissions@bcom.ac.uk](mailto:Admissions@bcom.ac.uk)

Or Call: 020 7435 6464

All applications to the College will be initially processed, along with all other applications, to see whether the applicant meets the entry requirements. This will be undertaken without reference to disabilities or learning difficulties.

Details of a disability or learning difficulty given on UCAS forms will be highlighted and discussed at the interview stage of the admissions process.

If you have a disability, including dyslexia, we would like to be made aware of this as soon as possible. Your disclosure will be treated in a positive, sensitive and constructive manner and will enable the College to support you in your studies.

The College will endeavour to make all reasonable adjustments in order to support applicants with disability or learning difficulty in their studies. However, because the college offers solely vocational courses, which allow entry into the Osteopathic profession, there are certain limits on the adjustments to the core course content that can be made.

For example, a core element of the course is the teaching of Osteopathic Technique. This demands, hand/eye co-ordination and fine motor skills in the practice of all techniques. Many techniques that are essential to Osteopathic practise also demand a high level of mobility in order to carry out essential manipulation and mobilisation. These are needed in order to treat most patients. Osteopathic technique is taught throughout all years of the course. It is very important to ascertain at an early stage whether a candidate will be able to fulfil the core elements of the course and whether, upon graduation, applicants will be fit to practise as Osteopaths.

The osteopathic professional regulatory body, the General Osteopathic Council, is responsible for making sure that registered professionals are 'fit to practise' i.e. that they are able to carry out their duties competently without undue risk to patients. However, as professional bodies do not interview or train students, the onus is on institutions such as The

British College of Osteopathic Medicine to ensure that only students who are 'fit to practise' their vocation are admitted to, and graduate from, the Masters in Osteopathy programme. The College manages this on an individual basis.