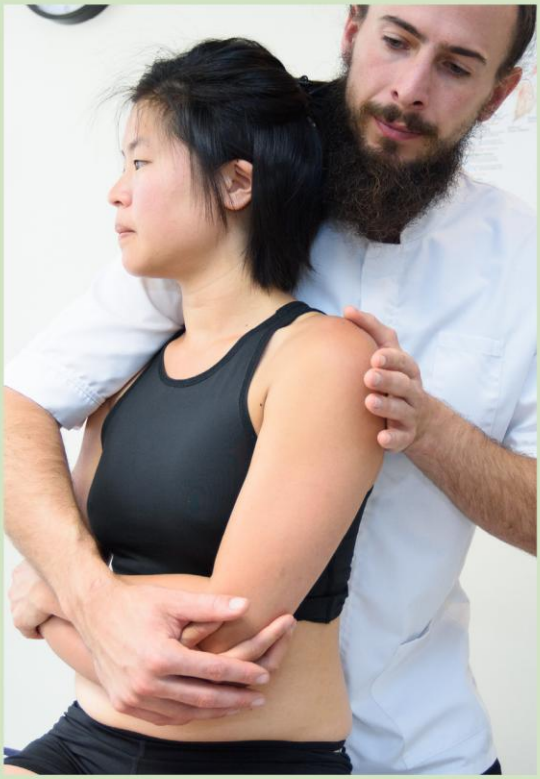
BRITISH COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

PROSPECTUS



BRITISH COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

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We are committed to maintaining and further developing the osteopathic centre of excellence that is the British College of Osteopathic Medicine.

BRITISH COLLEGE OF
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WELCOME TO BCOM

Welcome to the British College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM), one of the first educational establishments to be accredited and meet the quality standards set by the profession's governing body, the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC).

Message from the Principal

Dr Kerstin Rolfe RGN, BSc (Hons), PhD, LLM

BCOM prides itself on its quality of teaching and clinical experience along with its friendly supportive atmosphere. BCOM clinical students see on average 20% more than the recommended 50 new patients and our NHS contract allows our clinical students to see an array of patients and conditions. BCOM believes it is important for our students to have this busy but clinically rewarding experience while under the supportive tuition of our experienced osteopaths.

BCOM has now received two "Recognised Qualification" reports 'with no conditions' from the QAA demonstrating our educational quality and support for our students. We recognise the need for specialist subjects to be taught or led by specialists in the subject areas such as anatomy, physiology, pathology and we are proud to be able to achieve this specialist teaching.

BCOM has excellent facilities including a dedicated human performance laboratory as part of the research department. Our research team is active in not only osteopathic research but in sports and medical research with numerous publications.

If you are considering a career as an osteopath then I hope to welcome you to one of our open days, which are always well received.

I wish you well in your future career choice.

Dr Kerstin Rolfe

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Ten reasons for choosing BCOM

1 Holistic Philosophy
BCOM is internationally renowned for its uniquely holistic or naturopathic approach to osteopathic education.

2 Funded Masters Degree
BCOM offers a full-time integrated masters degree for all its undergraduates. After four years, you can graduate with a Masters in Osteopathy. For eligible students, this course attracts public funding.

3 Professional Accreditation
BCOM was the first institution in the UK to offer an osteopathic honours degree and to achieve a landmark “approval without conditions” QAA led RQ recognition from the General Osteopathic Council for two consecutive reviews.

4 Quality of Teaching
The teaching offered at BCOM has been given the highest praise at external review.

5 Excellent Facilities
BCOM’s campus environment offers students unrivalled lecture theatres, air-conditioned practical rooms, a state-of-the-art Human Performance Laboratory and hydrotherapy suite, a games area and free internet and Wi-Fi access.

6 Research Excellence
BCOM’s full-time staff have extensive research experience with many publications and our research facilities are the best among UK Osteopathic Institutions. BCOM is the founder of the International Conference on Advances in Osteopathic Research (ICAOR).

7 Clinic Experience
Supervised clinical training is at the core of learning at BCOM. We provide all our students with a diverse range of patients to develop osteopathic technique. BCOM students will usually see a patient from their initial consultation to the end of the treatment.

8 Full-Time Faculty
BCOM enjoys the highest number of full-time academic and clinical staff among the UK Osteopathic Institutions. This means more staff are available to our students.

9 Ideal Location
Situated close to Hampstead Heath, BCOM is ideally located. The West End is less than 15 minutes away by tube or bus.

10 Friendly Atmosphere
BCOM is noted for its warm and friendly atmosphere. Come to an Open Day and see for yourself. Parents and partners are always welcome too.

The College

Our History

BCOM was the first UK Osteopathic Education Institution (OEI) to successfully validate an osteopathic honours degree and is the founder of the International Conference on Advances in Osteopathic Research. It also became the first OEI ever to receive “approval without conditions” QAA led recognition for two consecutive General Osteopathic Council reviews for quality in osteopathic education.

The college was founded in 1936 by Stanley Lief, the famous naturopathic osteopath who founded the Champneys spa, and has been teaching osteopaths in London ever since. Following a direct hit in an air raid on its campus during the Second World War, a patient of Lief’s, Hector Frazer, donated a Victorian mansion to the college. This is now Frazer House, the centre of teaching and clinical training at BCOM which includes state-of-the-art lecture theatres and recreation facilities. Next to Frazer House is Lief House, BCOM’s administrative and research hub.

Our Campus

The college is set in London’s Hampstead, famous for its cosmopolitan atmosphere and extensive greenery. The scenic tranquillity of Hampstead Heath is nearby, yet that shopper’s paradise, Oxford Street, is a short Underground ride away. Hampstead’s renowned café culture, shopping, restaurants, nightlife and sports facilities are all nearby. BCOM provides excellent facilities for teaching and research. The family atmosphere between students and staff is exceptional, providing a close-knit support network for all.

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Graduates' View of College Life

Camilla Capon

"I have always wanted to be an osteopath. Since my time in ballet school I have had a particular interest for human anatomy and biomechanics. Later on when I started to teach Gyrotonic, specifically to dancers, the elderly and those who were trying to get a better understanding of their scoliosis through movement. I felt a real call for Osteopathy as it would enable me to help them further and I was able to introduce Osteopathy and Naturopathy at the studio where I already teach soon after graduation.

Since then I have gone on to join a second clinic which is based in a yoga centre, where I help movers of all ages through injury and better posture as well as following pregnant ladies pre- and post-partum. Being a mover and a mum myself it feels good to be able to offer science based holistic naturopathic treatment in a context that feels my own, and with the support of osteopathic principles I am now able to help people through the same injuries I once experienced myself, with a positive and tailored treatment approach that honours their individuality.

My student experience at BCOM

"BCOM offers a wonderful, large and appropriate curriculum. I would say it's one of the best within the osteopathic field, and compacts intense and rewarding training in only 4 years.

The road is certainly long and the learning carries on even after graduation because the education received is thought provoking and solid enough to enable each young practitioner to develop further skills and approach the medical field with competence.

This is not a course for the faint hearted, because it requires dedication, time and commitment in many different areas: from nutrition to anatomy, from dissection to naturopathy, from pathology to patient skills. All this viewed through the lens of the future osteopath which is not just a manual therapist or an anatomist, but a clinician who appreciates that bridging the gap between the old and the new, the natural and the medical..

I feel very grateful to BCOM for the hardships and joys of this journey which has literally changed my life, turning me into this person who is now excited to go to work and meet patients every day.

BCOM has supported me not only through a change of career but through important stages of my life. I feel confident in saying that although they stand by a high level of competence they also like to see their students develop their talents and turn osteopathy into their future, whatever their life challenges."

Andrew Georgiou

Since graduating from BCOM Andrew Georgiou has pursued his goal to study medicine and become a doctor in his native Cyprus.

Andrew explains how training to become an osteopath prepared him for his medical studies:

"As a student at BCOM, I found that the college provided good academic support; the academic medical programme was intense. In addition, working at the BCOM clinic taught me professionalism enabling me to gain a good foundation on how to practice high quality and effective patient-centered osteopathic care. BCOM provides a close-knit educational environment, thus making possible the essential interaction between administration, academic staff and students.

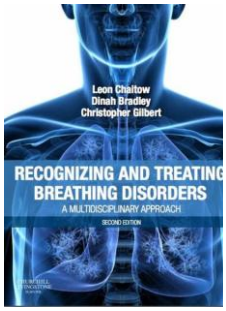
Everything from my lectures to the clinical training has been extremely beneficial, and being in Clinic was one of the best experiences I could have as I was able to treat a wide variety of patients. The contract with the NHS gave me a valuable insight into how the system works. The osteopathic medical philosophy and education during my training as an osteopath will offer me the chance to incorporate and practice the best of both alternative and conventional medicine, to encompass the full meaning of being a doctor. The integration of osteopathic principles and practice will help me to connect more meaningfully with and to the benefit of my patients when practicing medicine."

BCOM Alumni Association

All BCOM graduates automatically become members of the Alumni Association which works to establish and develop the college's relationship with its graduate community. BCOM's Alumni Association is committed to building strong relationships with former students, and seeks to maintain contact with all graduates after they leave the college.

BCOM Alumni Association members receive the e-newsletter, NEXUS, which gives all the latest news on the alumni community and events. Members are also able to access Osteonet and use the college's library facilities.

The Alumni President is the well-known author and graduate of the college Leon Chaitow.



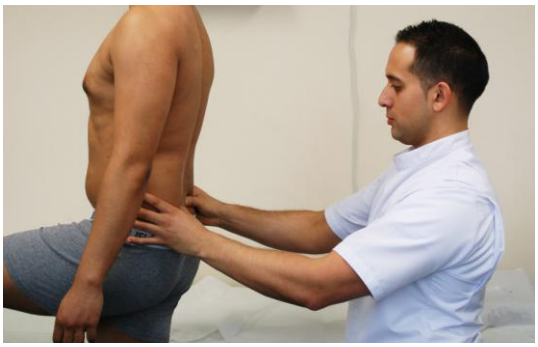
After Graduation

After graduation, you will have a number of possible areas of practice to consider. There are also many opportunities abroad, but a thorough examination of the particular country's laws and regulation is necessary. The Professional Registers shows where members are currently practising in Britain and overseas.

PRACTICE
Private Practice NHS Practice Specialist Practice
Most BCOM graduates set up or join osteopathic practices. It is usually the role that first attracted them to the profession and encapsulates the therapeutic skills and patient contact that has fascinated generations of practitioners. There are additional opportunities for work within the NHS. Specialist practice is another fascinating route: BCOM graduate Annabel Jenks has set up one of the most successful animal osteopathy practices in the country.

CORPORATE
Broadcasting Publishing Consultancy
It may be a surprise but there are many opportunities for media and corporate work for osteopathy graduates. BCOM graduate Michael van Straten has written many books and appeared on television and radio programmes in his career. There are additional roles in corporate consultancy as increasing numbers of major organisations require professional advice and input for musculo-skeletal and health issues among their staff.

EDUCATION
Teaching Research Regulation
Many of our graduates go into full- or part-time teaching both at BCOM and elsewhere. The Head of Osteopathy and several Faculty members are graduates of the college. BCOM is one of the most influential osteopathic research institutions in the world. Our graduates extend their academic lives with research work, which is encouraged by the Osteopaths Act 1993. Crucial to Osteopathic Education is the regulatory role of the General Osteopathic Council, which approves osteopathic graduates as practitioners and the institutions that train them.



Osteopathy is a career where each patient presents as a puzzle that you have to solve. Being able to find out what is wrong with the patient, explaining the problem and then treating it is very rewarding.

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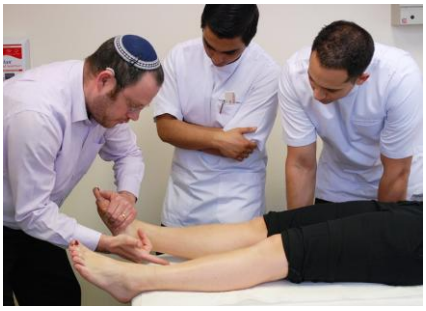
Holistic or Naturopathic Osteopathy focuses on more than diagnosing and Treating the structural and mechanical problems of the body. It encompasses looking at diet, lifestyle and mental well-being to restore the state of balance within the total bodily function.

Our Philosophy

BCOM promotes a philosophy of Holistic and Naturopathic Osteopathic Medicine. Osteopathic Medicine is a system of manipulation, using the hands to correct joint and tissue abnormalities. Restoring physical and mental well-being, it makes it easier for the body to function normally and to recuperate effectively. Central to Naturopathic teaching is the belief that the body has the ability to heal itself through its own “homeostatic” mechanisms.
In Naturopathy, incorrect diet and environmental pollution are among the principal causes of poor health. Naturopathy utilises dietary and lifestyle advice, hydrotherapy, exercise and other “modalities”. It is not an invasive regime and, as a way of life, is a logical basis for health.



BCOM believes that Osteopathy and Naturopathy have many inherent therapeutic links and synthesising these is at the core of BCOM’s philosophy. These concepts were once radical for mainstream healthcare but research has come to support the idea of such a “Bio-Psycho-Social Medicine”. Holistic and Naturopathic Osteopathy as taught and practised within BCOM’s teaching clinics, is based on this Bio-Psycho-Social model of health care.

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Professional Associations

The General Osteopathic Council

The college is accredited by the registering body, The General Osteopathic Council, and therefore all graduates are eligible to apply for statutory registration. Since the Osteopaths Act of 1993, it is a criminal offence to practise Osteopathy in the United Kingdom if you are not registered.

The General Osteopathic Council
Osteopathy House
176 Tower Bridge Road
London SE1 3LU
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7357 6655
www.osteopathy.org.uk

The Institute of Osteopathy

The Institute of Osteopathy (formerly the British Osteopathic Association) is a support for osteopaths. Membership of the a
ssociation is voluntary.

The Institute of Osteopathy
3 Park Terrace
Manor Road
Luton
Beds LU1 3HN
Tel: +44 (0) 1582 488455
www.iosteopathy.org

The General Council and Register of Naturopaths

The college is also accredited by the General Council and Register of Naturopaths and all graduates are therefore eligible to apply for membership of the Register of Naturopaths.

The General Council and Register of Naturopaths
1 Green Lane Avenue
STREET
Somerset
BA16 0QS
United Kingdom
Tel +44 (0) 1458 840072
www.naturopathy.org.uk

The inclusion of clinical dietetics, psychosomatics, hydrotherapy and lifestyle assessment gives students at BCOM a unique appreciation of the totality of patient health.

The Courses

Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost)

This is a four-year undergraduate, integrated university-validated masters degree. Its purpose is to produce graduates suitable for registration with the General Osteopathic Council as safe, competent osteopaths.
Entry to the M.Ost incorporates the Diploma in Naturopathy, which are professional awards denoting clinical competence and are GOsC- and GCRN-accredited, enabling appropriate professional registration. The M.Ost offers one of the best routes into this fast-growing profession.

The aims of the degree are:
1. To ensure that graduates acquire adequate clinical competence via a self-critical approach to integrated, learned skills.

2. To instil an evidence-based research ethos into practitioners of clinical practice through holistic Osteopathic Medicine.

3. To acquire knowledge and understanding of health and its promotion.

4. To acquire knowledge and understanding of disease, its prevention and management in the context of the whole individual and his or her place in the family and in society.

5. To promote an attitude of inquiry and the maintenance of this attitude into professional life and to keep abreast of current knowledge by maintaining Continuing Professional Development.

6. To foster inter-professional dialogue and referral.

7. To recognise the advanced standard of professional competence and responsibility demonstrated by Masters-level graduate practitioners of Osteopathic Medicine.

Diploma in Naturopathy (N.D.)

This diploma covers the principles and practice of Naturopathy as evolved from Hippocrates and the early Greek philosopher practitioners. The basis of naturopathic practice is founded on the maintenance of health rather than curing of disease.

BSc (Hons) Osteopathy for Diplomates

Known popularly as the Conversion Course, students enrolling on this degree will already be fully qualified and practising Osteopaths with professional registration. The degree is designed to convert academically their Diploma in Osteopathy to degree level. This course does not confer eligibility to the GOsC register.

Teaching and Learning

The M.Ost integrates academic knowledge with applied clinical skills. The clinic forms the focal point of the course and academic components are revisited with each new clinical case. The clinical component is significant and the level of achievement is high. These standards are at the core of BCOM's high academic reputation throughout the osteopathic sector.

Teaching

The M.Ost involves a minimum of 25 hours theory and practical classes per week during the academic year. Due to its large clinical component, the college is operational for 51 weeks per year. The academic year is three terms of 12 weeks during a 36-week year in Years One and Two and a 45-week year in Years Three and Four. There will be clinical training outside term times in Years Three and Four.

Learning

A high percentage of practical study demonstrates the skills required to become an Osteopath. At least 25 per cent of lectures have an interactive group-based approach and a high proportion of the osteopathic/practical sessions are tutorial-based. Years One and Two are essentially delivered via traditional lectures, whereas Years Three to Four incorporate a more problem-based learning approach using clinical situations with real patients. A tutorial system throughout the course provides feedback and guidance.

Assessment

Assessment takes the form of formal examinations, coursework, practical and clinical assessments, ISCE, vivas and a research paper. Final examinations are usually set at or near the end of the academic year. The assessment timetable is published on Osteonet, the college intranet, after a consensus from both faculty and students.

Research

BCOM's involvement in research is central to its educational activities. Evidence-based medicine is increasingly being required to demonstrate the efficacy of treatments. As part of its commitment to research, BCOM founded ICAOR. The M.Ost replaced BCOM's traditional Dissertation with an innovative, publication-ready research paper. The best BCOM student research has been presented at international osteopathic conferences and published in science journals.

The syllabus content can be found in detail on the website at www.bcom.ac.uk

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Below is the subject list for the Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost), your likely enrolment route. For syllabi of other courses, please visit our website.

YEAR ONE

Anatomy 1: Musculoskeletal anatomy
- Osteology & Arthrology
- Myology
- Anatomy Dissection

Anatomy 2: Neuro-anatomy
- Neurology
- Anatomy Dissection

GI, Nutrition & Biochemistry

Osteopathic Practice 1
- Osteopathic Technique
- Soft-Tissue Techniques

Physiology 1
- Cardio-respiratory Physiology
- Renal & Endocrine Physiology

Principles of Naturopathic Osteopathy

YEAR TWO

Anatomy & Physiology
- Integrated Anatomy
- Physiology: Special senses, Skin, Immunology, Reproduction
- Anatomy Dissection

Biomechanics
- Spinal Mechanics
- Peripheral Mechanics

Exercise Physiology

Nutrition & Dietetics

Osteopathic Practice 2
- Clinic Observation
- Osteopathic Technique
- Clinical Soft-Tissue Techniques
- Osteopathic diagnosis

Pathology & Diagnosis
- Includes Clinical Methods

YEAR THREE

Clinical Theory and Practice
- Differential Diagnosis
- Pharmacology
- Clinical Practice

Musculoskeletal Conditions
- Rheumatology & Orthopaedics
- X-Ray imaging

Osteopathic Techniques
- Visceral Osteopathy

Paediatrics

Psychology

Research Methods

YEAR FOUR

Research Investigation

Clinical Rheumatology & Orthopaedics
- X-Ray imaging

Clinical Psychology

Practice Management, Ethics & Audit

Clinical Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Dermatology and Gerontology

Clinical Osteopathic Practice
- Cranial Osteopathy

Course Fees and Additional Information

Tuition Fees for the Masters in Osteopathy

2018/19 academic year:
Home/EU students **£9,250** per annum
Overseas students **£10,500** per annum
*(Fees are subject to annual review. See our website for full details **www.bcom.ac.uk/courses/masters-osteopathy-m-ost**)*

In addition to the annual course tuition fees, there are further requirements and costs for students on the Masters in Osteopathy course.

Additional Costs

- **Enhanced DBS check**
  £53.20 (based on 2017 charges)
- **Clinic coat** (approx. £25)
- **Clinic equipment** (approx. £200 for complete kit)
- **First Aid course** (approx. £30)
- **Massage oil** (approx. £10)
- **Flexible spine** (£33 deposit, refunded in Year 2)
- **Graduation ceremony** (approx. £60)
  Guest tickets £10 each
- **Re-sit Fees** (£25 per re-sit)
  Practical/oral examinations (viva voce's) and written exams,

All costs are indicative. For further information please see 'Costs' in the Admissions Policy & Procedure.

Many students make use of the equipment to generate data for their research projects and all students are able to access the Laboratory as part of their research programme.

Clinical Education

Clinical Practice

The clinic at Netherhall Gardens is the applied expression of the college's training philosophy – that is, real practical experience. Clinical experience commences in Year Two when the student will be able to observe patient diagnosis and treatment first-hand. Later, a one-to-one treatment relationship exists between student practitioner and patient. This provides "continuity of care" which creates a positive rapport with the patient, and mimics real private practice.

BCOM Clinic

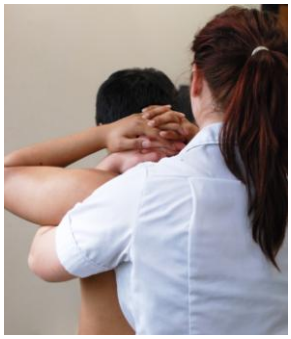
Our clinics are held in high regard by patients, so much so that people are willing to travel some distance to attend. As a registered charity, the college offers subsidised treatment fees and all children are treated free and concessions are available. Clinics are open throughout the year and enjoy a reputation for excellence.

Clinical Supervision

Year Two: clinic is an observational clinic with no direct responsibility for patients. Each Year Two student will enter into peer-group discussion whilst in clinic, guided by the clinical tutor.

Year Three: clinic commences as a structured teaching clinic with students progressively taking direct responsibility for patients under close supervision and observed by peers. As the student's abilities develop, supervision becomes less intensive. A high tutor:student supervision ratio continues throughout.

Year Four: clinic is increasingly independent with less intensive supervision. Peer-group clinical observation is still encouraged and small group discussions remain regular features.



95% of patients agreed that their condition/health/pain has improved since starting osteopathic treatment at BCOM's Outpatient Clinic. Taken from the most recent Patient Survey, BCOM.

Facilities and Resource

The Library

The Library has been at the same site since the college moved to Netherhall Gardens in 1953. It houses over 4000 volumes and is particularly strong in historical alternative medicine books, some extremely rare. The Library has a reading room, a computer room, a journal room and a “Learn Out Loud” space, for students who prefer to use verbal and practical learning, as well as standard and specialist software and anatomical models. BCOM students also have access to the university catalogue and the British Library. Free internet access is also available.

Research Laboratories

The college Research Department is maintained by dedicated full-time staff, all possessing current published research experience. The Department is centred on two facilities: a Human Performance Laboratory and a Hydrotherapy Suite.

Human Performance Laboratory

The Human Performance Laboratory, which opened in 1997, contains a range of state-of-the-art equipment. It is the hub of BCOM’s extensive research and is perhaps the most advanced human-performance research facility of any European osteopathic institution. Many BCOM students use these cutting-edge facilities during their research work.

- **Fastrak Motion Tracking** system for measuring movement
- **RS Scan** foot scan to measure static and dynamic balance
- **Electromyography** to measure electrical activity in muscles
- **Cybex Norm** dynamometer to measure isokinetic strength and power
- **Digital myograph** to digitally measure isotonic strength
- **Cubaclinical** to measure bone density via ultrasound
- **Portable Spirometer** to digitally measure lung function

- **BodPod** whole-body-composition analysis

- **Cortex** to measure metabolic and respiratory function, and aerobic capacity

- **Laser Doppler** to digitally monitor peripheral blood flow
  Electrogoniometers for measuring joint range of motion
  Electro-inclinometers for measuring angles during movement
  Custom-built force transducer for measuring passive joint resistance
  Force sensors for measuring pressing forces

- **Back Range and Cervical Range** of motion protractors

- **Treadmill**

- **Exercise Bikes**

- **Blood Pressure Monitors** including computerised analysis

- **Skin-fold Callipers**

Hydrotherapy Suite
The separate Hydrotherapy Suite contains a range of baths and showers to examine in detail the beneficial effects of hydrotherapy. Changes in blood flow and muscle function can be effectively studied. This facility is also used in student research.

Dissection Room (Located at UCL)
BCOM offers the most extensive human-dissection teaching of any UK osteopathic institution. This uniquely prominent aspect of BCOM's teaching is a perennial student favourite. Dissection classes take place at the prestigious UCL Dissection Room.

Many students make use of the equipment to generate data for their research projects and all students are able to access the Laboratory as part of their research programme.

Our open days are highly recommended by applicants who have attended them, experiencing the many facilities BCOM offers.

Entry Requirements for M.Ost

Standard 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 or health based Access to HE Diploma/course, Baccalaureats and Scottish Highers. If you have any other qualifications and need some advice then please contact the BCOM Admissions team.

Graduate Entry

Applications from those with previous degrees and from mature students are 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 be required but applicants holding good degrees (2.1 or above) in non-science/-health subjects will be considered on merit. Students with relevant medical or scientific qualifications may gain exemption from parts of the course at the discretion of the Exemption Panel of the college. Applications for exemption must be submitted at the start of each relevant academic year.

International Students

Applications are invited from overseas students who possess recognised A-level equivalent qualifications, e.g. International Baccalaureate or entry to a university Biological Science degree. Overseas students must also possess a Use of English Qualification at an appropriate medical-science level, e.g. IELTS 6.5 points overall.

In 2009 the UK Visa & Immigration (previously UK Border Agency) introduced a new Tier 4 points-based system for student visa applications. All international students who require a student visa to study in the UK are advised to visit the Gov.UK website.

Application and Interview

It is college policy to interview all students whose UCAS application demonstrates appropriate academic study/qualifications and a clearly stated interest in the Osteopathic profession. Acceptable references must be provided. Interviews take place at the college with the Admissions Panel, typically the Head of Admissions with another member of Faculty.

Open Days

The college hosts regular open day events; enabling students to visit and experience the college before responding to any offer from UCAS. Our open days are highly recommended by applicants who have attended them, experiencing the many facilities BCOM offers. Feedback from open-day questionnaires indicates that they are very informative. Prospective students talk of the "warm and friendly atmosphere".

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How to Apply

Formal application for entry on the M.Ost must be made through the UCAS system.

To submit an application you will need a UCAS Application Form and access to the UCAS Directory or the UCAS website **www.ucas.ac.uk**. These are available at Schools and Colleges through the Head of Year or Course Director.

UCAS can receive applications for any given year after 1st September of the preceding year and you should aim to submit your application by mid-January. UCAS will accept applications after this date, but it is left to the institution's discretion whether such applications are considered. BCOM accepts applications for consideration throughout the annual UCAS cycle; therefore all prospective candidates will receive consideration.

Submitting an Application

If you require assistance with completing your application, please contact the Admissions Team. If you are looking at the UCAS Directory or accessing the UCAS website, the College's Institution Code is B81. Please note that UCAS Course Codes are subject to change, so refer to their directory or website for the latest information.

Applying Through UCAS

When applying to BCOM through UCAS, please select the following codes;

BCOM Institution Code: B81
M.Ost Course Code: B312

Once you have selected BCOM as one of your choices and completed your UCAS application the Admissions Team will review your application and contact you.

If you need help or advice on your individual application you should contact your careers adviser or call UCAS's Customer Service Unit:

UCAS
Rosehill
New Barn Lane
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL52 3LZ

Tel: **0371 468 0468** (within UK)
Tel: +44 330 3330 230 (outside UK)
Email: webenquiries@ucas.ac.uk
Website: **www.ucas.ac.uk**

Also available on Facebook and Twitter

BCOM's Admissions Team

For advice on the courses we offer or assistance with your application, please contact our Admissions Team at admissions@bcom.ac.uk or call 020 7435 6464.

Student Support

BCOM Tutorial System

BCOM operates an integrated tutorial system with academic and pastoral support at all stages of the course. This system of support has been developed in the context of the needs of students studying a clinical degree.

This has the following components:

- **Personal tutors**
- **Year tutors**
- **Course-specific tutor**
- **Academic/Osteopathic/Clinical support**
- **Professional counselling**
- **Student peer support**

Year and Personal Tutors

Each academic year at the college has a designated Year Tutor. The Year Tutor will liaise between the year and the administration and Faculty.

As well as the Year Tutor, each student has a Personal Tutor whom they may choose themselves. This tutor will usually accompany the student through the course.

Student Peer Support has proved very successful as an internal support mechanism for students. Academic Facilitators from the year ahead are appointed to help and discuss any issues or concerns.

Funding

BCOM Students can apply for student loans. For more detailed information about Home, EU and Overseas fees, your eligibility for student loans or any funding related issues please contact the Admissions Team at admissions@bcom.ac.uk or visit our website.

College Counsellor

The college employs counsellors for students who wish to take advantage of this service. All appointments are confidential and are free to students.

Disability

Students with a disability and/or students who require study support due to a disability are identified at the admissions stage (as declared on the UCAS form). The college has active contact with its students with disabilities and together, they have developed a Single Equality Scheme which is available on Osteonet giving a huge amount of relevant information for BCOM students. BCOM have a Student Disability Facilitator who advises students who require study support due to a disability such as dyslexia throughout the course.

Health Care Advice for Students

The college clinic is available, free of charge, for students with health problems, provided that a senior clinical tutor has assessed and agreed the case. The clinical staff are also available to help students who require advice on where to find specialist care or support.

Accommodation

The college does not have halls of residence, however we provide a directory of local accommodation that is available to rent for incoming and current students prior to the start of the academic year. Often students look to share flats or houses with other BCOM students to gain additional support and to reduce expenses. With the excellent transport links BCOM students can usually find affordable accommodation close to the college.

As well as the Year Tutor, each student has a personal tutor whom they choose themselves. This tutor will usually accompany the student through the four years of the course and will help, guide or refer the student if they have problems.

What Students Say

It has been a lot of hard work and I've had a lot of support throughout the year from staff which has been great. I'm now happy to start my career in Osteopathy with a big thank you to BCOM!
Claire Sutton, BCOM Graduate

Studying for my M.Ost at BCOM has been the most important turning point in my life. I'm very excited to meet the world and I have found that I'm well prepared to meet patients anywhere in the world to make their lives better.
Byung-ho Kim, BCOM graduate

BCOM gave me the tools I needed to become an osteopath, it taught me how to be safe and know when and when not to treat. The Osteopathy degree course provided me with the skills needed to be comfortable working on my own as an osteopath.
James di Cicco, BCOM graduate

The Student Union

There is an active Student Union at the college. It is affiliated to the National Union of Students and offers members reduced-price travel and various other typical NUS benefits. Regular events, inter-collegiate sporting activities and curry nights are just a selection of extracurricular activities organised by the team.

The Student Union also participates fully in the academic life of the college and is represented in a number of important committees, acting as a liaison between students, college management and the BCOM Board of Governors. Student Welfare is also a key area of involvement.

Recreational Facilities

Students have their own common room and a communal games room with pool and table tennis tables, dartboard and refreshment facilities.

Freshers Week

This is the first week of term at the college and is structured to introduce students to the course and to college life in general. The college Administration and Students Union prepare a programme of events to welcome students to BCOM. The first day is scheduled for enrolment, financial administration and a formal welcome from the Principal and members of Faculty, culminating in an early evening social event.

Introductory lectures and practical Osteopathic classes commence on day two, accompanied by an introduction to research, all with an emphasis on meeting Faculty and interacting with other peer groups of students. Key members of staff will be on hand for dedicated advice during this week. By week two, new students are feeling very much at home.

BRITISH COLLEGE OF
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Message from the Student Union

If you are reading this prospectus, it means two things:

1. You are considering a career in Osteopathy – well done.

2. You are considering pursuing your studies at BCOM – brilliantly done!

At BCOM, you will be provided with a first-class education. You will become excellent anatomists, have superb handling of your patients etc etc but that is not why you are reading our contribution to this prospectus. You will find, in both your colleagues and your tutors - and all staff at BCOM - warmth and friendliness, which we believe is unparalleled in the academic world.

BCOM is a relatively small college, which means that within a very short period of time you will know most of the students and all of the teaching staff. They will provide you with friendship and more importantly, a support system throughout what is a challenging course. You will find your colleagues provide academic support as well as one or two drinking buddies, no doubt! You will find a remarkable mix of people at the college. There are students from many countries, speaking different languages and from vastly different backgrounds. Many BCOM students are school leavers, whilst others are in their thirties, forties and beyond and from other professional backgrounds.

The facilities offered by BCOM are excellent, with use of the UCL Dissection Room, an extremely well-equipped human performance lab and a well-stocked library. You will also be exposed to much more than just biomechanical Osteopathy, again a unique part of your BCOM experience. You will learn lots about nutrition whilst also qualifying as a Naturopath. Indeed these should be viewed as intrinsic parts of your practice as an Osteopath. BCOM is well situated with easy access by rail, tube and bus and we all use local pubs, restaurants and shops regularly.

All in all, we believe that you could not make a better choice than to become an Osteopath and that BCOM is the best place for you to do that. Good luck and looking forward to you joining us soon.

BCOM SU

We believe that you could not make a better choice than to become an Osteopath and that BCOM is the best place for you to do that.

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The West End, Covent Garden, South Bank and City are all just 15-25 minutes away, offering easy access to a huge variety of some of the world's best cinemas, theatres, parks, museums, shops and galleries.

Living in London

There is nowhere quite like London. No city in the world so effortlessly mixes the contemporary with the historic, the hip with the classic. From Carnival in Notting Hill to Christmas on Regent Street, through palaces and parks, world-famous museums and cutting-edge galleries, incomparable nightlife and innumerable restaurants, theatres and cinemas, London is the perfect place to be a student.

London is also home to unparalleled educational facilities as well as one of the world's largest communities of complementary practitioners – and a population that uses them. Just 15 minutes from the recreation hub of the West End by tube, BCOM offers its students access to its own highly regarded college Library, two on-site osteopathic clinics, one specialising in research, as well as university facilities and the British Library. At BCOM, you really are just moments from it all.

But London is also where millions of people – 400,000 of them students – come to live. BCOM is in elegant Hampstead, one of the city's most desirable areas, much loved by Londoners for its green spaces, notably Hampstead Heath.

Hampstead is not just an exclusive neighbourhood: within easy reach of the college are pleasant, affordable areas in which to live, a buzzing multicultural world of cheap eats, health-food shops and international markets. In addition, in London students can use many special passes and offers making life much more affordable.

Where we are

BCOM is situated on the Finchley Road, near Swiss Cottage in London NW3, and benefits from good road and public transport links into and out of the capital.

It is immediately opposite Finchley Road Underground station, which is on the Metropolitan and Jubilee London Underground lines. Bus routes 82, 13, 113, C11 and C12 are also close by.

We are unique in offering a naturopathic/holistic approach to osteopathy, as well as being the only osteopathic college to provide on-site Human Performance Laboratory and hydrotherapy facilities – a cutting-edge laboratory and centre for applied physiology research.

BRITISH COLLEGE OF
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OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

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Registered Charity No. 312907

The details in this prospectus were correct at the time of going to press and the British College of Osteopathic Medicine aims to provide accurate and relevant information. However we do not accept liability for any inaccuracies and the College reserves the right to amend or withdraw without notice any of the courses, facilities or other matters contained or referred to in this prospectus.

The British College of Osteopathic Medicine is a statutory regulated and accredited training facility, educational charity (no.312907) and centre of excellence in Osteopathic education, regulated by the Osteopaths Act of 1993 and accredited by the General Osteopathic Council.