



British College of Osteopathic Medicine

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BRITISH COLLEGE OF
BCOM
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE



UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH

BRITISH COLLEGE OF
BCOM
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

**BRITISH COLLEGE
OF OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICINE**
PROSPECTUS

Your success, our passion



Welcome to the British College of Osteopathic Medicine

History

The college was founded in 1936 by Stanley Lief, renowned naturopathic osteopath and founder of the famous Champneys spa. The college has been teaching osteopaths in London ever since.

FIRST UK Osteopathic Education Institution (OEI) to successfully validate an osteopathic honours degree.

BCOM was one of the first OEIs to receive recognition for quality in osteopathic education from the General Osteopathic Council and Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) review.

FOUNDER of the International Conference on Advances in Osteopathic Research (ICAOR) in 1999.

IN PARTNERSHIP The British College of Osteopathic Medicine works in partnership with the University of Plymouth to widen participation in higher education and deliver first-class degrees to the communities it serves.



Open Days

Open Days, Campus Tours and Taster Sessions are the best way to find out about student life at BCOM. Visit our campus and clinic and talk to current students and tutors.

Book your place to plan your day.

 www.bcom.ac.uk/admissions-courses/open-days

 020 7435 6464  admissions@bcom.ac.uk

Take a look at our video on the homepage www.bcom.ac.uk

Some feedback from our Open Day visitors...

“Everyone was very passionate, warm and willing to help. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.”

“Really friendly. Great to speak to all the staff and students so openly.”

“A very warm, welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Teachers are passionate about what they are teaching and students are more than helpful to provide information.”

“Open, warm friendly staff and students who gave frank and full answers to questions.”

“The staff and students were all very welcoming and willing to talk, advise and share. There is a genuine sense of community in the college.”



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10 Reasons to Choose BCOM



1

Our Holistic Philosophy

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

2

Integrated Professional Masters Degree

Our full-time integrated Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) degree is a Recognised Qualification (RQ) approved by the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC). The M.Ost is also accredited by the General Council and Register of Naturopaths (GCRN) enabling entry to the naturopathic register.

3

Validation and Professional Accreditation

BCOM was the first institution in the UK to offer an osteopathic honours degree and one of the first to achieve recognition for quality in osteopathic education from the General Osteopathic Council and Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) review. Our degrees are validated by the University of Plymouth.

4

Quality of Teaching

At BCOM we pride ourselves on the quality of our teaching which has been given the highest praise at external review.

5

Excellent Facilities

BCOM's campus environment offers specialist research facilities including a hydrotherapy suite and Human Performance Laboratory which features state-of-the-art equipment. The campus has a large lecture theatre, air-conditioned practical rooms, and a games area. Our library holds over 4,500 textbooks related to anatomy, physiology, medicine and osteopathy, as well as several specialist osteopathic journals.

6

Research Excellence

BCOM has an international reputation for research excellence and is founder of the International Conference on Advances in Osteopathic Research (ICAOR). BCOM staff have extensive published research in osteopathic and medical journals and our research laboratories are unique to current UK osteopathic institutions.

7

Clinic Experience

Supervised clinical training is at the core of learning at BCOM. Our teaching clinic is commissioned to provide osteopathic care under the NHS, providing all our students with a diverse range of patients to develop osteopathic technique.

8

Qualified Staff

There is an excellent staff-student ratio at BCOM, this means more staff are available to our students. Our academic staff include highly experienced HE lecturers and practising osteopaths, including those with MD and PhD qualifications.

9

Great Location

London is one of the most diverse and varied cities in the world, and the perfect place to be a student. BCOM has an ideal location situated close to Hampstead Heath, one of the capital's largest green spaces. With excellent transport links, central London is less than 15 minutes away by tube or bus.

10

Warm, Friendly Atmosphere

BCOM is noted for its warm and friendly atmosphere and strong sense of community. The supportive atmosphere between students and staff is exceptional, providing a close-knit support network for all.



Student Life at BCOM

At BCOM you will find, in both your colleagues and your tutors – and all staff at BCOM – warmth and friendliness. 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 your studies.

Students' Union

There is an active Students' Union at BCOM affiliated to the National Union of Students, offering members reduced-price travel and other NUS benefits. Our students have their own common room and a communal games room, and regular events and activities organised by the team for Freshers Week and throughout the academic year.



My most memorable day at BCOM was the day I met all my classmates and tutors – they are all great fun.

I have always had an interest in anatomy and biochemistry therefore I have found the course to be very interesting and enjoyable. There's a lot of hard work involved and I have been impressed with how helpful everyone is.

The lecturers offer a wide variety of teaching techniques which makes the learning both interesting and enjoyable. They welcome questions and are happy to explain the lectures again if needed. The teaching staff are patient, highly professional and extremely knowledgeable on their subject areas.

I can say that my time at BCOM has been the best of my life. The course is four years of hard work, great rewards and lasting friendships which has made my experience such a positive one!

Lilia, M.Ost Student



My experience at BCOM has been great! The course has already taught me so much about osteopathic treatment, naturopathy, nutrition and soft tissue, which has made the course extremely fulfilling so far.

BCOM's facilities are highly accessible, and the lecturers are easy to approach and always looking for new and interesting ways to teach their subject.

What has made my experience at BCOM so special is the fact that the students are always there to support each other – and I'm pleased to help new students throughout the course, sharing my personal experience and advice.

Jean-Elliott, M.Ost Student



Visit our website for more student and graduate stories

www.bcom.ac.uk/the-college/success-stories



Find out more about our facilities by visiting our website

www.bcom.ac.uk/the-college/facilities

Our Facilities

At BCOM we offer a strong balance of tradition and innovation in providing learning and teaching facilities and resources.

BCOM Teaching Clinic

Our well-established clinic offers approximately 20,000 patient appointments each year. Men, women and children of all ages come to the clinic for treatment of a wide variety of conditions. You will start observing in clinic in the second year and begin treating patients in year three.

The Library

At the BCOM Library we support the teaching and research of the college by maintaining an accessible, quality, and up-to-date collection of specialist resources as well as a comfortable, safe and secure environment for you to work and study. Our library houses over 4,500 volumes including some extremely rare historical alternative medicine books.

Research Laboratory

BCOM's Research Department is maintained by a dedicated team, all possessing current published research experience. As a student you will use our research facilities during your research project.

The Human Performance Laboratory is the hub of BCOM's extensive research, containing a range of state-of-the-art equipment.

Dissection Room (Located at UCL)

BCOM offers extensive human-dissection teaching on a weekly basis. This uniquely prominent aspect of BCOM's teaching is a perennial student favourite. Dissection classes take place at the prestigious UCL Dissection Room.

ICAOR

BCOM FOUNDED THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON ADVANCES IN OSTEOPATHIC RESEARCH IN 1999

Since its launch ICAOR has become a global event hosting osteopaths in Australia, Brazil, Europe and the USA.



Our Philosophy

At BCOM we promote a philosophy of Holistic and Naturopathic Osteopathic Medicine.



Osteopaths are primary contact practitioners who specialise in diagnosis, management, treatment and prevention of disorders of body structure and the way this can compromise the health and well-being of the individual. They use hands-on techniques to treat and prevent somatic dysfunctions that may cause mechanical and systemic conditions. Osteopaths advise on self-help measures and may choose to use adjunct treatments.

Benchmark Statement 2015



Our holistic approach to 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 body.

Osteopaths are Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) who support the health of their patients using manual therapy, rehabilitation and health advice. As a student you will receive a complex and varied training unique to BCOM encompassing subjects such as physiology, naturopathy and nutrition.

“..The holistic ethos of the college, including rigorous anatomy, nutrition, naturopathy and physiology modules that are not offered by competitors..”

BCOM Periodic Review, University of Plymouth Teaching, Learning & Quality Committee, February 2018

Visit our website to find out about Osteopathy and Naturopathy at BCOM
www.bcom.ac.uk/the-college/osteopathy-and-naturopathy

Our Courses

For full details on all our courses, entry requirements, how to apply and fees please visit our website

www.bcom.ac.uk/admissions-courses/admissions

Undergraduate Courses

Masters in Osteopathy

4 Years, full-time

UCAS Course Code: B312

Institution Code: B81

The purpose of the Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) degree, is to educate you to become a safe, competent osteopathic practitioner. On successful completion of the 4 year full-time course, you will be eligible to register in the United Kingdom with the General Osteopathic Council.

The course requires you to integrate theoretical knowledge and practical skills within an osteopathic and naturopathic clinical setting, and integrates scientific, anatomical, theoretical and research knowledge with applied osteopathic and naturopathic skills. On successful completion of the course you will graduate from BCOM with a validated integrated Masters degree from the University of Plymouth, and a Diploma in Naturopathy (ND) (recognised by the General Council and Register of Naturopaths).

At BCOM we provide a staff to student ratio of 1:4 in clinic and 1:5 for practising students in practical classes. BCOM uses specialist lecturers to teach or lead a number of the theoretical subjects such as psychology, research methods, anatomy, physiology, pharmacology and imaging.

Diploma in Naturopathy

4 Years, full-time

The British College of Osteopathic Medicine (previously known as the British College of Naturopathy and Osteopathy) has been awarding a self-validated four-year full-time Diploma in Naturopathy (ND) programme since the early 1950's.

Successful completion of the Diploma in Naturopathy gives you eligibility to apply for registration with the General Council and Register of Naturopaths (GCRN), a voluntary registering body for Naturopaths in the UK.

Postgraduate Courses

BSc (Hons) Osteopathy Conversion Degree for Diplomates

1 Year, part-time

The BSc (Hons) Osteopathy Conversion Degree for Diplomates, often known as the Conversion Course, is a 10-month post-basic training course which consists of two parts. You must have graduated from an osteopathic school that BCOM has been working with. Completion of this degree does not confer eligibility for membership to the General Osteopathic Council. It serves solely as an academic top-up to your osteopathic diploma.

PgCert Children's Osteopathy

12-18 Months, part-time

This course is aimed at osteopaths wishing to enhance their ability to deal with paediatric patients. BCOM is known for its holistic approach to osteopathy and this will be incorporated into the PgCert for Children's Osteopathy. As a student you will have interactive lectures and will participate in our post graduate teaching clinic under the supervision of senior members of the osteopathic staff who specialise in teaching children's osteopathy.

PgCert Osteopathic Sports Care

12-18 Months, part-time

The PgCert Osteopathic Sports Care, in association with The Osteopathic Sports Care Association (OSCA), provides osteopaths with a structured pathway leading to a formal qualification. The course will provide you with the knowledge and skills required for the osteopathic management of sporting injuries within clinical practice and on-field. A wide range of osteopathic approaches will be included and our faculty comprises of experienced osteopaths who work within the sports care field.

PGCert in Human Nutrition

10 Months, part-time

The PGCert in Human Nutrition is a 10-month course aimed to develop student's understanding of human nutrition and the evidence surrounding nutrition in healthcare. It will provide students with distinct skills and knowledge of the benefits of nutrition and enable practitioners to become holistic in their approach to patients. Students will have the opportunity to observe in the BCOM nutrition clinic to gain clinical experience. As a student, you will be taught through lectures, interactive tutorials and practical sessions, learning from the experience of the expert tutors who are running the course.



Student Support

At BCOM we have support available to help you at all stages of your course.

Personal Tutor

As a student you will have a Personal Tutor you can choose yourself. Your tutor will usually accompany you throughout the duration of the course.

Academic Facilitators

Academic Facilitators from the year ahead are appointed to help and discuss any issues or concerns your year group may have. They can help advise you on what to expect.

Counsellors

BCOM has a professional counselling service available to you to help with any personal or emotional problems you may be experiencing during your time as a student. All appointments are confidential and are free of charge. BCOM's student counsellors offered 203 sessions in the 2016-17 academic year.

Year Tutors

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

Specific Learning Difficulty / Disability

At BCOM we will have active contact and support for you if you have a disability. Together with our students with disabilities we have developed a Single Equality Scheme which provides relevant and comprehensive information.

BCOM's Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan is available to students via the college intranet, Osteonet.

For further information please visit our website www.bcom.ac.uk/the-college/support

Equality at BCOM

21.4% of students declared a serious health or a learning difficulty at BCOM. This was higher than the HESA data for 2015-16 where 11% of students enrolling for full-time courses declared a health condition or learning difficulty.

The BCOM student population demonstrated that 30.1% were of black or minority ethnicity which is in comparison to 22.3% from the 2015-16 HESA data for full-time courses.

After Graduation

100% of BCOM graduates in employment 6 months after graduating*

**2016-17 who applied for employment, others travelled or went on to further study*

£44,750 Average Annual income for Osteopaths

11% of respondents earn £100,000+

Institute of Osteopathy (iO) survey March 2017 (n=624)

After graduation, you will have a number of possible areas to consider including:

- Private Practice
- NHS Practice
- Specialist Practice
- Education
- Teaching
- Research

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 and specialist practice. 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 and BCOM have graduates working at a number of other osteopathic and higher education institutions.

A number of our graduates have gone on to further study and have been awarded PhDs, and some have undertaken further studies in areas such as medicine, clinical education and animal osteopathy. There are also many opportunities abroad, but you will need to research your chosen country's laws and regulation.



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 is a support for osteopaths. Membership of the association 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
Tel +44 (0) 1458 840072
www.naturopathy.org.uk

Career

EXCELLENT CAREER PROSPECTS

Our graduates have pursued successful careers working with athletes, in university level teaching, corporate consultancy, working with animals and in medical research

Alumni

When you graduate from BCOM, you will join a global community of alumni.

BCOM alumni live and work all over the world and have a variety of experience in osteopathy, naturopathy and other related healthcare areas. Our graduates have established successful careers in:

Australia	New Zealand
Canada	Nigeria
Channel Islands	Singapore
Cyprus	South Korea
Dubai	UAE
Europe (mainland)	UK
Hong Kong	USA*
Israel	<i>*Not practising osteopaths</i>
Kenya	
Malaysia	

All BCOM graduates are eligible to sign up to become members of the BCOM Alumni Association and membership is free.



Thanks to BCOM's graduate network I joined a busy practice in Hong Kong, working alongside two fellow "BCOMers". The shift was life changing and very rewarding. With osteopathy it's impossible to stop learning, but this time it became much more significant because I now treat a very varied population, whose beliefs on health, injury, recovery and sickness can shift considerably. As my patients now range from babies to athletes I am thankful of the many hours spent learning and practicing at BCOM, as they prepared me not only to address a variety of musculoskeletal issues but also to discern the psychological, behavioural and biomechanical aspects that go with it - and most of all their humanity! BCOM has been a most valuable ally throughout my osteo-journey, providing contact and exchange with many senior osteopaths with unique and different approaches from which we could learn and thus discover our own passions, skills and talents. Choosing a career can definitely be life changing - Osteopathy, grounded in science, but also in tradition, compassion, humanity, and research definitely offers a thought provoking and varied setting for the curious mind and the caring individual!

Camilla, BCOM Graduate



For further information on BCOM Alumni please visit our website

www.bcom.ac.uk/the-college/alumni

London & Accommodation

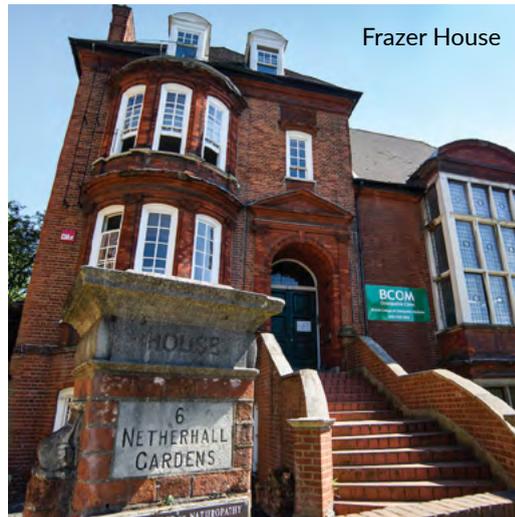
London is the perfect place to be a student.

Our city is also home to unparalleled educational facilities and is one of the most diverse and varied places in the world. Just a short journey from central London, BCOM is situated in Hampstead, much loved by Londoners for its green spaces, notably Hampstead Heath.

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 you can use many special passes and offers making life much more affordable.



Lief House



Frazer House

Further Information

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Admissions 020 7435 6464
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Details are correct at the time of going to press in February 2020. Any updates or changes to the information can be found on our web pages: www.bcom.ac.uk

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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.

Thank you to all our students who volunteered to appear in this prospectus.

1936

THE COLLEGE WAS
FOUNDED IN 1936