

APPROVED

By Laura Harris at 10:42 am, Jun 13, 2023

University of Plymouth

Academic Registry - Partnerships

BCNO Ltd (BCOM & ESO)

Programme Specification

Award Title and Internal Code:
Denmark 7582

MSc Osteopathy for Diplomates

Proposed Start Date: September 2023

Date of First Award (FT): July 2024

Date of Approval:
March 2023

Reviewed Date	Amended following review Yes/No	Sections amended

1. Final award title: MSc Osteopathy for Diplomates

Named Exit Awards

Post Graduate Certificate in Osteopathy for Diplomates- 60 credits

Post Graduate Diploma for Diplomates -120 credits

UCAS code: not applicable

HECOS code: 100243 Osteopathy

2. Awarding Institution: University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): BCOM & ESO

3. Accrediting body(ies): None.

Due to the nature of the course upon successful completion, the student will **NOT** be eligible for registration with the General Osteopathic Council.

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

Osteopathy is a patient-centered approach to a wide range of medical conditions through a system of diagnosis and management. Osteopathy also includes patient self-help and education to improve function, reduce recurrence, and the promotion of well-being.

Changes in healthcare and education have revealed exciting opportunities for the osteopathic profession nationally and globally. BCOM & ESO (BCNO Group) are both internationally recognised osteopathic schools that merged in September 2021 to expand educational pathways; this provides options for flexible study and innovative and topical learning experiences. Under the banner of the BCNO Group, the group collaborates closely with fellow osteopathic educational institutions (OEI) internationally and nationally.

The MSc in Osteopathy for Diplomates has been designed for osteopaths who have graduated with an osteopathic diploma and a BSc (Hons) or equivalent. The MSc for Diplomates offers flexibility in teaching and learning delivery through block face-to-face teaching, streaming, and self-directed learning. Practical sessions will be delivered face-to-face with appropriate faculty supervision. Online learning resources and the content will also support practical subjects with additional material. The BCNO Group utilises technology to enhance the student experience, teaching, and learning. Students will also have access to a more extensive student network for learning purposes and networking. The MSc allows students who already have a healthcare undergraduate degree, following on from their osteopathic Diploma to study for a MSc.

Both ESO and BCOM have experience in teaching students off-site through block teaching and using technology. BCOM has in the past successfully run a University of Plymouth BSc (Hons) in osteopathy course across European sites. ESO has experience in providing a Diploma in Osteopathy across mainland Europe.

The curriculum continues from the ESO Diploma in Osteopathy, designed to consider the WHO Benchmark in Osteopathic Training and changes in regulation within Europe. The programme includes modules which evaluate advanced techniques in osteopathy in a number of healthcare conditions. Further modules equip the students with the skills and techniques to critically evaluate and manage patients with long term health needs. The course is designed to develop the osteopath's clinical decision making and understand the changing needs in healthcare and the role osteopathy plays in the care and management of patients.

The programme utilises a range of assessments that are designed to be stimulating and challenging, stretching the students' knowledge and practical skills.

Assessments include coursework, dissertations, reflective accounts, portfolios, ISCE (Integrated Structured Clinical Examination) and clinical assessments as individual students or group work.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

The Osteopathy subject benchmark can be located here [Subject Benchmark Statement: Osteopathy \(qaa.ac.uk\). The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks) has been utilised to develop the framework for the course.

6. Programme Structure:

Full-time over one year

Module Code	Module Title	Credits		Core/ Optional
BCNO7008	Paediatrics	20	All year	Core
BCNO7009	Women's Health and Osteopathy	20	All year	Core
BCNO7010	Osteopathic Visceral Techniques	20	All year	Core
BCNO7011	Advanced Osteopathic Techniques:	20	All year	Core
BCNO7013	Project Design in Osteopathic Research	20	Term 1	Core
BCNO7012	Osteopathic Management of Long-Term Health Conditions	20	All year	Core
BCNO7014	Research Investigation in Osteopathic Practice	60	Term 2 and 3	Core

7. Programme Aims

The overall aim is to provide a stimulating appropriate teaching and learning environment to create a self-reflective effective osteopath who can work in contemporary healthcare. Graduates will understand professional and inter-professional practice in modern healthcare practice. The programme aims to:

- Provide the student with knowledge and skills reflective of advancing healthcare standards in osteopathy;

- Develop the student's competence in applying clinical skills to osteopathic practice;
- Develop the reflective, critical, and analytical skills of the student, allowing them to deal with complex issues, making sound judgments in the absence of complete data, and promoting excellence in osteopathic professional practice;
- Develop reflective practice and communication skills to develop an effective partnership with patients and other healthcare professions
- Develop general problem-solving, key-transferable, and research skills to allow the student to understand evidence-based practice and become autonomous practitioners.
- Enhance reflective skills to produce effective, safe osteopaths

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)

Students on the **Master of Science in Osteopathy for Diplomates** programme will be required to achieve all the Programme's Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs).

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion, graduates should have developed:

- 1) The ability to critically apply a systematic understanding and knowledge of osteopathy, and its interrelationship with health and the individual
- 2) An in-depth critical understanding of the key skills, knowledge, research, concepts and principles required as an autonomous osteopathic practitioner in modern healthcare.

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion, graduates should have developed:

- 1) The ability to apply relevant problem-solving skills and, synthesise appropriate information and data to underpin clinical reasoning in patient-centred care.
- 2) The ability to critically evaluate specialist information to allow the formulation of complex patient care

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion, graduates should have developed the ability to:

- 1) Employ a range of transferable skills (such as organisational skills, and criticality) that are relevant and effective across several settings.
- 2) Efficiently organise and communicate complex information to a variety of audiences using relevant technology
- 3) To be able to work as an autonomous osteopathic practitioner and work with a critical understanding of relevant professional standards and legislation.

8.4. Employment-related skills

On successful completion, graduates should have developed:

- 1) Relevant professional knowledge and skills to deliver and exercise professional judgement as an autonomous osteopathic practitioner, inclusive of patient-centred care
- 2) The ability to develop a critical reflective osteopathic clinical practice
- 3) The ability to critically utilise complex information to develop their clinical practice.

8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion, graduates should have developed:

- 1) The understanding and reflective ability in osteopathic and clinical skills that allow the effective and safe management of complex patients
- 2) The ability to apply relevant research skills in a wide range of contexts applicable to osteopathic practice.

9. Admissions Criteria, including RPL and Disability Service arrangements

NB The following table is a draft exemplar for an undergraduate programme

Entry requirements	
Interviews	All applicants will undergo an interview. All applicants must complete a health declaration form so that appropriate support can be implemented. Applicants who declare a disability are usually invited for an early meeting to discuss support.

Qualifications	<p>Applicants will have a first-degree equivalent of a BSc (Hons) 2.2 in a healthcare course such as physiotherapy, nursing, or medicine.</p> <p>They must have successfully completed the BCNO Group Diploma in Osteopathy or another osteopathic Diploma.</p> <p>All students will be considered on their own merit but expected to be practising healthcare professionals.</p>
APL/APEL	Applicants with Diplomas from other Osteopathic schools will be considered and the learning outcomes mapped.
English language	If English is not the first language, an applicant has the equivalent of an academic IELTS of 6.5 (with 5.5. in all four components listening, reading, writing and speaking)
Police Check	All offers are subject to police clearance. This is funded by the applicant, who is informed at the application stage and interview.

10. Non-Standard Regulations (NB: all non-standard regulations must be approved by QSSC)

Not required

11. Transitional Arrangements for existing students looking to progress onto the programme.

None

Appendices

1) MSc in Osteopathy for Diplomates

Programme Specification Mapping (UG) – core/elective modules

Appendix 1: Mapping table that reflects which core modules contribute to the Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)

Modules MSc in Osteopathy for Diplomates																					Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings E1 (exam), E2 (clinical exam), T1 (test), C1 (coursework), A1 (generic assessment), P1 (practical)	
	8.1 Knowledge and understanding				8.2 Cognitive and intellectual skills				8.3 Key and transferable skills				8.4 Employment related skills				8.5 Practical skills						
	1	2			1	2			1	2	3		1	2	3			1	2				
PILOs met at Level 7																							
BCNO7008	√	√			√	√			√	√	√		√	√	√			√				N	P1 (50%) E2 (50%)
BCNO7009	√	√			√	√							√		√			√				N	P1 (50%) E2 (50%)
BCNO7010	√	√			√	√				√	√		√	√	√			√				N	E2 (100%)
BCNO7011	√	√			√					√			√					√				N	E2 (100%)
BCNO7012	√	√			√	√			√	√	√		√	√				√	√			N	P1 (100%)
BCNO7013	√					√			√	√	√			√					√			N	C1 (100%)
BCNO7014		√				√			√	√	√			√					√			N	C1 (100%)

