

Course Information Form: Integrated Master of Osteopathy (M.Ost) (Part-Time)
1. COURSE DETAILS

Qualification:	Integrated Masters
Course Title:	Master of Osteopathy (M.Ost) (Part-Time)
Awarding Body:	University College of Osteopathy
FHEQ Level:	FHEQ Level 7
UK Credits:	120 at Level 4 120 at Level 5 120 at Level 6 120 at Level 7 480 Credits in Total
ECTS Credits:	240 Credits
Professional, Regulatory and Statutory Body (PSRB) Accreditation:	General Osteopathic Council (GOsC)
Mode of Study:	Part Time
Length of Study:	5 Years
Location of Delivery:	University College of Osteopathy, London, UK, SE1
Entry Month:	September
UCAS Code:	B110

2. COURSE SUMMARY

The Integrated Master of Osteopathy (M.Ost) is an undergraduate programme that will enable graduating students to apply to the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) for registration as an osteopath in the UK.

The programme is designed to deliver a fully integrated programme that covers the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills required to be an osteopath. The course has been designed for students seeking to register as osteopaths and work within osteopathic practice in the UK. The course focuses on the theory and application of contemporary osteopathic practice. This includes significant osteopathic practical and clinical skills development; with clinical education starting from the first term of the first year, with observation and mentoring in UCO clinics. For our first-year students there is the option of the ITEC Sports Massage qualification should they choose to.

As your knowledge and skills develop, so will your responsibility for the decision making, management and treatment of patients. During your clinical education, you will be supported by practice educators who are experts in contemporary osteopathic practice in the UK. The UCO M.Ost will give you the opportunity to develop a variety of interesting and unique skills that will be needed when you are a fully qualified osteopath working in primary health care.

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3. COURSE AIMS

The course aims to enable you to attain the capabilities and qualities of a UCO Graduate and in so doing to meet the Osteopathic Practice Standards and the Graduate Outcomes published by the GOsC. This includes but is not limited to the essential knowledge base, interpersonal, cognitive, clinical, and hands on skills expected of a UCO graduate osteopath. To support this skillset, you will develop attributes of critical enquiry, self-reflection, professionalism, ethical caring and respect that characterises a competent, confident, and capable osteopath.

The course provides an approach to teaching and learning that embodies the effective management of change and uncertainty, development of practical skills, and encourages a commitment to self-managed, life-long learning. Utilizing these attributes, skills, and knowledge the course aims to enable you to successfully practise in primary osteopathic care and be eligible to apply for registration with the GOsC.

4. COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

To be a successful osteopath, you will need to be able to combine a diverse knowledge base with a range of well-developed practical and communication skills to provide effective, critically informed, and personalised osteopathic care to a diverse range of people. To reflect this, upon successful completion of the M.Ost you will:

1. Have the skills to enhance a patient's capacity to respond effectively in the context of their life, enabling them to adapt to changing circumstances and to live well.
2. Embody the professional behaviours, attitudes, and identity of a registered osteopath and UCO graduate both within UK osteopathy within the wider context of health and social care provision and fulfil the duties and responsibilities this entails.
3. Respond to the health needs of a wide variety of patients and situations with personalised care centred around what matters to your patients and their individual strengths and needs.
4. Be caring, proficient and professional in applying your skills and knowledge, while also being aware of your own and your patients' uncertainties and remaining confident in your ability to respond appropriately.
5. Be responsive and empathetic when using communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal, to inform and reassure your patients; enhance understanding of their problem; generate greater insight into the complexity of their situation, if appropriate; and enabling your patients to develop a greater capacity and agency.
6. Effectively support patients through the critical application of some or all the following: a range of contemporary osteopathic techniques, exercise rehabilitation, pain education, and lifestyle modification; treating, educating, and supporting the patient to adapt and make better use of the resources available to them, and to develop greater capacity and agency.
7. Consider the contribution that other health care professionals may make in addition to, or instead of, your care so as to ensure patients are able to make informed choices about their needs.
8. Be driven by curiosity to question assumptions, investigate the unexpected and seek always to further your understanding of complex and seemingly inexplicable health phenomena.
9. Be critically aware of limits to your expertise while recognising the need to extend your abilities, confidently apply your strengths, and collaborate with colleagues and other health care professionals for the benefit of patients.
10. Have the skills and curiosity to undertake independent learning required for continuing professional development, demonstrating self-direction and originality in problem-solving, and autonomy as an osteopathic health care practitioner. Including critically to evaluating, interpreting and applying current research and methodologies to inform your practice.

5. KEY FEATURES

The academic and clinical content of the degree course are underpinned by the internationally renowned expertise of the UCO staff, the scholarship and research undertaken at the UCO, and wider healthcare research.

Clinical Education

From early in your studies, you will interact with patients in the UCO clinic, where the practical clinical education components of the course take place. You will benefit from 1000 hours or more of intensive clinical tuition from practising osteopaths who are experts in clinical practice. Your studies will provide you with opportunities to care for a wide range of patients from a diverse range of backgrounds and different demographics. This will enhance your clinical experience and enable you to hone the development of your osteopathic skills. In the final year of the course there is an opportunity to study practice specialisms at a more advanced level. These areas of specialism may include but are not limited to options such as:

- Sports Injury & Rehabilitation clinic
- Paediatrics
- Women's Health clinic
- Positive Aging clinic (60+)
- Headache clinic
- East Street GP Clinic
- Blanchard clinic (Supporting patients with HIV)
- Royal Free Hospital (Outpatient clinic supporting patients with HIV)

Practical skills development

Practical skills development across a range of osteopathic and supporting techniques will be a key focus of each year of the course. Your practical skills development will be assisted by an expert and diverse team of osteopathic educators working together.

The diverse range of contemporary osteopathic and supporting techniques include:

- Observation, Palpation, & Clinical examination skills for communication, assessment, and diagnosis
- Direct Osteopathic Techniques such as joint manipulation & HVLAT, articulation, and traction/distraction
- Indirect Techniques such as Muscle Energy Technique, Balance Ligamentous Tension, Strain/Counterstrain
- Visceral Assessment, Screening, and Management
- Soft Tissue Techniques & Active resisted muscle testing
- Exercise Rehabilitation & Lifestyle Modification
- Communication & Patient Education
- Pain Education & Management

Professional Development

During your final year, you will have the opportunity to elect to undertake CPD courses in a range of practice areas. You will choose these based on your career development planning and in line with GOsC CPD requirements reflecting on the benefits of these for your practice. The courses will cover a range of themes of the Osteopathic Practice Standards:

- A. Communication and patient partnership
- B. Knowledge, skills and performance
- C. Safety and quality in practice
- D. Professionalism

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The M.Ost will also provide the foundations needed to support you in your early career development such setting up a practice, working as an associate, or within the NHS. Covering business & practice development, medico-legal considerations, entrepreneurship, and applying for role in private practice or the NHS. Recent graduates and guest lecturers may also be invited to speak to you about their experiences and offer guidance along different career pathways.

6. EXTERNAL BENCHMARKING

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

This course has been benchmarked against the following external reference points to ensure that the course aligns to UK expectations for standards and quality:

- The Quality Assurance Agency's [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(FHEQ\) \(2014\)](#)
- The Quality Assurance Agency's [Outcome Classification Descriptions for FHEQ Level 6 Degrees \(Annex D\) \(2019\)](#)
- The Quality Assurance Agency's [Higher Education Credit Framework for England \(2008\)](#)
- The Quality Assurance Agency's [Subject Benchmark Statements \(qaa.ac.uk\)](#) (Osteopathy, 2019)
- SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education [SEEC-Credit-Level-Descriptors-2021.pdf](#)

PSRB STANDARDS

This course has been benchmarked against the following professional, statutory and regulatory body standards:

- The Osteopathic Practice Standards (2023) (The General Osteopathic Council)
- Graduate Outcomes and Standards for Education and Training (2023) (The General Osteopathic Council)

7. COURSE ACCREDITATION

The course is accredited by the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) in the UK. The title 'osteopath' is protected by law (Protection of title) and you have to be registered with the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) to practise in the UK, Isle of Man and Gibraltar.

Upon successful completion of the M.Ost Integrated Masters course (including all mandatory assessments & professional requirements) and achieving a minimum of 1000 clinical hours as a student osteopath as defined by the GOsC [Graduate Outcomes and Standards for Education and Training](#) you will be eligible to apply for [registration with the GOsC](#) to practise as a registered Osteopath. Without accreditation by the GOsC in the UK graduates would not be able to apply for registration as osteopaths. The M.Ost Integrated Masters (5-Years, Part Time) is accredited by the GOsC with no fixed expiry date.

8. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to agree to the [UCO's Student Terms & Conditions](#).

All students are required to be bound by and comply with the [UCO's Academic Quality Framework](#).

All students are required to be bound by and comply with the [UCO's Regulations, Policies & Procedures](#).

All students are required to be bound by and comply with the Definitive Course Documentation which includes, the Course Specification Form, Course Unit Forms and Course Handbook. All full-time undergraduate applications are submitted through UCAS, which forwards applications to the UCO's Admissions Department.

Admission to the UCO is competitive and decisions will rest primarily on the qualifications, needs and aspirations of the applicant, and the reasonable expectation that they will be able to fulfil the objectives of their chosen course.

The normal minimum requirements for entry onto the M.Ost course are:

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- Five GCSEs at grades A - C (or grades 4-9) including Mathematics and English language.
- Three A Levels at grades BBC (or 112 UCAS points) preferable including a B in Biology and one other science subject which can include PE and Psychology. [UCAS Tariff Points](#) translate A-Level and equivalent qualifications grades into a numerical value which enables students to identify whether they have met course entry criteria.
- As an alternative to A Levels, the UCO accepts AVCE, BTEC National Diplomas, Access Certificates, Scottish Highers, Irish Leaving Certificates, International Baccalaureates and a large number of home and overseas qualifications with relevant science content at an appropriate level.
- Students whose first language is not English are required to demonstrate fluency in both written and spoken English. A wide range of English language qualifications are accepted, including IELTS (UCO's required standard is 6.5) and TOEFL.
- All prospective students are required to attend an interview and evaluation during which prospective students may be required to take part in a range of interactive tasks to demonstrate their suitability for the profession and the UCO. Applicants are informed in advance of details of the selection procedures, thus allowing them an opportunity to discuss any special requirements or needs prior to attending. The purpose of Interview Events is to confirm whether candidates have the potential aptitude, motivation, and personal qualities to succeed on their desired course.
- The UCO is committed to a policy of inclusion, actively seeking to widen participation and to increase opportunities for high-calibre students with the aptitude and potential to undertake a degree in osteopathy. Students from diverse ethnic and social backgrounds, UCO-leavers, mature 'second career' applicants and students with a range of seen and unseen disabilities are all warmly welcomed. Every application to the UCO is considered on its own merits.

Graduation with a UCO M.Ost degree requires the successful achievement of the academic and the practical aspects of the degree in each of the four years and includes extensive work with patients in the clinic. During the course you are required to meet the Osteopathic Practice Standards in order to be eligible for registration as a practitioner with the GOsC. This is the professional body that oversees 'Fitness to Practise', certifying you as 'ethically and clinically competent' to work safely with patients. As professional bodies do not interview or train students, the onus is on institutions such as the UCO to ensure that only students who are 'fit' to study and practise their vocation are admitted to, and graduate from, the UCO course. Therefore, all applicants are required to attend an interview and evaluation.

As a prospective applicant, you and the M.Ost Admissions Team will need to take into consideration your physical abilities (due to the essential practical requirements of our degree course), the implications of any disability for your own and others' safety during the course, and your ability to communicate with and treat patients safely and effectively. This is assessed during the Interview and Evaluation if issues arise, the Student Support Manager is present to assist you further. You may be advised to contact the GOsC to clarify their competence standards.

For further information about Admissions at the UCO please see Section 8 of the UCO's Academic Quality Framework published here: <https://www.uco.ac.uk/academic-quality-framework>

ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Check: All students will be required to complete an enhanced DBS registration check at the point of registration, in line with the UCO's Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Policy & Procedure (for UCO Applicants & Students) published here: <https://www.uco.ac.uk/about-uco/who-we-are/policies-procedures-and-privacy>
- Applicants to the UCO will be asked at the application stage to declare whether they have spent or unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands, or warnings. Their attention will be drawn to the UCO's Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Policy & Procedure
- Completion of a Health Questionnaire.
- Students whose first language is not English are required to demonstrate fluency in both written and spoken English. A wide range of English language qualifications are accepted, including IELTS (UCO's required standard is 6.5) and TOEFL.

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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

English Qualification:

As noted above, students whose first language is not English are required to demonstrate fluency in both written and spoken English. A wide range of English language qualifications are accepted, including IELTS (UCO's required standard is 6.5) and TOEFL.

Student Visa:

If you are an International Student (i.e., are from outside of the UK) you may require a Student Visa to study at the UCO. To confirm whether you need a Student Visa please contact our Admissions Team (Admissions@uco.ac.uk) or refer to the UK's Government Website here: <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>. The attendance of international students with a Student Visa must be monitored as part of their visa conditions. International students requiring a visa to study in the UK will be required to provide evidence of specific English as appropriate to comply with policies published by the [UK Home Office \(UK Visas & Immigration\)](#) and comply with the conditions of their visa.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is the process used by the UCO to evaluate and recognise a learner's prior learning and enable them to join a course at an appropriate stage commensurate to their prior academic achievements. RPL is available for this course in line with the UCO's [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy and RPL Handbook for this Course](#). In line with the UCO's [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#), only whole units of a course are eligible for RPL. Units available for RPL and further details on the RPL process can be found here: [RPL Handbook](#).

WIDENING PARTICIPATION

The UCO is committed to a policy of inclusion and actively seeks to widen participation and increase opportunities for high-calibre students with aptitude and potential.

Students from under-represented groups (which include those with a seen or unseen disability, black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, those who have been in care, those who are carers and care for a friend or family member who could not cope without their support, mature students, and those from low higher education participation, household income and socioeconomic status) are all warmly welcomed and will be supported appropriately at the UCO to fulfil their potential.

We endorse the view that higher education should be accessible to all, regardless of background or financial status and are dedicated to providing prospective students from all backgrounds with advice and assistance to access our courses of study in addition to supporting you throughout your time at the UCO to ensure that you go on to have a fulfilling career.

The UCO runs a range of [Widening Participation Activities](#) for students from under-represented groups to aspire to higher education and beyond, including making study choices that are right for you, university and course taster days, life as a university student, managing your money, and more. If you are from an under-represented group you are recommended to contact our [Admissions Team](#) to find out more about how we can support you.

Our [Access & Participation Plan](#) sets out our commitment to providing access to higher education for learners from under-represented groups and the pastoral and financial support that may be accessible to students from under-represented backgrounds.

Every application to the UCO is considered on its own merits in line with our [Admissions Policy & Procedure](#).

9. STRUCTURE & DELIVERY

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COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is studied over 5 years during which you will study a number of units per year. Each unit is assigned a specific number of academic credits that reflect the estimated notional learning hours required for that unit (where one credit represents 10 notional hours of learning). You will accumulate academic credits as you progress through the course in recognition of your achievement of unit learning outcomes at each level of study.

By the end of this course, you will accumulate a total of 480 Credits.



Throughout your learning you will be supported by an experienced and dedicated faculty of whom the majority are qualified, practising osteopaths. Our team of full-time teaching and research faculty are supported by additional staff and guest lecturers, who bring subject-specific expertise to deepen your knowledge and understanding in key areas of the programme.

The course is divided into four phases/levels:

- **Novice (Level 4 – Year 1/2)**, where you begin to develop a sound foundation for being an osteopath and primary care practitioner. You will: acquire basic knowledge and skills; understand the patient in context and how they are able to adapt, begin to develop a range of osteopathic manual techniques; grasp the conceptual basis of osteopathy; and appreciate the challenges associated with being an osteopath.
- **Advanced Beginner (Level 5 – Year 2/3)**, where your knowledge and skills are further developed, preparedness for clinic is a core focus, knowledge and skillset are consolidated and integrated to provide a secure basis for your developing clinical work.
- **Competent (Level 6 – Year 3/4)**, where you focus on integrating a range of new and previously acquired knowledge and skills to understand how the person functions holistically. Applying your new and consolidated skillset to supervised patient care (Yr.4) within the UCO clinic.

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- **Proficient (Level 7 – Year 4/5)**, where you are given an opportunity to take your clinical skills into specialist clinical areas, developing professional practice to a much deeper level, preparing you for the challenges and opportunities of becoming a registered osteopath working across multiple areas of practice including associateship, principalship, and the NHS, and working with a diverse population of patients.

COURSE DELIVERY

Each academic year is divided into three terms during which you will attend scheduled teaching sessions. You will be provided with three vacation sessions per year during which you will be required to complete some clinical sessions.

- 17 Teaching weekends across three terms:
 - Term 1 from September – December
 - Winter Vacation (4 Weeks) in December
 - Term 2 from January – March
 - Spring Vacation (4 Weeks) in April
 - Term 3 from April / May – June
 - Summer Vacation (12 Weeks) from June – September
 - Resit & Deferred Assessment Period July-September
- 3 Exam weekends across June-July

Term dates are subject to change, specific dates for current and future academic years are provided on the [UCO's website](#). Scheduled classes include a range of learning activities including, lectures, seminars, work-based sessions, demonstrations, practical and clinical sessions. In addition to attending your scheduled classes and clinical training sessions, you will also be expected to undertake digital learning tasks and directed reading, practise practical skills with your colleagues, undertake research and independent study, prepare assignments and revise for exams appropriate to your year of study.

Part-time course classes normally take place on Friday evenings and at weekends across the academic year as appropriate. Classes can run from 6:00pm – 9:00pm on Fridays and 9:00am – 6:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Clinic sessions normally are scheduled on weekdays from 8:30am – 6:30pm.

It is a regulatory requirement for you to complete 1000 hours of clinical training by the end of the course. You will be required to complete a number of clinical hours each year to ensure that you meet this requirement, as follows:

- Year 1: 21 Hours
- Year 2: 21 Hours
- Year 3: 210 Hours
- Year 4: 455 Hours
- Year 5: 315 Hours
- Total: 1022 Hours

10. UNIT INFORMATION

The table below provides you with details about the units you will study as part of this course.

For this course all units are compulsory.

Being an Osteopath: This unit will enable you to draw together conceptual, theoretical and practical themes from across the first year of study and apply them to osteopathic practice.

Patient Care: This unit will introduce you to key practical skills that are essential to providing safe, effective patient centered care as an osteopath.

Functioning Human: This unit will provide you with foundation-level knowledge and understanding of human function and how human beings are capable of adapting to change, recognising that they are organisms rather than mechanisms.

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Professionalism: This unit will build on your previous studies by supporting you in developing a more comprehensive understanding of what it means to be a professional health care practitioner

Research and Enquiry: This unit will support your transition from previous learning and experience into higher education and will equip you with many of the key skills required to complete Masters-level study and become an effective clinician.

Year of Study	Unit Title	UK Credits	FHEQ Level	Summary	Compulsory / Optional
Year 1	Being an Osteopath 1	10	4	This unit brings together learning from across the course, exploring it through the lens of osteopathic conceptual thinking and setting it in the context of clinical practice and personal development. This unit emphasises the historical, theoretical and conceptual foundations for osteopathic thinking and the practical application of these ideas. Clinic based learning offers the opportunity for you to gain an insight into how the UCO clinic works and what a patient experiences when they consult our practitioners.	Compulsory
	Functioning Human 1	40	4	This unit will focus on building your knowledge of anatomy and physiology in the Neuromusculoskeletal (NMS) system. As the unit progresses you will expand this foundation to include the anatomy and physiology of the body systems including tissue physiology, cardio-respiratory, lymphatic, immune, endocrine, digestive, urinary, reproductive systems . You will apply this developing knowledge base through conducting and discussing introductory NMS system assessment and clinical observation and examination skills commonly used in osteopathic practice.	Compulsory
	Patient Care 1	30	4	This unit will introduce you to key practical skills that are essential to providing safe, effective patient centred care as an osteopath. The unit will utilise interpersonal communication skills introduced in the Being an Osteopath Unit enabling you to apply them within a clinical setting to communicate with patients responsively and empathetically. You will be introduced to the importance of palpation and observation in osteopathy and develop a preliminary range of examination and therapeutic skills, and how to adapt and apply techniques you use to suit your own and your patient's morphology confidently, safely and ethically.	Compulsory
	Research & Enquiry 1	20	4	This unit will support your transition from previous learning and experience into higher education and will equip you with many of the key skills required to complete Masters-level study and become an osteopath. You will also develop your abilities in academic writing, critical thinking, collaborative learning and self-directed study. You will learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it and develop skills to evaluate your learning and plan your continuing development as a student and, subsequently, as a graduate osteopath.	Compulsory

Year of Study	Unit Title	UK Credits	FHEQ Level	Summary	Compulsory / Optional
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Year 2	Being an Osteopath 2	20	4	This unit brings together learning from across the course, building on that gained in Year 1 and emphasises the theoretical and conceptual foundations for osteopathic thinking and the practical application of these ideas. Clinic based learning offers the opportunity for you to join the clinic team as a junior practitioner, participating in patient interactions, practising the skills you have learned in class and applying your conceptual and theoretical learning.	Compulsory
	Functioning Human 2	30	5	In this unit you will develop an understanding of the osteopathic concepts of dysfunction and maladaptation, how these concepts relate to changes in agency and capacity in the neuromusculoskeletal (NMS) system. Knowledge of biomechanics, responses to injury, repair, overuse, common MSK dysfunction, aging, clinical pathophysiology, and introductory pain science are key parts of this unit. Your knowledge base will be applied to a range of practical skills such as observation, palpation, active examination, orthopaedic testing, clinical examination, and pain assessment to support basic analysis of NMS function and screening for pathology & disease.	Compulsory
	Patient Care 2	30	5	This unit will focus on extending your clinical abilities to communicate effectively, evaluate and apply therapeutic techniques with patients, and to provide effective patient and exercise rehabilitation plans. You will develop your communication skills so that you are able reflectively to manage complex information from a range of sources, while evaluating its meaning and importance within the context of the patient's case history. You will also develop an understanding of alternative treatment options that might be appropriate so that you are able to support your patients in making informed choices about their care.	Compulsory
	Professionalism 2	10	5	This unit is designed to provide you with a foundational understanding of ethical principles and their application in contemporary healthcare practice. You will gain an in-depth understanding of healthcare practitioners' ethical considerations and responsibilities, including legal and professional issues related to patient care in preparation for clinic. You will explore the importance of risk management, safeguarding, and maintaining professional boundaries in day-to-day practice and the importance of valid patient consent in the context of values-based practice.	Compulsory
	Research & Enquiry 2	20	5	This unit will equip you with the knowledge and skills required to understand, interpret and engage effectively with research and its role in clinical practice. You will develop knowledge of the underpinning conceptual models that frame clinical research and will be introduced to a range of research methods and methodologies. You will consolidate your understanding of research by analysing relevant published research from osteopathy and other healthcare professions and identifying research methods appropriate for answering research questions about key debates in osteopathic practice.	Compulsory

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Year of Study	Unit Title	UK Credits	FHEQ Level	Summary	Compulsory / Optional
Year 3	Being an Osteopath 3	30	5	In this unit your learning becomes increasingly focussed on clinical practice and personal development as you begin the transition into becoming lead practitioners. You will examine the functioning human in the context of their environment, the challenges and opportunities to health and wellbeing in that environment, and the role osteopathy can have in supporting a person towards being better adapted to the needs of that environment. Clinic based learning will offer you increasing opportunities to take on the roles and responsibilities of lead practitioner as you develop the skills associated with information gathering, clinical reasoning and recording the essential elements of the clinical interaction.	Compulsory
	Functioning Human 3	15	6	This unit focuses on developing your proficiency in clinical practice through deeper exploration of your accumulated knowledge base and early clinical observation experiences. You will develop your skills to critically discuss and apply osteopathic concepts of dysfunction and maladaptation, how these concepts relate to changes in agency and capacity in patients, and to apply this information to enable sound clinical reasoning. You will be able to create a reasonable and justifiable NMS clinical temporal profile that includes the integration of relevant flags focused on non-specific spinal presentations. Utilizing an awareness of best practice, relevant guidelines, a knowledge of pain assessment & management; you will expand your practical skills in assessment of the NMS and body systems including cardio-respiratory, immune, endocrine, and neurological systems focusing on screening, diagnosis, and management of common presentations.	Compulsory
	Patient Care 3	15	6	This unit is designed to continue your development as a caring, patient-centered and evidence informed practitioner, building your competences in the evaluation, examination, treatment and management of your patients. You will develop a flexible, adaptive approach to gathering clinical information that is responsive to the patient and recognises their own narrative of their presentation as a central element of your osteopathic evaluation and care. You will become competent in building sound professional therapeutic relationships with a diverse range of patients and skilled in communicating with them and all others involved in their care. You will integrate touch and palpation in your day-to-day practice with confidence, including evaluating the nature of palpatory evidence, its value in osteopathic practice and as a tool to effect and monitor change alongside other clinical evidence.	Compulsory
	Professionalism 3	10	6	This unit is designed to help you expand your skills and knowledge to manage your caseload effectively while adhering to ethical, operational, and regulatory frameworks. The focus will be on balancing conflicts that may arise based on personal values, and you will be expected to embody the characteristics of an allied health practitioner and demonstrate a critically reflective	Compulsory

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				approach. This unit will support you to develop your career plans and will include leadership and external engagement opportunities.	
	Research & Enquiry 3	20	6	In this unit you will work towards developing and conducting a clinical audit or service evaluation project in an area of relevance to osteopathic practice and analysing and interpreting a given set of statistical data. This unit will facilitate your development into an autonomous, critically aware and reflective professional who is able not only to evaluate current knowledge but also to demonstrate depth of knowledge and a systematic understanding of osteopathy.	Compulsory

Year of Study	Unit Title	UK Credits	FHEQ Level	Summary	Compulsory / Optional
Year 4	Being an Osteopath 4	30	6	Being an Osteopath Level 6 will enable you to take increasing responsibility for the management and treatment of your own patients. You will be expected to integrate your knowledge, skills and attributes from other units while using evidence in the clinical setting in a reasoned and justifiable manner. The Osteopathic Practice Standards will inform your decision making at all times. You will begin to develop a more flexible, adaptive approach to gathering and recording clinical information that is responsive to the patient and recognises their needs, values and expectations. You will become competent in building sound professional therapeutic relationships with a diverse range of patients and skilled in communicating with them and all others involved in their care. You will develop management plans for patients that critically applies your developing conceptual, theoretical and practical knowledge and skills that are responsive to the patient's needs, values and expectations.	Compulsory
	Functioning Human 4	15	6	This unit focuses on continuing your development in clinical practice through deeper exploration of the accumulated knowledge base utilizing early clinic experiences. Further developing the skill to critically discuss and apply the osteopathic concepts of dysfunction and maladaptation, how these concepts relate to changes in agency and capacity in patients, and to apply this information toward sound clinical reasoning. Identification of relevant flags, and creation of a reasonable and justifiable NMS clinical temporal profile across the full range of NMS presentations. Utilizing an awareness of best practice, relevant guidelines, and a knowledge of pain assessment & management. You will expand your practical skills in assessment of the full range of NMS presentations and range of body systems focused on screening, diagnosis, and management of common presentations.	Compulsory
	Patient Care 4	15	6	This unit will build on core skills delivered in other units including Being an Osteopath, Professionalism and	Compulsory

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				<p>Functioning Human and how these elements are demonstrated within a practical, clinical setting.</p> <p>You will become fluent in observing patients and critically applying an extensive range of examination techniques. You will be able robustly, to debate the validity and reliability of your examination techniques through the critical application of research evidence and practical experience so that you are able to justify, defend and critically evaluate the use and value of subsequent evidence and how it informs your understanding and care of the patient. You will continue to extend your range of therapeutic techniques and will be introduced to further advanced direct and indirect models of treatment employed by osteopaths. You will appraise the evidence base and develop a critically informed perspective of their role in patient care in contemporary osteopathic practice. You will be able to explain all aspects of your care to your patients and will obtain informed consent as part of an ongoing dialogue. Your ability reflectively to adapt how you apply osteopathic techniques will become a routine part of your practice and you will be able critically to justify and defend such adaptations in the context of the provision of good care</p>	
	Professionalism 4	10	7	<p>This unit will guide you in further developing and maintaining your professional responsibilities as a registered osteopath. You will be expected to embody all the characteristics of a professional allied health practitioner and to demonstrate a critically reflective approach specific to your role and responsibilities as an active member of the osteopathic profession and the allied healthcare community. The unit will support you in continuing to develop your career plan that you explored in the previous years. Contemporary issues & topics within the profession will also be discussed and you will be encouraged to share and discuss your ideas, opinions, and suggestions within a collaborative and supportive professional environment. It is expected that these discussions will reflect contemporary topics in osteopathy and the wider allied healthcare community, leading to a unique and current experience. It is expected that by the end of this unit you will have growing confidence in joining, consulting with, and influencing key stakeholders within the profession and the wider allied healthcare community through values-based leadership and ethical decision making.</p>	Compulsory
	Research & Enquiry 4	10	7	<p>In this unit you will work towards developing and conducting a clinical audit or service evaluation project in an area of relevance to osteopathic practice and analysing and interpreting a given set of statistical data. This unit will facilitate your development into an autonomous, critically aware and reflective professional who is able not only to evaluate current knowledge but also to demonstrate depth of knowledge and a systematic understanding of osteopathy.</p>	Compulsory

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Year of Study	Unit Title	UK Credits	FHEQ Level	Summary	Compulsory / Optional
Year 5	Being an Osteopath 5	60	7	This unit will enable you to evolve into a safe, effective and autonomous osteopath, capable of making reasoned professional judgements in collaboration with, and in the best interests of, the patient. Integrating all aspects of your acquired knowledge, skills and attributes to provide osteopathic patient care and to develop individualised treatment and management plans for a diverse range of patients. This unit will also encourage and guide you in further developing and maintaining the professional responsibilities of a registered osteopath. You will be expected to embody all the characteristics of a professional allied health practitioner and to demonstrate a critically reflective approach specific to your role and responsibilities as an active member of the osteopathic profession and the allied healthcare community. Overall, this unit will enable you to become increasingly confident with the complexities of clinical practice and to have sound strategies and decision-making skills to successfully navigate this.	Compulsory
	Professionalism 5	10	7	This unit will guide you in further developing and maintaining your professional responsibilities as a registered osteopath. You will be expected to embody all the characteristics of a professional allied health practitioner and to demonstrate a critically reflective approach specific to your role and responsibilities as an active member of the osteopathic profession and the allied healthcare community. The unit will support you in continuing to develop your career plan that you explored in the previous years. The focus will be career planning, but you expected to apply your knowledge of business management skills, ethics, and values-based practice to the continued development of a coherent, achievable, and measurable career plan & project that will support the establishment of your professional life. In addition to developing and maintaining your professional responsibilities this unit will strongly focus on leadership and external engagement. You will be encouraged to seek out and engage with key stakeholders in the profession. Leadership skills and roles will be discussed alongside practical networking opportunities, career development seminars, guest lectures, professional events, conferences & social media groups specific to osteopathy and allied health. It is expected that by the end of this unit you will have growing confidence in joining, consulting with, and influencing key stakeholders within the profession and the wider allied healthcare community through values-based leadership and ethical decision making.	Compulsory
	Research & Enquiry 5	30	7	During this unit you will develop into an autonomous, critically aware, reflective professional who is able to evaluate current studies and demonstrate a depth of knowledge and understanding of osteopathy and healthcare research. This involve producing high quality, independent academic work that demonstrates your ability to analyse and synthesise data, manage your own	Compulsory

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				learning, and work collaboratively with others. You will undertake a piece of research work that will demonstrate your understanding of professional governance and research ethics and be to a suitable standard and recognized format for publication in a peer reviewed journal and presentation to peers and colleagues.	
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11. TEACHING & LEARNING

TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The knowledge, skillset, and professionalism of becoming UCO graduate and registered osteopath is at the M.Ost's heart.

The M.Ost (Part-Time) programme is uniquely structured as a 'spiral curriculum', whereby students revisit the same topics throughout the degree, with the subject matter increasing in complexity and clinical relevance with each encounter and reinforcing previous learning. It is designed to retain a degree of flexibility to allow for effective context-specific delivery. The model assumes that as you progress through the curriculum, the greater demands on students will be matched by an increasing confidence in your ability to respond in clinical situations. Your development of the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary for osteopathic practice will be explored in a staged manner and you will revisit key themes throughout the different phases of study, thereby deepening your knowledge and critical understanding of osteopathy in theory and practice. This approach to learning is used throughout each of the themes in the M.Ost and is applied in context within the clinical setting.

The programme makes use of a wide variety of teaching methods to acquire the knowledge and develop the skills you need to successfully progress through the course and to achieve the qualification. Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes, demonstrations, independent learning, and clinical experience are applied in a variety of ways, so that you gather, interpret, discuss, and reflect on your learning. You will also be expected to work independently and in groups outside the classroom, collaborating with your peers to complete specific assignments, develop your practical skillset, and professionalism.

The curriculum is delivered using both traditional and virtual learning environments. The emphasis is on providing you with an integrated approach to theory and clinical practice, with a strong focus on practical and clinical learning. The curriculum makes use of a blended approach to teaching and learning, employing a diverse variety of methods and resources to ensure your study is meaningful for clinical practice. You will frequently be encouraged to apply your developing skills through case-based learning. Such cases will be used across different units, enabling you to apply your learning within the context of patient care. This will also help you recognise the relationships and links between the programme's units. Problem-based learning is also applied selectively to help you develop critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning skills, as well as instilling in you a sense of curiosity and enquiry.

Clinical practice is central to your learning. A team-based approach to learning is applied from the outset, starting as an observer in clinic. You will be guided to review and contextualise your classroom-based learning in the light of your clinical experience. As the programme develops, you will take more responsibility for patient care, applying your growing knowledge and skills alongside peers, senior students and Clinic Tutors. During the final phases of your education, you will be expected to take responsibility for all aspects of patient care, with your tutors acting as mentors and guides. You will also take responsibility for providing mentoring and leadership to junior students within your team.

Reflective practice is also an important element of osteopathic learning and development. The curriculum supports you to develop into a reflective practitioner in preparation for your osteopathic career and also to help you evaluate your own strengths and areas for development in your educational journey.

In your final phase of study, you will undertake a major piece of project work within the Research and Enquiry theme. You will conduct an in-depth, empirically based piece of work that incorporates an understanding of research ethics and governance. Your work will be to a standard suitable for publication and presentation to peers and colleagues. The outcome of this piece of work will provide evidence of your deepening knowledge, your ability to analyse a topic of relevance to osteopathy, and your own personal development as a professional. As a result, you will be able to develop a strategy with which to respond to formal and informal feedback and gain an understanding of how your skills need to develop.

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Throughout your learning you will be supported by an experienced and dedicated faculty, majority of whom are qualified, practising osteopaths. Our team of full-time teaching and research faculty are supported by additional staff and guest lecturers, who bring subject-specific expertise to deepen your knowledge and understanding in key areas of the programme.

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

When not attending scheduled teaching sessions you are expected to continue learning independently through self-study in your own time and will typically involve:

- Undertaking your own research and reading around subject areas using textbooks, journals and online resources.
- Participating in and completing digital learning activities.
- Collaborating with your peers to complete group activities.
- Practising practical skills with your peers.
- Preparing for and completing assessments.

Your independent learning is supported by a range of excellent facilities including the UCO's Learning Hub, Virtual Learning Environment and IT facilities. Guidance and advice to develop effective independent learning skills is also provided by our Student Learning Advisor.

OVERALL WORKLOAD

Your overall workload consists of class contact hours, independent learning, assessment activity and clinical training / practice-based learning / work placements. Each unit credit equates to 10 hours of study time and although your actual contact hours may vary between units the following information gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course:

Year 1 (Level 4) Per Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Average of 28 Hours of Teaching, Learning & Assessment Activity • An Average of 28 Hours of Independent Study
Year 2 (Level 4/5) Per Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Average of 26 Hours of Teaching, Learning & Assessment Activity • An Average of 30 Hours of Independent Study
Year 3 (Level 5/6) Per Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Average of 24 Hours of Teaching, Learning & Assessment Activity • An Average of 32 Hours of Independent Study
Year 4 (Level 6/7) Per Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Average of 22 Hours of Teaching, Learning & Assessment Activity • An Average of 34 Hours of Independent Study
Year 5 (Level 7) Per Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Average of 20 Hours of Teaching, Learning & Assessment Activity • An Average of 36 Hours of Independent Study

TEACHING STAFF

The UCO is regarded internationally as an institution of choice for osteopathic educators and students.

The staff teaching into the M.Ost course are amongst the top experts in UK osteopathy and are qualified osteopathic educators, most holding a Master's or Doctorate level qualification, and have a particular interest in supporting practitioners develop as educators. They have taught and researched in a variety of areas within osteopathy including undergraduate courses and post graduate education, both nationally and internationally.

This breadth of experience allows the curriculum to benefit from recent research and the highest level of expertise within osteopathy.

LEARNING RESOURCES

To support you in your learning you will have access to a range of Learning Resources which include:

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- **The Learning Hub:** You will benefit from the most extensive osteopathic library outside the USA, with a unique collection of osteopathic texts, audio visual materials, anatomical models, and flexi-spines. Staffed by an experienced team of librarians, all of whom are on hand to assist students to locate appropriate resources, the Learning Hub seeks to support your academic development and aims to promote self-directed, independent, active, and continuing education. The Learning Hub is a bright and open space, with room for private study and group work and is open all year, including during vacation periods and at weekends when teaching is taking place or when assessments are due to ensure that all available resources are accessible to you when you need them. Computers in the Learning Hub provide Internet access to academic resources and medical databases, for which assistance and training is available, in addition to numerous power points and Wi-Fi for using your own mobile devices.
- **Microsoft Office 365:** You will benefit from a UCO Office 365 account for your personal use throughout your time at the UCO. This allows you to use a range of Microsoft Office Apps (including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote etc.) on the computers provided in our ICT suite and study areas and on your own mobile devices. You are also provided with storage space on Microsoft One Drive and a Microsoft Outlook email account.
- **UCO Email Account:** You will be provided with a UCO email address and account using Microsoft Outlook which you will use for easy communication with your colleagues, tutors and UCO staff. You will benefit from the calendar function of Microsoft Outlook that provides you with live updates and notifications about your course activities.
- **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE):** Your study materials, lecture notes and other useful learning resources will be provided to you through the UCO's VLE. Accessible via the internet, you are able to access this anywhere, anytime.
- **Virtual Reality Anatomy Suite:** The UCO has built the first VR suite specifically for osteopathic students focusing on the development of anatomy, histology, and physiology relevant to osteopathic practice. Osteopathic students will gain access to the VR suite and be able to engage in self-directed learning and have opportunities for guided anatomy tutorials.
- **Recording Suite:** You will benefit from access to a state-of-the-art practical skills recording suite at the UCO's main campus. The suite includes multiple 360 cameras, sound equipment, and recording equipment. You will be able to use the suite to record your practical demonstrations, practice case history taking, and communications skills. This will give unique and novel opportunities for peer to peer and tutor feedback.

12. ASSESSMENT & FEEDBACK

ASSESSMENT

Each unit normally contains at least one practice or 'formative' assessment for which you will receive feedback from your tutor enabling you to monitor and review your understanding and progress. Grades of formative assessments do not count towards your final mark.

Each unit also normally contains at least one formal or 'summative' assessment for which you will receive a grade which will count towards your final mark. Summative assessments are normally undertaken in Term 2 and Term 3.

A range of summative assessment methods are used to enable you to demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and competence and include coursework (where you are required to produce a written piece of work that you work on over a set period of time and submit for marking), written or online examinations (where you are required to answer a question paper under examination conditions), practical, and clinical examinations (where you are required to demonstrate your knowledge and skills to an assessor typically with a simulated or real patient).

Types of summative assessments for this course include:

1. Written & Online Assessment
2. Individual & Group Presentations
3. Coursework & Reflective Activity
4. Research Project & Presentation
5. Integrated & Station Based Assessments (OSPE, OSCPE)
6. Clinical & Practical Assessments

The approximate percentage of the course by each of these assessment methods is as follows:

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Year	Coursework	Written/Online Exams	Practical Exams
1	13%	12%	75%
2	0%	57%	43%
3	25%	25%	50%
4	25%	25%	50%
5	15%	15%	70%

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Below are the indicative dates of when you will undertake assessment throughout your course:

Year	Unit	Assessment	Indicative Schedule
1	PC	Reflective Video & Continuous Assessment	Weekend 8 & Weekend 15
1	PC	Objective structured practical exam (OSPE) 1	Weekend 10 - 11
<u>1</u>	RAE	2,000-word Critical Appraisal Assignment	Exam Weekend 18
<u>1</u>	BAO	Individual Presentation (15 Mins)	Exam Weekend 18-20
1	FH	Written Exam (MCQ/SAQ) (1Hour)	Exam Weekends 18-20
1	FH	Objective Structured Practical Exam (OSPE) – Clinical Examination Skills	Exam Weekends 18-20
1	PC	Objective Structured Practical Exam (OSPE) 2	Exam Weekends 18-20
2	PC	Objective Structured Practical Clinical Exam (OSPCE)	Weekend 9-11
2	RAE	Written Exam 1 (MCQ) (1.5 Hour)	Exam Weekend 18
2	BAO	Individual Presentation (15 Mins)	Exam Weekends 18-20
2	RAE	Written Exam (SAQ) (1-Hour)	Exam Weekends 19
2	BAO, FH, PC, PROF	Integrated assessment	Exam Weekends 18-20
2	FH	Written Exam (MCQ/SAQ) (1-Hour)	Exam Weekends 18-20
2	PROF	Written Exam (MCQ)(1Hour)	Exam Weekends 18-20

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3	RAE	Written Exam (MCQ) (1.5 Hours)	Exam Weekend 18
3	RAE	Clinical Audit / Service Evaluation (3,000 Words)	Exam Weekend 18
3	BAO, FH, PC	Integrated assessment	Exam Weekends 18-20
3	BAO	Individual Presentation (15 Mins)	Exam Weekends 18-20
3	BAO	Clinic Log and Reflective Summary	Exam Weekends 18-20
3	FH	Written Exam (MCQ/SAQ) (1-Hour)	Exam Weekends 18-20
3	PC	Essay Assignment (1,000 Words)	Exam Weekend 19
3	PROF	CPD Project & Reflective Assessment (1,500 Words)	Exam Weekends 18-20
4	RAE	Critical Literature Review (1,500 Words)	Exam Weekend 18
4	FH	Written Exam (MCQ) (1 Hour)	Exam Weekends 18-20
4	PC, FH, BAO	Integrated Assessment	Exam Weekends 18-20
4	PC	Case Study (1,500 Words)	Exam Weekend 19
4	PROF	Written Exam (1 Hour)	Exam Weekends 18-20
4	BAO	Continuous Clinical Assessment 1	Spring Term Weeks 3-6
4	BAO	Continuous Clinical Assessment 2	Summer Term Weeks 1-4
4	BAO	Clinical Hours Requirement	Summer Term Week 5
5	RAE	Research Paper (3,000 Word)	Weekend 16
5	RAE	Oral Presentation (15 Mins)	Exam Weekends 18-20
5	BAO	Integrated Assessment	Exam Weekends 18-20

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5	BAO	Clinic hours Requirement	Summer Term Week 5
5	PROF	Career Development Project & Presentation (15 Mins)	Exam Weekends 18-20
5	BAO	Continuous Clinical Assessment 3	Spring Term Weeks 3-6
5	BAO	Continuous Clinical Assessment 4	Summer Term Weeks 1-4

FEEDBACK

You will receive feedback and a grade for all coursework and practical examinations. For written examinations you will receive a grade with feedback available on request from the Unit Leader. Feedback is intended to help you learn and you are encouraged to discuss it with your unit tutors.

We aim to provide you with feedback on formative assessments within 3 weeks of the hand-in date, and within 6 weeks for summative assessments.

PROGRESSION & ACHIEVEMENT

Progression criteria are used by the UCO's Board of Examiners to determine whether you have achieved the required level and number of credits and any other requirements (*such as clinical hours*) to progress to the next year of your course and to be awarded the course award.

The progression criteria for the course are:

1. You must achieve 480 credits to be awarded the Integrated Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost).
2. You must achieve 120 credits at FHEQ Level 4, 120 credits at FHEQ Level 5, 120 credits at FHEQ Level 6 and 120 credits at FHEQ Level 7 to be awarded the Integrated Masters of Osteopathy.
3. You must achieve a minimum of 30 credits by the end of each academic year. A student who has not attained a minimum of 30 credits by the end of an academic year will be regarded as not having made sufficient academic progress and will normally be recommended to withdraw from the course.
4. You must complete the course in a maximum of 6 years.
5. You must attempt all summative assessments within each unit.
6. The pass mark for each assessment is a grade D-.
7. You must achieve an overall unit grade of D- or above to pass the unit and be awarded the appropriate number of credits for that unit.
8. If a unit contains more than one summative assessment, provided the unit is passed with an overall grade of D-, one of the assessments may be condoned. Only grades of E+ may be condoned. Only one assessment can be condoned per year of study. If you fail more than one assessment, no assessment may be condoned, and you will be required to re-sit all failed assessments.
9. You must complete the following minimum clinical hours per year:
 - a. Year 1: 21 Hours
 - b. Year 2: 21 Hours
 - c. Year 3: 210 Hours
 - d. Year 4: 455 Hours
 - e. Year 5: 315 Hours
10. The following assessments are not permitted to be condoned due to the professional or practical nature of the assessment:
 - a. Research Project

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- b. Integrated & Station Based Assessments (OSPE, OSCPE)
- c. Clinical & Practical Assessments

11. Failure to submit an assessment or attend an exam will result in a grade F-NS being awarded which equates to an automatic failure of that assessment and that unit.
12. An award of a grade G for any assessment will result in an automatic failure of that assessment and an automatic failure of that unit, even if the overall unit grade is a grade D- or above.
13. Any assessment awarded a grade E+, E-, F or G normally results in a resit of that assessment (unless condoned). All resit assessments are awarded a maximum (capped) grade of D-.
14. Any resit assessment awarded a grade E+, E-, F or G normally results in a retake of that unit in its entirety over the next academic year.
15. Only one resit attempt is normally permitted per year, and only within the resit assessment period scheduled prior to the beginning of the next academic year.
16. All resit and deferred assessments must be completed within the scheduled resit examination period.
17. You are not permitted to retake an assessment to improve your grade.
18. All grades are provisional until they are ratified by a Board of Examiners.
19. The Board of Examiners decision on progression and awards is final.

DEGREE CLASSIFICATION

This course is classified to reflect your overall level of performance and attainment in relation to your:

1. Knowledge and understanding
2. Cognitive skills
3. Practical skills
4. Transferable skills
5. Professional competencies
 - a. [Osteopathic Practice Standards](#)
 - b. [Graduate Outcomes and Standards for Education and Training](#)

You may achieve an Integrated Masters of Osteopathy or an Integrated Masters of Osteopathy with Distinction.

Distinctions are awarded to students who have performed to a high academic standard over the final two years of the course. A mathematical calculation is used to determine whether an M.Ost with Distinction has been achieved which can be found in our [Academic Quality Framework Section 7: Academic Regulations](#).

EXIT AWARDS

If you are unable to complete the course in its entirety for example due to personal circumstances, you may be eligible to receive an exit award that recognises the number of credits and level of learning that you have achieved.

The Exit Awards for this course include:

Exit Award	Criteria for the Exit Award
Certificate in Higher Education (Applied Science)	120 Credits Level 4
Diploma in Higher Education (Applied Science)	120 Credits Level 4 120 Credits Level 5
BSc in Applied Science	120 Credits Level 4

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	120 Credits Level 5 120 Credits Level 6
BSc (Hons) in Applied Science	120 Credits Level 4 120 Credits Level 5 120 Credits Level 6 60 Credits Level 7

The exit awards are not recognised qualifications for registration with the General Osteopathic Council and graduates with the exit awards are not permitted to practice as an osteopath.

13. FURTHER STUDY & EMPLOYABILITY

Osteopathy is a vibrant profession with many opportunities for graduates of the UCO M.Ost. Our M.Ost graduates can become self-employed osteopaths, associate osteopaths, principles and practice owners, NHS osteopaths, researchers, educators, and pursue further postgraduate training.

Opportunities in osteopathy are increasing and, as the public awareness of osteopathy grows, there is a growing demand for qualified and registered osteopaths. Although most osteopaths work as self-employed practitioners in the private sector, there are increasing opportunities to develop your career in a multidisciplinary environment including the NHS. Developing links between the National Health Service and the osteopathic profession mean that there are opportunities to work within a variety of roles in the NHS, in partnership with doctors in general practice and in community health centres.

Once you have your degree and clinical experience, you may discover opportunities to pursue individual specialist interests and to develop work with particular patient groups. There are a growing number of postgraduate qualifications in the field of osteopathy and the UCO's own portfolio of postgraduate programmes is developing. Currently, we have a Professional Doctorate in Osteopathy, the first in the UK. The UCO also offers a portfolio of postgraduate courses in paediatrics, animal osteopathy, and academic and clinical educations designed to support graduate development in areas of career specialisation. This will enable further postgraduate self-development and will contribute to the development of the profession. You must have a Recognised Qualification to be eligible for entry onto all of these courses.

There are also growing opportunities to work abroad, subject to the destination country's registration requirements. With further experience, some osteopaths go on to teach at one of the approved osteopathic education institutions. Research in osteopathy is also a growing area within the profession and there are increasing opportunities to undertake research into particular areas of specialism.

14. STUDENT SUPPORT

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The UCO recognises that students new or returning to study at higher education level can be challenging. You will need to take more responsibility for your own learning, be responsible for attending classes and completing assessments on time and for participating in group and individual learning activities.

The UCO's experienced Learning Advisor Team is available to help you develop the study skills you need to reach your full potential at the UCO and beyond. They provide individual sessions and group workshops on:

- Understanding your learning style
- Goal setting and planning your studies
- Self-directed study
- Academic reading, writing and referencing
- Effective literature searching
- Developing communication skills
- Time management
- Note taking

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- Revision, exam and memory techniques
- English as an additional language
- Studying with Dyslexia or Specific Learning Difficulty

You will also have access to your Course Leader, Units Leaders and tutors with whom you will be able to discuss your studies and academic progress within and outside of teaching sessions.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Our dedicated Student Support Team are available upon appointment to discuss issues that may be affecting your studies or wellbeing and are always willing to listen and support you through any difficulties.

Our Student Support Team is committed to strengthening mental health, wellbeing and disability support within the UCO and provides a confidential and impartial service on a wide variety of issues which may directly or indirectly affect your studies including:

- Providing a welfare advisory service and to advise staff on related matters.
- Providing specialist advice, information and support about student finance and assisting students in sourcing other funding from external organisations such as educational charities.
- Providing specialist advice, information and support about students' physical and mental health and wellbeing, including personal issues related to family, relationships, identity, gender and sexuality.
- Providing advice and information about accommodation, living arrangements and travel.
- Advising on Higher Education student finance, bursaries, and loan schemes available within the UCO.
- Providing a confidential impartial service, where no information is disclosed without students' written consent.
- Referring students on to appropriate help within the UCO and the local community.

In many cases where personal circumstances have an impact on your studies, reasonable adjustments and individual learning plans can be made to enable you to continue studying and fulfil your potential.

Our fully qualified Counsellor also provides a counselling service to help you if you feel overwhelmed or experience psychological or emotional difficulties throughout your studies. Appointments to use this confidential service are free and anonymous.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The UCO recognises that studying for a degree involves a significant financial commitment and that sometimes changes in circumstances can be difficult financially. We therefore offer [Course Fee Discounts](#) for early payment of tuition fees and former UCO students and [Payment Plans](#) for self-funding students who wish to spread the costs of their fees out over a nine month period. For students who face unforeseen financial difficulties whilst they are studying with us we offer a limited number of [Grants, Bursaries, Funds and Interest-Free Loans](#) that are available for those in need. Our Student Support Team also offer advice and guidance on budgeting and other sources of funding from external organisations such as educational charities.

DISABILITY SUPPORT

The UCO welcomes students with a disability or specific learning difficulty and has enabled many such students to successfully complete the course and fulfil their potential.

If you have a disability or specific learning difficulty, you are recommended to disclose this on your application form and / or to inform our [Admissions Team](#) or contact our [Student Support Team](#) confidentially in writing. This will help us to provide you with advice and guidance about how we may be able to support you throughout the admissions process and throughout the course.

A review of your needs may be undertaken by our Student Support Team, who may take advice from an occupational health or health care professional, to ensure that you can achieve your full potential at the UCO on your chosen course, and to determine reasonable adjustments that can be offered to you, such as:

- Documents in your preferred format, font and size
- Adjustable desks and chairs
- Extra time in exams
- Working from a laptop in exams
- Using a scribe in exams
- Taking an exam in a quieter room
- Rest breaks during exams
- Assistive technology
- Providing staff training and awareness raising
- Providing study skills support

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Our Student Support Team also provides a confidential and impartial support service to all students with a declared disability, by initiating and supporting students through the process involved in applying for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA). DSA covers any extra study-related costs you incur due to an impairment, mental health condition, or learning difficulty. It is neither a benefit nor a loan, so doesn't need repaying.

We recognise that you may not know whether you have a disability or learning difficulty that affects your studies until after you start the course. If this is the case, you are recommended to discuss this with the Student Support Team who may arrange for you to undertake a full diagnostic assessment.

Having a disability or specific learning difficulty should not preclude you from applying to study at the UCO, however due to the nature of this course you are recommended to read the following guidance from the General Osteopathic Council - [Guidance for applicants and students with a disability or health condition](#) so that you are fully informed and will help you to decide whether this course is right for you.

15. COURSE FEES, ADDITIONAL COSTS & VALUE FOR MONEY

COURSE FEES

The Course fees for this course may be found on our website here: <https://www.uco.ac.uk/courses/course-fees>

Our [Course Fee Policy](#) details essential information relating to tuition fees and fee payment which you are strongly recommended to read and understand.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

You should be aware that there may be other costs associated with your course in addition to the course fees. For this course these include:

- Accommodation and living costs: The UCO does not currently offer student accommodation but can offer advice and support about this and general living costs on our [Additional Costs](#) webpage (these will be variable and dependent on your choice of accommodation and lifestyle).
- Refreshments / Lunch: The UCO does not currently offer a full canteen service, but does provide students with free filtered water, tea, coffee, milk and kitchen facilities to prepare your own food. There are also plenty of local cafes and supermarkets where you can purchase food and drink at your own expense.
- Travel costs: You will need to consider the cost of travelling to and from the UCO from your accommodation and between the UCO and Community Clinics. This will be dependent on the type of transport available to you and the distance travelled.
- A Locker Key: The UCO provides students with the option of storing their belongings in a locker at the UCO which costs £10.00. This is refunded when you no longer need the locker or are no longer a student at the UCO. If you lose your locker key, you will be required to pay £10.00 to cover the cost of a replacement.
- Replacement Student Card: You will be provided with a UCO Student Card when you register for your course, however if you lose this you will be required to pay £10.00 to cover the cost of a replacement.
- Texts: Our Learning Hub is well stocked with textbooks and you are provided with free online access to journals and e-books which should meet your learning needs for this course, however if you wish to purchase your own texts the cost of this to you will be dependent on your preferred supplier.
- Computer / Laptop / Storage Devices: You will require access to a computer and the internet to access the UCO's Virtual Learning Environment, online learning resources, participate in online discussions, email your tutors and colleagues and prepare and submit written assessments. Our ICT suite contains desktop computers and internet access for your use in addition to your own personal Microsoft OneDrive storage area, however if you wish to purchase your own laptop, storage device or use the internet at home the cost to you will depend on your chosen supplier.
- Printing / Photocopying: The UCO provides you with £12.00 of free printing / photocopying credits each year, however once you exceed this allowance you will need to pay for these costs yourself (£0.05 per colour sheet per side and £0.005 per black and white sheet per side).
- Graduation Ceremony: You will be required to hire your Graduation Robes which costs approximately £55.00. If you wish to invite friends and family to the Graduation Ceremony ticket prices per person are as follows: Adult (£35.00), Child Aged 6- 16 Year (£15.00) and Children Aged 5 Years and Under (Free). Graduation costs are reviewed annually, and these prices are indicative.

Course Information Form: Integrated Master of Osteopathy (M.Ost) (Part-Time)

- **Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Check:** A condition of registration for this course is completion of an enhanced DBS check which costs £50.00.
- **Clinic Uniform:** You are required to wear a white clinic coat within the clinical environment which cost from £15.00 - £50.00 depending on your choice of supplier. You are recommended to have two clinic coats in the final two years of your course.
- **Clinic Equipment:** Standard equipment required typically includes Littman stethoscope, Sphygmomanometer, patella hammer, tuning forks 128Hz & 512Hz (with base/foot plate), pen torch, neurotips or medipens (neurological testing pins), and a digital thermometer. This equipment is required for Year 1 of your course and costs approximately £200.00 - £300.00 depending on your supplier.
- **Plinth Cover & Pillowcase:** You will require your own plinth cover and pillowcase for your first and subsequent technique classes from Year 1 onwards. These cost approximately £15.00 - £20.00 depending on your supplier.
- **Technique Uniform:** You will require shorts and (for female students) an appropriate top for your first and subsequent technique classes from Year 1 onwards. These cost approximately £15.00 - £50.00 depending on your supplier.
- **Optional Overseas Trips / Exchanges:** Optional overseas trips/exchanges may be available to other destinations which are self-funded. Air travel, accommodation and living costs will vary depending on your choice of supplier.

VALUE FOR MONEY

We recognise that you make a significant financial investment by studying at the UCO and that you may be interested to know how your Tuition Fees are invested into the UCO. We believe that sound investment of your Tuition Fees and careful management of the UCO's finances will ensure that you receive the best return by providing you with:

- A high-quality academic and student experience
- An academic community that is diverse, inspiring and culturally vibrant, stimulating, healthy, safe and supportive.
- Knowledge and skills that will serve you over a lifetime
- Enhanced employment prospects

To learn more about the UCO's finances and how we invest your Tuition Fees, visit our [Value for Money](#) webpage.

CIF MODIFICATION RECORD

Level of Modification	Summary of Modification	Modification Approved by	Date of Modification Approval