

Programme Specification

Title of Course: Master in Osteopathy (MSc)

Date Specification Produced: September 2016

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This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content of each module can be found in Student Handbooks and Module Descriptors.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Title:	Master in Osteopathy (MSc)
Awarding Institution:	Kingston University
Teaching Institution:	<i>Nescot</i>
Location:	<i>Epsom, Surrey</i>

SECTION 2: THE PROGRAMME

A. Programme Introduction

The MSc is a dynamic programme taught by expert and enthusiastic staff. It gives students exposure to a wide range of approaches to osteopathy and this is reflected in a diverse teaching team who are graduates from the different osteopathic teaching institutions. A key strength of the programme at Nescot is that all staff have a teaching qualification and are involved in continuing professional development in their areas of osteopathic expertise. This ensures students receive both expert teaching as well as an osteopathic curriculum that is engaging and up to date. We are very proud of our roots in 'Classical' osteopathy and this approach continues to influence the curriculum.

The programme has been designed to provide students with both academic knowledge and the professional skills required by the working professional osteopath. Students have the opportunity to develop areas of special clinical interest, critically evaluate their clinical reasoning and patient management strategies as well as produce research suitable for journal publication.

The MSc in Osteopathy is a well-established programme at Nescot run by the highly respected Osteopathy Department who have over 10 years' experience of delivering osteopathic education. The programme attracts both national and international osteopaths who are interested in achieving a postgraduate qualification. It is of particular interest to European Diplomate osteopaths who wish to gain a University validated post graduate award in order to achieve better recognition or gain access to higher level study in their home country.

The MSc is planned as a taught two year part-time block release programme during which time a research project is completed. Students are supported by Weblearn, a very robust on-line learning environment. Weblearn provides students with flexible

access to programme materials such as lecture presentations, hand-outs, links to online journals and e-books, academic forums and tutorial records.

The programme also helps develop employment-ready students through an integrated industrial experience in the form of a work placement on the two year version of the programme.

This integrated placement provides students with an exciting opportunity to apply and develop their knowledge and skills in a real-world setting, which enables them to develop their self-confidence. Students undertaking such placement activities are in a stronger position to gain the skills and experience that employers desire today.

B. Aims of the Field/Course

- To develop the students' judgement and problem solving skills, enhance their ability to critically evaluate data, formulate hypotheses and use these advanced skills to make a positive contribution to the continuing development of the osteopathic profession.
- To provide students with the support and opportunities to organise and conduct a research project and to report their findings in an appropriate scientific manner suitable for journal publication.
- To provide a structured and supportive environment for students who specialise in distinctive areas of Osteopathy so that they may share their experiences to mutual benefit.
- To develop a graduate who has the critical thinking skills and breadth of knowledge to be able to synthesise information and propose innovative ideas and solutions to problems encountered in practice.
- Give students on the 2 year version an opportunity to develop further skills, preparing them for higher levels of employment

C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. There are no QAA benchmarks for this subject at level 7. The programme outcomes are referenced to the QAA Masters Degree Characteristics (March 2010) and to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008).

Programme Learning Outcomes					
	Knowledge and Understanding		Intellectual skills – able to:		Subject Practical skills
	On completion of the course students will be able to:		On completion of the course students will be able to:		On completion of the course students will be able to:
A1	Discuss and critically evaluate principles underpinning osteopathy and their clinical application.	B1	Select and integrate information from a variety of sources.	C1	Use and apply critically the principles of osteopathy in the effective management and care of a range of patients
A2	Demonstrate and critically evaluate a wide variety of treatment methodologies utilised in clinical practice.	B2	Critically evaluate and analyse information.	C2	Appreciate the need to maintain a commitment to continuing professional development.
A3	Understand the statistical and computing techniques required to assess and present their own research data	B3	Use clinical reasoning skills to generate hypotheses and identify, plan, justify and conduct ethical and effective means of treatment intervention and post-treatment evaluation	C3	Promote and contribute to the future development of by participation in research-related activities and clinical studies.
A4	Demonstrate understanding of research methodology and the skills of active enquiry, literature searching, data collection and to design and implement a research project	B4	Reflect on their current professional practice.	C4	Convey expertise in their application of skills which will enable others to recognise as specialist
		B5	Demonstrate and exercise independence of mind and thought		
		B6	Construct original ideas from previous opinion which can be used to help their own learning.		

In addition to the programme learning outcomes identified overleaf, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will allow students to develop a range of Key Skills as follows:

Key Skills						
Self Awareness Skills	Communication Skills	Interpersonal Skills	Research and information Literacy Skills	Numeracy Skills	Management & Leadership Skills	Creativity and Problem Solving Skills
Take responsibility for own learning and plan for and record own personal development	Express ideas clearly and unambiguously in writing and the spoken work	Work well with others in a group or team	Search for and select relevant sources of information	Collect data from primary and secondary sources and use appropriate methods to manipulate and analyse this data	Determine the scope of a task (or project)	Apply scientific and other knowledge to analyse and evaluate information and data and to find solutions to problems
Recognise own academic strengths and weaknesses, reflect on performance and progress and respond to feedback	Present, challenge and defend ideas and results effectively orally and in writing	Work flexibly and respond to change	Critically evaluate information and use it appropriately	Present and record data in appropriate formats	Identify resources needed to undertake the task (or project) and to schedule and manage the resources	Work with complex ideas and justify judgements made through effective use of evidence
Organise self effectively, agreeing and setting realistic targets, accessing support where appropriate and managing time to	Actively listen and respond appropriately to ideas of others	Discuss and debate with others and make concession to reach agreement	Apply the ethical and legal requirements in both the access and use of information	Interpret and evaluate data to inform and justify arguments	Evidence ability to successfully complete and evaluate a task (or project), revising the plan where necessary	

achieve targets						
Work effectively with limited supervision in unfamiliar contexts		Give, accept and respond to constructive feedback	Accurately cite and reference information sources	Be aware of issues of selection, accuracy and uncertainty in the collection and analysis of data	Motivate and direct others to enable an effective contribution from all participants	
		Show sensitivity and respect for diverse values and beliefs	Use software and IT technology as appropriate			

D. Entry Requirements

All applicants must be practicing as an Osteopath.

The minimum entry qualifications for the programme are:

- a. Normally an upper second class degree or above in an appropriate discipline usually osteopathy/osteopathic medicine awarded by a British University.
- b. An approved Diploma in Osteopathy from the UK or EU deemed to be the equivalent of at least QAA FHEQ level 6.

We will consider a range of alternative qualifications or experience that is equivalent to the typical offer. Applications from international students with equivalent qualifications are welcome.

A minimum IELTS score of 6.5 overall, with no element below 6, or equivalent is required for those for whom English is not their first language.

E. Field/course Structure

This programme is offered in part-time mode and leads to the award of Master in Osteopathy (MSc).

E1. Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

This programme provides an academic content and does not have General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) Recognised Qualification status although students may apply to the GOsC on an individual basis.

Please consult <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/practice/How-to-register-with-the-GOsC/> for more information.

E2. Work-based learning, including sandwich programmes

Students will normally be working as osteopaths and will be encouraged to reflect on and critically evaluate their clinical experiences.

The 2-year version of the programme is designed to include work-based learning through assessments and the reflective report. Many of the students on the programme are already working and they can use that experience to relate to theoretical concepts and to evaluate the relationship between theory and practice.

While it is the responsibility of individual students to secure such placements, the Careers and Employability Service support offers each student support at all stages of the application process, including writing CVs, completing application forms, participating in mock interviews, assessment centre activities and psychometric tests. The process of applying for a placement gives students the opportunity to experience a real-life, competitive job application process.

The business experience period enables students to apply their learning in the real-world work environment, to reflect upon their own personal experience of working in an applied setting, to focus on aspects of this experience that they can clearly relate to theoretical concepts and to evaluate the relationship between theory and practice. Students will be assessed during and at the end of this period, normally through a portfolio. This will be marked as pass/fail.

Students who undertake work-based placements often benefit greatly from the experience, gaining real experience and work achievements

E3. Outline Programme Structure

The programme is completed part-time over 2 academic years and is made up of four 30 credit modules and a research project worth 60 credits.

All students will be provided with the University regulations. Full details of each module will be provided in module descriptors and student module guides.

Compulsory modules	Module code	Credit Value	Level	% practical exam	% course-work	Teaching Block
Research Methods	OS7705	30	7		100%	Year 1
Advancing Professional Practice	OS7706	30	7		100%	Year1&2
Developing Specialist Practice	OS7707	60	7	40%	60%	Year1&2
Dissertation	OS7704	60	7		100%	Year2

The MSc in Osteopathy requires the successful completion of all 4 compulsory modules. Students exiting the programme with 60 credits are eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate

Students exiting the programme with 120 credits are eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma

Students on the two-year version of the course will also complete module CI7900 (120 credits).

F. Principles of Teaching Learning and Assessment

The MSc Osteopathy programme has been designed to provide students with the opportunity to advance their professional expertise, to fulfil CPD requirements and also to equip them with the tools to develop their practice. Students are expected to build on previous learning and to extend and integrate their knowledge and skills.

The programme encourages students to consider, debate and introduce original thought to currently held ideas. Students will be expected to critically consider established knowledge and to investigate the possibility of apparent incongruity in current theory and any implications for professional practice. The modules have been developed to support these aims.

The Developing Specialist Practice module allows students to develop their specialist interests and to expand the scope of their professional practice.

The Research Methods module gives students the confidence in the handling and manipulation of quantitative data in order that they can provide valid statistical results to answer their research questions. It also provides them with the opportunity to develop a research proposal.

The Advancing Professional Practice module challenges students to critically examine and justify their clinical reasoning and to present evidence based rationale for osteopathic evaluation and patient management. Students will create a Portfolio that enhances their reflective and critical thinking skills and facilitates their professional development. Self-reflection is crucial to the students' professional development and students are encouraged to identify and articulate their own strengths and weaknesses, take responsibility for, and understand, their own learning processes.

The Dissertation module provides the opportunity for students to develop an area of interest and complete a research project and therefore to contribute to the pool of research based evidence within the osteopathic community.

In addition to subject specific skills and knowledge the teaching and learning strategies of the programme are designed to promote;

- a flexible approach to the learning experience
- an independent and investigative approach to learning
- the development of higher level and transferable skills
- an emphasis on enhancing employability skills such as presentation and communication

A range of learning strategies are employed throughout the programme. Methods used include; formal teacher centred delivery including lectures, tutorials, seminars, workshop, case studies, self-directed, group based discussion and interaction, and individual research and study.

Formative assessment occurs throughout the programme. Feedback is provided to the students both verbally and via the departments VLE. All students have Personal Development Planning / Tutorial sessions with an allocated tutor. Tutorials are recorded on the VLE as a central reference point for the student and all tutors concerned. Students' clinical work is supported indirectly via the development of their module based course work particularly in Advancing Professional Practice and Developing Specialist practice modules which include case study based assessment.

G. Support for Students and their Learning

In order to assist students in achieving their learning outcomes, the Osteopathy Department has a raft of initiatives to support postgraduate students in both academic and pastoral issues. These are summarised below, and include skills workshops that offer English language support, academic surgeries, detailed induction and orientation programmes at the start of the academic year, and subject-based conference style events. Advice on generic study skills is available on the electronic learning management system (Weblearn) to which all students have access; this includes advice on writing, oral communication, numeracy, problem-solving and career management, among others.

During their blocks of attendance at Nescot, Students also have access to the Learning Resource Centre, which provides a 'drop in' service giving advice on all non-subject based aspects of academic work including;

- grammar and punctuation,
- academic structure
- referencing and plagiarism
- mathematics skills

Students are encouraged to discuss academic and pastoral concerns with their supervisor, and all academic staff operate a system of Office Hours during which students can consult their lecturers.

Summary of Student Support

- A Module Leader for each module
- A Course Co-ordinator to help students understand the programme structure, who also acts as Personal Tutor to provide academic and personal support
- Technical support to advise students on IT and the use of software
- A designated programme administrator
- An induction week at the beginning of each new academic session
- Staff Student Consultative Committee
- Weblearn – a versatile on-line interactive intranet and learning environment
- A substantial Learning Resource Centre that provides academic skills support
- Student support facilities that provide advice on issues such as finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support etc.
- Disabled student support

Support for students continues outside of their mandatory blocks of attendance. This support is primarily via email and Skype. The 'forum' facility on Weblearn is also used to improve peer interaction and facilitate the sharing of best practice between students. Podcasts to support classroom delivered material.

H. Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course

There are several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of the provision. These include:

- External examiners
- Boards of study with student representation
- Annual review and development
- Periodic review undertaken at the subject level
- Student evaluation
- Moderation policies
- All methods are compliant with University regulations.

The programme is compliant with Kingston University postgraduate regulations and quality assurance processes.

I. Employability Statement

The department maintains excellent links with the national and international osteopathic community to ensure that the skills and knowledge acquired by students are appropriate to workplace and market requirements. This has led to the introduction of specialist teaching in areas such as exercise rehabilitation and sports injuries which despite market demand can be under represented at an undergraduate level.

In addition to developing osteopathic professional and academic skills, emphasis is also placed on developing transferrable skills essential to successful employment and in recognition that some graduates may hold another a job as well as their one as an osteopath. For example MSc graduates may be interested in exploring careers in higher education teaching and/or research as well as osteopathy. This programmes aims to develop higher level skills such as self-evaluation and reflection, advanced literature searching, problem-solving and critical evaluation that are beneficial in a wide variety of employment areas.

Due to osteopathic medicines growing global popularity there are employment opportunities in many European countries, New Zealand and Australia and even some south East Asian countries. An MSc in Osteopathy can potentially give graduates a competitive edge in these countries both in the practice of Osteopathy and within educational or research posts.

Students are encouraged to publish their research and present at conferences, this can help raise their profile within the healthcare and osteopathic community and in doing so potentially create work opportunities.

J. Approved Variants from the Postgraduate Regulations.

None.

K. Other sources of information that you may wish to consult

General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/practice/How-to-register-with-the-GOsC/>

Development of Programme Learning Outcomes in Modules

		Level 7				
Module Code		Dissertation	Research Methods	Advancing Professional Practice	Reflective & Professional Practice	
Programme Learning Outcomes	Knowledge & Understanding	A1			S/F	S/F
		A2			S/F	S/F
		A3	S	S/F		
		A4	S			
	Intellectual Skills	B1	S	S/F	S/F	
		B2	S	S/F	S/F	S
		B3			S/F	S/F
		B4				S
		B5	S	S	S	S
		B6	S	S/F		S
	Practical Skills	C1			S/F	S/F
		C2				S
		C3	S	S		S
		C4			S/F	S/F
	Transferable Skills	AK 1	S			S
		AK 2				S
		BK 1	S	S	S	S
		BK 2	S	S	S	S
		CK 1			F	S/F
		CK 2			F	S/F
		CK 3				S
		DK 1	S	S/F	S/F	S/F
		DK 2	S			
		DK 3	S	S		
		DK 4	S	S		
		DK 5	S	S	S	S
		EK 1	S	S		
		EK 2	S	S	S	S
		FK 1	S			
		GK 1	S		S	S
		GK 2	S	S	S	S

S indicates where a summative assessment occurs.

F where formative assessment/feedback occurs

Technical Annex

Final Award(s):	<i>Masters in Osteopathy (MSc)</i>
Intermediate Award(s):	<i>PG Cert / PG Dip</i>
Minimum period of registration:	<i>2</i>
Maximum period of registration:	<i>4</i>
FHEQ Level for the Final Award:	<i>7</i>
QAA Subject Benchmark:	<i>Osteopathy (2007)</i>
Modes of Delivery:	<i>Part-time</i>
Language of Delivery:	<i>English</i>
Faculty:	
School:	
JACS code:	<i>This is the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) agreed jointly by UCAS and HESA.</i>
UCAS Code:	
Course Code:	
Route Code:	

