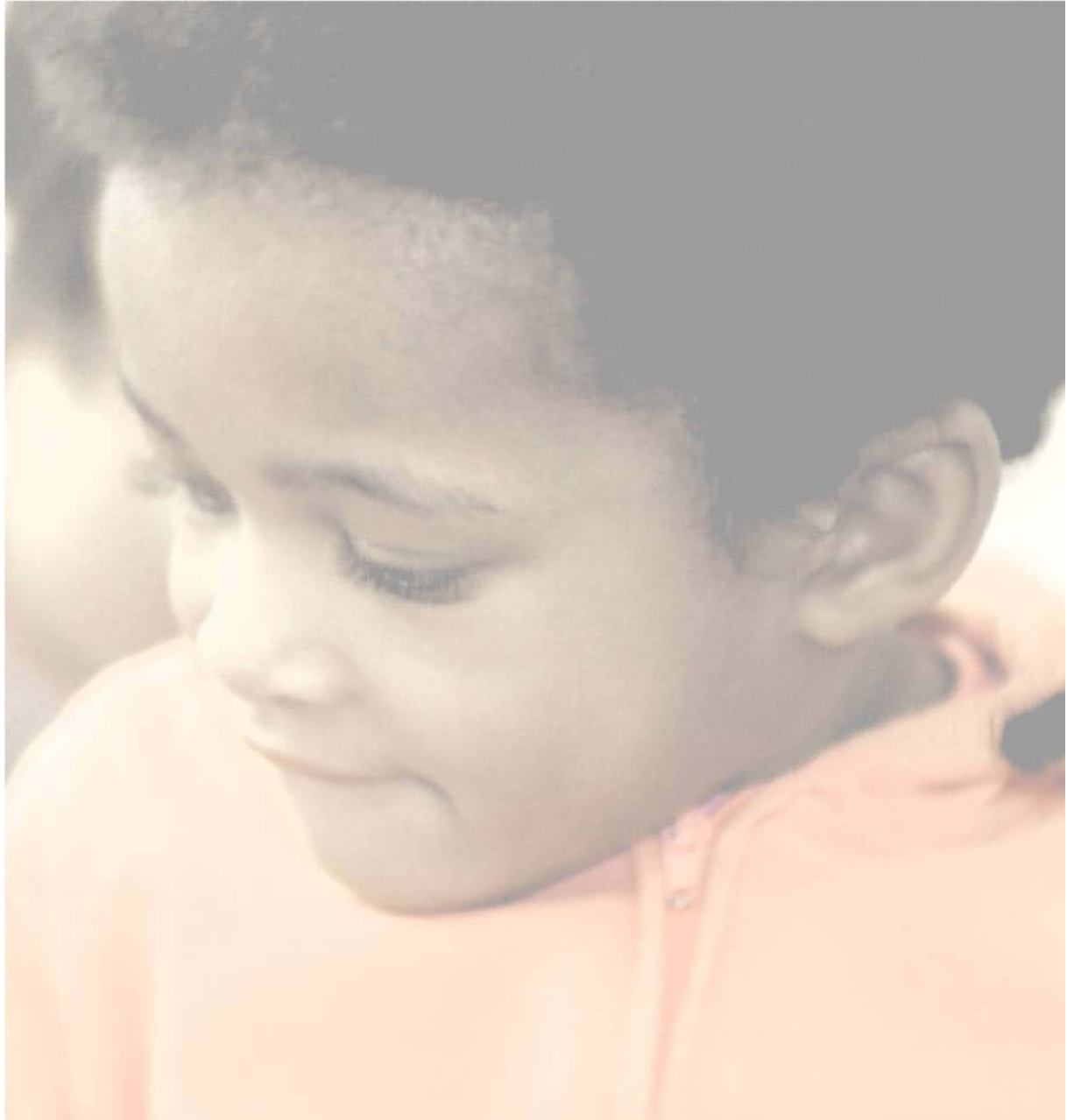


MSc Paediatric Osteopathy

2007/8



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University of
Bedfordshire

Course Leader's Welcome

This is the first qualification in Paediatric Osteopathy to be validated by a UK university, and the only postgraduate programme for osteopaths in the UK with clinical supervision and teaching.

The MSc programme provides essential clinical experience with structured study modules and excellent standards of teaching. It is a unique product which unites the clinical expertise of the Osteopathic Centre for Children and the scholarship of the British School of Osteopathy into a worthwhile and rewarding MSc.

The course is designed to guide you through core paediatrics topics and enable you to manage a wide range of paediatric cases from simple infantile colic to complex neurological disorders, and from delicate premature infants to robust adolescents, all within an osteopathic framework. This is a demanding course that requires a good deal of dedication, application and determination but the rewards are great. Ultimately it will provide you with an invaluable foundation in paediatric osteopathy, from two of the world's finest osteopathic institutions.

I am excited to be involved in the organisation and delivery of a programme, which is taught by some of the most experienced paediatric osteopaths and academics in the osteopathic arena. This is the kind of course that I would want to undertake; academic but practical, challenging yet rewarding.

This leaflet should equip you with information about the MSc programme and the OCC clinic, giving you a feeling for the ethos of the both OCC and the BSO. I hope it will inspire you to apply for the MSc in Paediatric Osteopathy.



Nancy Nunn BSc(Hons) DPO.

Course Leader



The Osteopathic Centre for Children has two main purposes: to offer first class affordable osteopathic care to children, and to train osteopaths in the osteopathic care of children. The OCC has been operating since 1991. It provides excellent osteopathic care for children, on a donation basis. Education of osteopaths has always been an important objective of the Osteopathic Centre for Children. The OCC successfully ran the Diploma in Paediatric Osteopathy from 1996 to 2005. This unique programme has evolved into the current MSc. through a collaboration with the British School of Osteopathy



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF OSTEOPATHY

The British School of Osteopathy (BSO) was founded in 1917. It is the largest and the oldest osteopathic school in the UK. The BSO has the largest osteopathic clinic in Europe, which supports the community in which we operate and the students we educate. The School's educational activity first gained recognition by the General Council and Register of Osteopaths in 1938 and HRH The Princess Royal became our Patron in 1984. The BSO plays a fundamental role in the development of the osteopathic profession, training leaders in the field, conducting research and setting new standards. As the standing of osteopathy has increased the BSO has evolved to meet the needs of patients and students in this expanding field of healthcare.

Paediatric Osteopathy

Osteopathy has a holistic approach to disease and osteopaths do not specialise in types of condition.

However, it is possible, and sometimes desirable, to specialise in types of patient. As a patient population children are significantly different from adults; practical experience and specialist knowledge are required for the examination, diagnosis and treatment of children.



Public demand for osteopathic care of children is increasing. The MSc provides a focussed programme of training and assessment for osteopaths with a special interest in paediatrics. The programme places great emphasis on self-criticism, reflective learning and continued self-development. The skills and knowledge peculiar to the care of children are best developed in a practical setting, which is why the clinical component is central to the process.

Neonates

Newborn babies form a large proportion of patients at the OCC. Osteopathy can be important in establishing the health of a baby. Children are often brought to clinic after a long labour or difficult delivery, some on the advice of a midwife or health visitor, some are brought for a routine check. As well as the delivery, intrauterine factors may affect a neonate, and these are most easily treated soon after birth.

Toddlers

Toddlers are difficult patients to treat. They throw tantrums, move and wriggle constantly and will not sit down, let alone lie still long enough to be treated. They require a good amount of technical skill as well as a lot of patience. Because toddlers are newly mobile they are prone to falls and minor accidents which may require osteopathic treatment. They also begin to mix with other children at nursery or playschool which exposes them to a great deal of infection.

Children

Many of the children that attend the OCC are unwell but essentially healthy; children with headaches, dyslexia, dyspraxia, constipation etc. The OCC also treats chronically ill patients with more serious conditions such as epilepsy, hydrocephalus, leukaemia, chronic asthma, rare syndromes, etc. Osteopathy can have a significant effect on children with these conditions and may make dramatic improvements to the quality of life they can lead.

Adolescents

Adolescents represent another group with their own specific type of conditions. Their rapid physical, emotional and intellectual development places great strain on the body. Adolescents commonly present with growth related disorders and conditions with psychosomatic influences. Osteopathic care can be complicated by their growing independence, and often conflicting views to parents.



Pregnant and postpartum women

The osteopathic care of a child should begin ideally from conception. Therefore the OCC also offers osteopathy to pregnant women. They often present with a problem caused by, or exacerbated by the pregnancy, and complain of back pain, oedema, breathlessness and heartburn. Whilst it is desirable to ease these complaints, it is also important to optimise spinal and pelvic mechanics in order to ensure healthy foetal development, and to reduce the risk of problems during delivery.



Neonatal Unit (NNU)

Osteopaths attend the neonatal unit in Barnet General Hospital. The majority of babies in the unit are preterm babies, some as young as 24 weeks gestation. NNU visits offer excellent exposure to seriously ill babies, in a completely different environment.

The M.Sc. in Paediatric Osteopathy

The MSc in Paediatric Osteopathy is a two-year, part-time course for registered osteopaths. It is validated by the University of Bedfordshire and delivered jointly by The Osteopathic Centre for Children (OCC) and The British School of Osteopathy (BSO).

All student paediatric osteopaths work one day a week in the OCC's busy clinic in Clerkenwell where they develop their knowledge and skills, treating patients with a wide range of interesting and complex conditions under the supervision of a team of experienced consultants. Practical clinical learning is supplemented by four to five intensive weekend symposia, comprising lectures, seminars and tutorials, each year. These take place at the BSO in Southwark.

The course runs over 24 months from October to September.

Aims of the Programme

This course is designed to enable registered osteopaths to develop into safe and proficient paediatric practitioners, secure in their knowledge base, aware of its limitations, with high-level critical reasoning and practical treatment skills.

As well as focusing on key osteopathic skills, the course covers birth and the care of the mother and the neonate, and growth and development through infancy and childhood to adolescence. Specialist units examine the major categories of challenges to health in childhood. In particular, the course aims to provide participants with:

- the knowledge and skills to recognise and manage the well and ill child
- an appreciation of the significance of growth and development of both the normal and sick child
- a sound basic knowledge of child health and disease
- the skills to carry out a full physical examination of a newborn infant, toddler, child and adolescent
- the skills to treat and manage a newborn infant, toddler, child and adolescent
- an appreciation of the relationship between structural factors in the causation of illness
- an appreciation of the importance of prevention in osteopathy, with particular regard to healthy structure and function, nutrition and avoidance of accidents

Structure of the Course

The programme consists of eight units. These are:

Birth and Delivery 15 credits

This unit covers the essential features of normal, pre-term and abnormal delivery. You will learn how to conduct an examination of a neonate, and develop an understanding of common obstetric and neonatal problems, relevant palpation and the principles and practice of condylar decompression and CV4 techniques.

Research and Postgraduate Learning 15 credits

Within this unit you will study research methodology and carry out a literature search and produce a research proposal. This provides the foundation for a clinical

learning portfolio of 10,000 – 12,000 words in which you will synthesise your research knowledge based in the context of your own professional practice.

The Respiratory System 15 credits

You will be introduced to the essential features of respiratory functioning and presenting problems in children. This includes a review of the respiratory anatomy, physiology and examination, otitis media, first breath, asthma, CV4, 12th rib release, respiratory effect on lymphatic and autonomic nervous system function and the effect of emotional shock on the respiratory system.

Infection and Immunity 15 credits

This unit explores the nature of the non-adult immune system and the influences on it of disease processes and of medical interventions such as vaccinations. You will learn about infections and immune disorders that represent both common and serious complaints in children.

Advanced Applied Anatomy 30 credits

This unit comprises an in-depth study of relevant anatomy with special attention paid to cranial anatomy, foramina, patterns, and the face and dental appliances. You will study the selection and modifications of osteopathic technique and develop your palpation skills.

Central Nervous System 15 credits

Cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism and similar conditions commonly present in clinic and are serious conditions requiring complex management. The seminars will include a critical review of each condition and the selection and application of osteopathic approaches

Orthopaedics 15 credits

In this unit you will learn about orthopaedic problems of childhood and their management, including paediatric back pain, gait and lower limb mechanics, malignancy, craniosynostosis, plagiocephaly, HVT of children, osteochondritis, slipped epiphyses and C.D.T.

Clinical Practice 60 Credits

This unit provides supervised clinical practice across the two-year course. It includes clinical demonstration, discussion, second opinion, self-evaluation and free exchange of ideas in a specialist osteopathic children's clinic with real patient encounters.

Support while you are studying

All students will be assigned a clinical learning tutor who will oversee your progress throughout the course. You will also be assigned a supervisor for your clinical learning portfolio. The University and BSO Learning Support and Welfare team are available to offer help and advice too.

The BSO has the largest osteopathic library in Europe and students have full access to all its facilities. You will also use the BSO's FirstClass software to access email, conferencing and internet facilities, and will be allocated a University of Bedfordshire Athens account giving you access to thousands of on-line resources and enhanced data-base searches.

Examination and assessment

Assessment takes place in a number of ways. There will be a review at the end of Term 1 to assess your progress. Following this, there will be continuous assessment of your clinical performance in clinic, and you will complete a number of assessed case reports. Two major pieces of written coursework are the research proposal (Unit 2) and the Clinical Learning Portfolio (Unit 8) of 10,000 – 12,000 words in which you will synthesise your research knowledge based in the context of your own professional practice. There are written examinations at the end of each year and a final clinical competence examination at the end of Year 2.

Entrance requirements

The programme is suitable for newly qualified and for more experienced practitioners who wish to develop an expertise in Paediatric Osteopathy.

All students must be registered with the GOsC and hold full indemnity insurance. Applicants should hold a minimum 2:1 UK osteopathic degree, or equivalent qualification and must have completed a postgraduate Sutherland Cranial Teaching Foundation approved course, either BSO or SCC. Applicants must be able to demonstrate an aptitude for working with children as well as the ability to study successfully at Masters level.

Criminal Record Disclosure

Because students will be in close contact with children all applicants must provide an enhanced criminal records disclosure before an offer of a place on the course can be confirmed.

Fees

Course fees for the academic year 2007 to 2008 TBC.

Admissions and General Enquiries

For general enquiries please contact

Application process

Please complete the application form enclosed and return it to:

Sonia Nelson-Cole
Osteopathic Centre for Children
The Schoolhouse
15a Woodbridge Street
London
EC1R 0ND
Tel: 020 7490 5510
e-mail: sonia.nelson-cole@occ.uk.com

The closing date for applications is 1st June but you are strongly encouraged to make application earlier. Interviews will be held during May and June.