


BRITISH COLLEGE OF
BCOM
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE



PROSPECTUS

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“We are committed to maintaining and further developing the osteopathic centre of excellence that is the British College of Osteopathic Medicine.”

Welcome to the British College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM), one of the first educational establishments to be accredited and meet the quality standards set by the profession's governing body, the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC).

Message from the Principal

Dr Ian Drysdale BSc, PhD, DO, ND, MRN



Welcome to the Prospectus of the British College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The College, usually referred to as BCOM, was one of the first educational establishments to be accredited and meet the quality standards set by the profession's governing body, the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC). As our name indicates, we at BCOM are committed to the practice of medicine as a healing art with the specific focus

on osteopathic technique application. Our extensive facilities all drive towards the education and training of safe, competent and efficient practitioners of Osteopathic Medicine that, at BCOM, includes the use of rational nutrition and dietetics, psychology, exercise physiology and hydrotherapy.

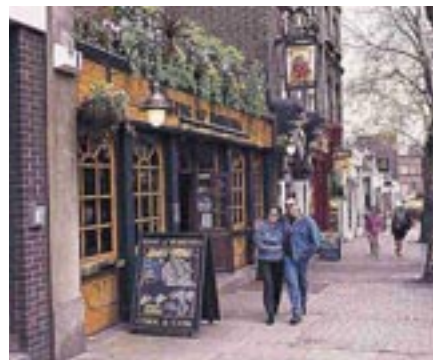
Our prospectus lays out and explains our course structure and content and gives an idea of the advantages of studying a BCOM degree. However, once you have considered the prospectus and visited our website at www.bcom.ac.uk, we strongly recommend that you visit us. Attending an Open Day at the College enables you to experience first-hand our facilities, to talk to faculty and, most importantly, to meet and talk to our students.

We are committed to maintaining and further developing the osteopathic centre of excellence that is the British College of Osteopathic Medicine, and to furthering our research programmes to underpin the evidence base for Osteopathic Medicine.

I hope to meet you at BCOM, but wherever you ultimately decide to study, I wish you every success in what I believe is a fascinating and rewarding profession.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian P. Drysdale". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr Ian P. Drysdale



Ten reasons for choosing BCOM

1 Holistic Philosophy

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

2 Funded Masters Degree

BCOM offers a full-time integrated masters degree for all its undergraduates. After four years, you can graduate with a Masters in Osteopathy. For eligible students, this course attracts public funding.

3 Professional Accreditation

BCOM is accredited with Recognised Qualification status by the UK's General Osteopathic Council.

4 Quality Of Teaching

The teaching offered at BCOM has been given the highest praise at external review.

5 Unrivalled Facilities

BCOM's campus environment offers students unrivalled lecture facilities, air-conditioned practical rooms, a state-of-the-art Human Performance Laboratory and hydrotherapy suite, a student refectory, games area and free internet café.

6 Research Excellence

BCOM's full-time staff have extensive research experience with many publications and our research facilities are the best among UK Osteopathic Institutions. BCOM is the founder of the International Conference on Advances in Osteopathic Research (ICAOR).

7 Clinic Experience

Supervised clinical training is at the core of learning at BCOM. We provide all our students with a diverse range of patients to develop osteopathic technique. BCOM students will usually see a patient from their initial consultation to the end of the treatment.

8 Full-Time Faculty

BCOM enjoys the highest number of full-time academic and clinical staff among the UK Osteopathic Institutions. This means more staff are available to our students.

9 Ideal Location

Situated close to Hampstead Heath, BCOM is ideally located. The West End is less than 15 minutes away by tube or bus.

10 Friendly Atmosphere

BCOM is noted for its warm and friendly atmosphere. Come to an Open Day and see for yourself. Parents and partners are always welcome too.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

www.bcom.ac.uk

The College

Our History

BCOM was the first UK Osteopathic Education Institution (OEI) to successfully validate an osteopathic honours degree and is the founder of the International Conference on Advances in Osteopathic Research. In 2008, it also became the first OEI ever to receive "approval without conditions" during a General Osteopathic Council review. The College was founded in 1936 by Stanley Lief, the famous naturopathic osteopath who founded the Champneys spa, and has been teaching Osteopaths in London ever since. Following a direct hit in an air raid on its campus during the Second World War, a patient of Lief's, Hector Frazer, donated a Victorian mansion to the College. This is now Frazer House, the centre of teaching and clinical training at BCOM. Frazer House almost doubled in size in 2004 by the construction of a modern extension, housing state-of-the-art lecture theatres, a refectory, free internet café and recreation facilities. Next to Frazer House is Lief House, BCOM's administrative and research hub.

Our Campus

The College is set in London's Hampstead, famous for its cosmopolitan atmosphere and extensive greenery. The scenic tranquillity of Hampstead Heath is nearby, yet that shopper's paradise, Oxford Street, is a short Underground ride away. Hampstead's renowned café culture, shopping, restaurants, nightlife and sports facilities are all nearby. BCOM provides excellent facilities for teaching and research. The family atmosphere between students and staff is exceptional, providing a close-knit support network for all. The College is immediately opposite Finchley Road Underground station, on the Metropolitan and Jubilee London Underground lines, and near London Overground's Finchley & Frognal station. Bus routes 82, 13, 113, C11 and C12 are also close by.



Graduates' View of College Life

Kate Brooker

Recent Graduate



I knew I wanted to become an Osteopath from my early twenties after my back problem was resolved in just a few treatments where other therapies had failed. The holistic and Naturopathic approach offered by BCOM was what attracted me to this college. It has been the best decision I have ever made.

BCOM has made me into a very holistic and naturopathic practitioner being able to examine patients from all walks of life and offer each one an individual and specific treatment plan to include diet and lifestyle advice, exercise and fitness advice as well as a wide range of treatment modalities. Throughout the four years of training, there have been many highs. It has been tough in places, however we are extremely well supported by all staff throughout the entire journey. There is always someone to ask.

I personally can't believe the change in me from day one, being excited and slightly intimidated as to what lay ahead to now, about to step back out into the real world as a qualified Osteopath! The reward for all the hard work is clearly visible in my patients. When someone consults you because they are in pain, a bit scared and confused as to what is wrong with them, you put their mind at ease and, after a few treatments, they leave telling you that they feel so much better – the feeling is amazing – a career couldn't get much more rewarding!

After Graduation

As a newly graduated Osteopath or Naturopath, you will have a number of possible areas of practice to consider: to set up on your own; to join an established practice; to work within the NHS; to join a multidisciplinary practice. As with all professions and indeed most new companies, you should anticipate it taking two to three years to develop a full practice with the financial return that goes with it. Whilst London may appear to offer the greatest opportunity, it also has the largest number of practitioners and the most expensive premises. Setting up your practice further afield, where your premises will cost less and your services may be in greater demand, makes a lot of sense.

There are also opportunities abroad, but a thorough examination of the particular country's laws relating to immigration and practice should be made at the respective consulate before considering such a course of action. The GOsC and GCRN Registers will reveal where members are currently practising in Britain and overseas.

Dianne Tayles

Recent Graduate



I began a career in banking almost without thought, beginning my working life as a secretary but moving into the commercial lending arm of the Royal Bank of Scotland, where I came to specialise in property and construction projects, where

I would regularly work with anything from an average of £20m up to £600m. I worked hard for many years but with rising levels of job-related stress, I turned to yoga. It seemed that the more I liked yoga, the less I liked banking! It was from my love of yoga and coming to see it as a medicine, like it is seen in India, that I turned to osteopathy. Then a life-changing event occurred in 2005. By this time, I was also working as a yoga teacher in the evenings and working during the day on London's Holborn. The 7th July 2005 bombings hit nearby and my colleagues and I were evacuated from our building; this was the moment that proved to be the catalyst for change. Within a month, I had resigned from my post and applied to the British College of Osteopathic Medicine. Whilst studying at BCOM - where I was awarded a student prize every year - I also earned a part-time income from teaching the intensive form of heat yoga known as Bikram yoga. Upon graduation in 2009, I set up a clinic room at my home, whereby I already treat my yoga clients for massage, and quickly had a list of willing patients all ready and waiting for when I graduated as an osteopath!



Stephen Makinde

BCOM Graduate

I am now both a BCOM graduate and a BCOM academic member of staff. After graduating from the College in 2004, I was able to return to teach whilst

also working in full-time practice. I have gone on to take a Diploma in Classical Osteopathy and a course in medical acupuncture. Two days a week, I work in a private practice, specialising in various spinal and non-spinal injuries in babies and adults, and a gym, treating sportsmen and -women. Returning to BCOM as an academic member of staff has moved my interests towards the field of Neuroscience and I have started a Masters at Queens Square Institute of Neurology. I am keen to expand the research field on which Osteopathy is based, improving our understanding of the workings of the human body as well as updating some of the theories upon which we treat patients.

After Graduation

After graduation, you will have a number of possible areas of practice to consider. There are also many opportunities abroad, but a thorough examination of the particular country's laws and regulation is necessary. The Professional Registers shows where members are currently practising in Britain and overseas.

PRACTICE Private Practice NHS Practice Specialist Practice

Most BCOM graduates set up or join osteopathic practices. It is usually the role that first attracted them to the profession and encapsulates the therapeutic skills and patient contact that has fascinated generations of practitioners. There are additional opportunities for work within the NHS. Specialist practice is another fascinating route: BCOM graduate Annabel Jenks has set up one of the most successful animal osteopathy practices in the country.

CORPORATE Broadcasting Publishing Consultancy

It may be a surprise but there are many opportunities for media and corporate work for osteopathy graduates. BCOM graduate Michael van Straten is perhaps Britain's best-known osteopath in the media, with many books and television and radio programmes in his career. There are additional roles in corporate consultancy as increasing numbers of major organisations require professional advice and input for musculo-skeletal and health issues among their staff.

EDUCATION Teaching Research Regulation

Many of our graduates go into full- or part-time teaching both at BCOM and elsewhere. The BCOM Principal and the Head of Osteopathy are both College graduates, as are numerous senior osteopathic educators. BCOM is one of the most influential osteopathic research institutions in the world. Our graduates extend their academic lives with research work, which is encouraged by the Osteopaths Act 1993. Crucial to Osteopathic Education is the regulatory role of the General Osteopathic Council, which approves osteopathic graduates as practitioners and the institutions that train them. The Council's Head of Development is a BCOM graduate.



“Osteopathy is a career where each patient presents as a puzzle that you have to solve. Being able to find out what is wrong with the patient, explaining the problem and then treating it is very rewarding.”

“Holistic or Naturopathic Osteopathy focuses on more than diagnosing and treating the structural and mechanical problems of the body. It encompasses looking at diet, lifestyle and mental well-being to restore the state of balance within the total bodily function.”



Our Philosophy

BCOM promotes a philosophy of Holistic and Naturopathic Osteopathic Medicine. Osteopathic Medicine is a system of manipulation, using the hands to correct joint and tissue abnormalities. Restoring physical and mental well-being, it makes it easier for the body to function normally and to recuperate effectively. Central to Naturopathic teaching is the belief that the body has the ability to heal itself through its own “homeostatic” mechanisms. Naturopathy addresses itself to “wholeness”. The individual is sustained by the food they eat, their mental attitudes and the ability to adapt to their environment. In Naturopathy, incorrect diet and environmental

pollution are among the principal causes of poor health. Naturopathy uses dietary and lifestyle advice, hydrotherapy and other “modalities”. It is not an invasive regime and, as a way of life, is a logical basis for health. BCOM believes that Osteopathy and Naturopathy have many inherent therapeutic links and synthesising these is at the core of BCOM’s philosophy. These concepts were once radical for mainstream healthcare but research has come to support the idea of such a “Bio-Psycho-Social Medicine”. Holistic and Naturopathic Osteopathy as taught and practised within BCOM’s teaching clinics, is based on this Bio-Psycho-Social model of health care.

Professional Associations

The College is accredited by the registering body, The General Osteopathic Council, and therefore all graduates are eligible to apply for statutory registration. Since the Osteopaths Act of 1993, it is a criminal offence to practise Osteopathy in the United Kingdom if you are not registered.

The General Osteopathic Council
Osteopathy House
176 Tower Bridge Road
London SE1 3LU
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7357 6655
www.osteopathy.org.uk



The British Osteopathic Association is a professional membership body that provides independent representation, care and support for osteopaths. Membership of the association is voluntary.

The British Osteopathic Association
3 Park Terrace
Manor Road
Luton
Beds LU1 3HN
Tel: +44 (0) 1582 488455
www.osteopathy.org



The College is also accredited by the General Council and Register of Naturopaths and all graduates are therefore eligible to apply for membership of the Register of Naturopaths:

The General Council and Register of Naturopaths
Goswell House
2 Goswell Road
Street BA16 0JG
Tel: +44 (0) 8707 456984
www.naturopathy.org.uk



“The inclusion of clinical dietetics, psychosomatics, hydrotherapy and lifestyle assessment gives students at BCOM a unique appreciation of the totality of patient health.”

The Courses

Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost)

This is a four-year undergraduate university-validated integrated masters degree. Its purpose is to produce graduates suitable for registration with the General Osteopathic Council as safe, competent osteopaths in practice.

Entry to the M.Ost incorporates the award of Diploma in Osteopathy and Diploma in Naturopathy, which are professional awards denoting clinical competence and are GOSc- and GCRN-accredited, enabling appropriate professional registration. The M.Ost offers one of the best routes into this fast-growing profession. It attracts public funding for eligible students, including those affected by ELQ (Equivalent and Lower Qualifications).

The aims of the degree are:

1. To ensure that graduates acquire adequate clinical competence via a self-critical approach to integrated, learned skills.
2. To instil an evidence-based research ethos into practitioners of clinical practice through holistic Osteopathic Medicine.
3. To acquire knowledge and understanding of health and its promotion.
4. To acquire knowledge and understanding of disease, its prevention and management in the context of the whole individual and his or her place in the family and in society.
5. To promote an attitude of inquiry and the maintenance of this attitude into professional life and to keep abreast of current knowledge by maintaining Continuing Professional Development.
6. To foster inter-professional dialogue and referral.
7. To recognise the advanced standard of professional competence and responsibility demonstrated by Masters-level graduate practitioners of Osteopathic Medicine.

The College also supports candidates on postgraduate pathways including MPhil/PhD programmes. Further information regarding any of the above courses may be found on the College website at www.bcom.ac.uk or by contacting the Registrar at the College.

Diploma in Osteopathy (D.O.)

This award covers the principles and practice of Osteopathy as originally founded by A.T. Still. Osteopathic manipulative techniques are studied from the base of bio-mechanical principles through supervised classroom student practice, moving towards clinical application.

Diploma in Naturopathy (N.D.)

This diploma covers the principles and practice of Naturopathy as evolved from Hippocrates and the early Greek philosopher practitioners. The basis of naturopathic practice is founded on the maintenance of health rather than curing of disease.

BSc (Hons) Osteopathy for Diplomates

Known popularly as the Conversion Course, students enrolling on this degree will already be fully qualified and practising Osteopaths with professional registration. The degree is designed to convert academically their Diploma in Osteopathy to degree level.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

www.bcom.ac.uk

“Entry to the M.Ost programme incorporates the Diploma in Osteopathy and the Diploma in Naturopathy, which are professional awards denoting clinical competence and are GOSc- and GCRN-accredited, enabling appropriate professional registration.”

Teaching and Learning

The M.Ost integrates academic knowledge with applied clinical skills. The clinic forms the focal point of the course and academic components are revisited with each new clinical case. The clinical component is significant and the level of achievement is high. These standards are at the core of BCOM's high academic reputation throughout the osteopathic sector.

Teaching

The M.Ost involves a minimum of 25 hours theory and practical classes per week.

Due to its large clinical component, the College is operational for 51 weeks per year. The academic year is three terms of 12 weeks during a 36-week year in Years One and Two and a 45-week year in Years Three and Four. There will be clinical training outside term times in Years Three and Four.

Learning

A high percentage of practical study demonstrates the skills required to become an Osteopath. At least 25 per cent of lectures have an interactive group-based approach and a high proportion of the osteopathic/practical sessions are tutorial-based. Years One and Two are essentially delivered via traditional lectures, whereas Years Three to Four incorporate a more problem-based learning approach using clinical situations with real patients. A tutorial system throughout the course provides feedback and guidance.

Assessment

Assessment takes the form of formal examinations, coursework, practical and clinical assessments, vivas and a research paper. Final examinations are usually set at or near the end of the academic year. All students receive an assessment schedule. This timetable is published on Osteonet, the College intranet.

Research

BCOM's involvement in research is central to its educational activities. Evidence-based medicine is increasingly being required to demonstrate the efficacy of treatments. As part of its commitment to research, BCOM founded ICAOR. The M.Ost replaced BCOM's traditional Dissertation with an innovative, publication-ready research paper. The best BCOM student research has been presented at international osteopathic conferences.

The syllabus content can be found in detail on the College website at www.bcom.ac.uk.

Below is the subject list for the Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost), your likely enrolment route. For syllabi of other courses, please visit our website.

YEAR ONE

Anatomy: Osteology & Arthrology
Cardio-respiratory Physiology
Anatomy: Myology
Anatomy: Neurology
Nutrition & Biochemistry
GI, Renal and Endocrine Physiology
Principles of Naturopathy
Principles of Osteopathy
Osteopathic Technique
Soft-Tissue Techniques

YEAR TWO

Integrated Anatomy
Clinic Theory & Observation
Diagnosis
Spinal Mechanics
Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics
Physiology
Pathology
Exercise Physiology
Clinical Soft-Tissue Techniques
Osteopathic Technique

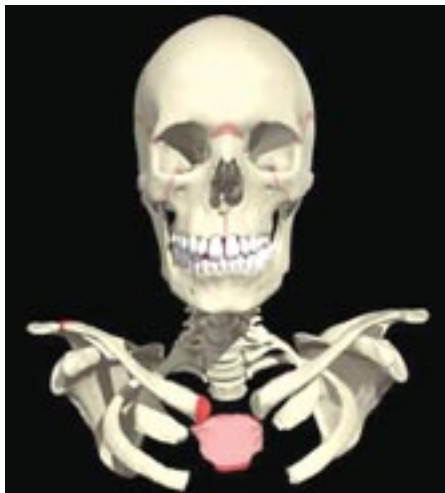
YEAR THREE

Differential Diagnosis
X-ray Diagnosis, Rheumatology & Orthopaedics
Psychology
Paediatrics
Research Methodology
Peripheral Mechanics
Applied Natural Therapeutics
Applied Pharmacology
Clinical Practice
Osteopathic Technique

YEAR FOUR

Clinical Rheumatology, Orthopaedics & X-ray
Clinical Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Clinical Psychosomatics
Practice Management, Ethics And Audit
Project (double module)
Osteopathic Clinical Practice



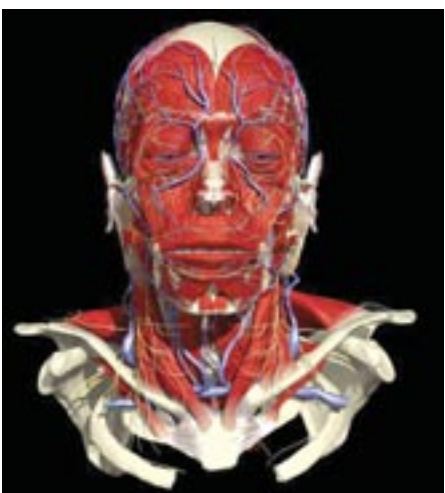


Digital And New Media Learning



From the earliest days of new "self-directed learning" technologies in higher education, BCOM has embraced the digital learning environment. In 2008, it replaced its landmark Vesalius student intranet with a cutting-edge in-house site, which the staff and students voted to name **Osteonet**. This has some unique and sector-leading functionalities and is the central point for news, assessment results, all lecture notes, general information about BCOM and a wide range of University, academic, osteopathic and medical links.

Some especially exciting features of Osteonet include an innovative and much-praised searchable electronic dissertation archive, a direct link to the prestigious AnatomyTV©, a students-only Career Opportunities microsite and a College forum.



Images courtesy and copyright of Primal Pictures Ltd.

“Many students make use of the equipment to generate data for their dissertations and all students are able to access the Laboratory as part of their research programme.”

Clinical Education

Clinical Practice

The clinics at Netherhall Gardens and BCOM's satellite clinics are the applied expression of the College's training philosophy – that is, real practical experience. Clinical experience commences in Year Two when the student will be able to observe patient diagnosis and treatment first-hand. Later, a one-to-one treatment relationship exists between student practitioner and patient. This provides "continuity of care" which creates a positive rapport with the patient, and mimics real private practice.

Our clinics are held in high regard by patients, so much so that people are willing to travel some distance to attend. As a registered charity, the College offers subsidised treatment fees and all children are treated free and concessions are available. Clinics are open throughout the year and enjoy a reputation for excellence.

Clinical Supervision

Year Two: clinic is an observational clinic with no direct responsibility for patients. Each Year Two student will begin to record comments in their clinical learning journal and will enter into peer-group discussion whilst in clinic, guided by the clinical tutor.

Year Three: clinic commences as a structured teaching clinic with students progressively taking direct responsibility for patients under close supervision and observed by peers. As the student's abilities develop, supervision becomes less intensive. A high tutor:student supervision ratio continues throughout.

Year Four: clinic is increasingly independent with less intensive supervision. Peer-group clinical observation is still encouraged and small group discussions remain regular features.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT THE COLLEGE WEBSITE AT:

www.bcom.ac.uk



Facilities and Resources



The Library

The Library has been at the same site since the College moved to Netherhall Gardens in 1953. It houses over 4000 volumes and is particularly strong in historical alternative medicine books, some extremely rare. The Library has a reading room, a computer room, a journal room and a "Learn Out Loud" space, for students who prefer to use verbal and practical learning, as well as standard and specialist software and anatomical models. BCOM students also have access to our university catalogue and the British Library. Free internet access is also available.

Research Laboratories

The College Research Department is maintained by dedicated full-time staff, all possessing current published research experience. The Department is centred on two facilities: a Human Performance Laboratory and a Hydrotherapy Suite.

Human Performance Laboratory

The Human Performance Laboratory, which opened in 1997, contains a range of state-of-the-art equipment. It is the hub of BCOM's extensive research and is perhaps the most advanced human-performance research facility of any European osteopathic institution. Many BCOM students use these cutting-edge facilities during their research work.

- **RS Scan** foot scan to measure static and dynamic balance
- **Electromyograph** to measure electrical activity in muscles
- **Digitalmyograph** to digitally map muscular strength

resistance

- **Cubaclinical** to digitally map and monitor bone density
- **Portable Spirometer** to digitally measure lung function
- **BodPod** whole-body-composition digital analysis and body mapping
- **Cortex** to measure respiratory function
- **Cybox Norm** to measure isometric and isokinetic body function
- **Laser Doppler** to digitally monitor peripheral bloodflow
- **Back Range and Cervical Range** protractors
- **Treadmills**
- **Exercise Bikes**
- **Blood Pressure Monitors** including computerised analysis
- **Skin-fold Callipers**

Hydrotherapy Suite

The separate Hydrotherapy Suite contains a range of baths and showers to examine in detail the beneficial effects of hydrotherapy. Changes in bloodflow and muscle function can be effectively studied. This facility is also used in student research.

Dissection Room

BCOM offers the most extensive human-dissection teaching of any UK osteopathic institution. This uniquely prominent aspect of BCOM's teaching is a perennial student favourite. Dissection classes often take place at the prestigious UCL Dissection Room.

“Our open days are highly recommended by applicants who have attended them, experiencing the many facilities BCOM offers.”

Entry Requirements

Standard Entry

Good passes in Biology and Chemistry A level are the usual school-level qualifications for students wishing to gain admission to the M.Ost. BCOM has responded to the changed A level school curriculum by introducing an element of flexibility in the requirement of a third A level. The resultant profile would therefore usually be three A levels, including one in Biology and one in Chemistry, with the grades B, C, C (280 UCAS Tariff points). In addition, students are expected to have passed five GCSEs including Maths and English (at grades A-C).

Key Skills: The acquisition of Key Skills will be viewed as a positive component of a candidate's application. The College has a clearly defined Key Skills policy and is committed to the personal development of students. Other UK Qualifications/ Pathways that enable entry to the course include a recognised equivalent qualification e.g. BTEC, HND, science foundation course, science access course and Scottish Highers.

Graduate Entry

Applications from those with previous degrees and from mature students are welcome. All such applications are considered on an individual basis, taking into account the applicant's academic and life experiences to date. Demonstrable evidence of the study of Biology and Chemistry will usually be required but applicants holding good degrees (2.1 or above) in non-science/-health subjects will be considered on merit. Students with relevant medical or scientific qualifications may gain exemption from parts of the course at the discretion of the Exemption Panel of the College. Applications for exemption must be submitted at the start of each relevant academic year.

ELQ (Equivalent & Lower Qualification) Status

The UK government's funding rules have changed so that those that have previously studied at one level (e.g. a first degree) cannot be funded again for an equivalent or lower qualifications (i.e. another undergraduate degree). This affects all UK students in all types of subject area. However, at BCOM, "ELQ" students are usually able to achieve funding because the Masters in Osteopathy includes masters-level study. This is an important consideration for graduate entrants and a major advantage in studying at BCOM.

International Students

Applications are invited from overseas students who possess recognised

A-level equivalent qualifications, e.g. International Baccalaureate, Gymnasium or entry to a university Biological Science degree. Overseas students must also possess a Use of English Qualification at an appropriate medical-science level, e.g. TOEFL > 575 or IELTS > 6.5.

Application and Interview

It is College policy to interview all students whose UCAS application demonstrates appropriate academic study/qualifications, a clearly stated interest in the Osteopathic profession. Acceptable references must be provided. Interviews take place at the College with the Admissions Panel, typically the Registrar with another member of Faculty.

Open Days

The College hosts regular open-day events; normally these are held from November onwards, enabling students to visit and experience the College before responding to any offer from UCAS. Our open days are highly recommended by applicants who have attended them, experiencing the many facilities BCOM offers. Feedback from open-day questionnaires indicates that they are very informative. Prospective students talk of the "warm and friendly atmosphere".

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT RESEARCH PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.bcom.ac.uk

How to Apply to BCOM

Formal application for entry must be made through the UCAS system.

To submit a formal application you will need a UCAS Application Form and access to the UCAS Directory or the UCAS website www.ucas.ac.uk. These are available at Schools and Colleges through the Head of Year or Course Director.

If you need help or advice on your individual application you should contact your careers adviser or call UCAS's Customer Service Unit:

UCAS
PO Box 28
Cheltenham
GL52 3LZ
Tel. +44 (0)870 1122211
Email: enquiries@ucas.ac.uk

UCAS can receive applications for any given year after 1st September of the preceding year and you should aim to submit your application by mid-January. UCAS will accept applications after this date, but it is left to the institution's discretion whether such applications are considered. BCOM accepts applications for consideration throughout the annual UCAS cycle, therefore all prospective candidates will receive consideration. Please note: you will also be required to complete a BCOM Application Form for College admission purposes.

Submitting an Application

If you require assistance with completing your application, please contact the Registrar's Office. If you are looking at the UCAS Directory or accessing the UCAS website, the College's Institution Code is B81. Please note that UCAS Course Codes are subject to change, so refer to their directory or website for the latest information.





Student Support

BCOM Tutorial System

BCOM operates an integrated tutorial system with academic and pastoral support at all stages of the course. This system of support has been developed in the context of the needs of students studying a clinical degree.

This has the following components:

- Personal tutors
- Year tutors
- Course-specific tutor
- Academic/Osteopathic/Clinical support
- Professional counselling
- Student peer support

Year and Personal Tutors

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

As well as the Year Tutor, each student has a Personal Tutor whom they may choose themselves. This tutor will usually accompany the student through the course.

Student Peer Support has proved very successful as an internal support mechanism for students. In Freshers Week, the Student Union organise a number of events, one of which is an evening when new students are allocated a 'student buddy', to use as little or much as he/she feels appropriate.

Funding

BCOM is a publicly funded institution and the level of the top-up fees is the same as at any other Higher Education Institution in the UK.

For more detailed information about Home, EU and Overseas fees, your eligibility for student loans or any funding related issues please contact the Registry Department at admissions@bcom.ac.uk.

College Counsellor

The College employs counsellors for students who wish to take advantage of this service. All appointments are confidential and are free to students.

Special Needs/Disability

Special needs/disability are identified at the admissions stage (as declared on the UCAS form). The College has active contact with its students with disabilities and together, they have developed a Disability Action Plan and Equality Scheme. A one-stop Disability Pack is available on Osteonet giving a huge amount of relevant information for BCOM students.

Health Care Advice for Students

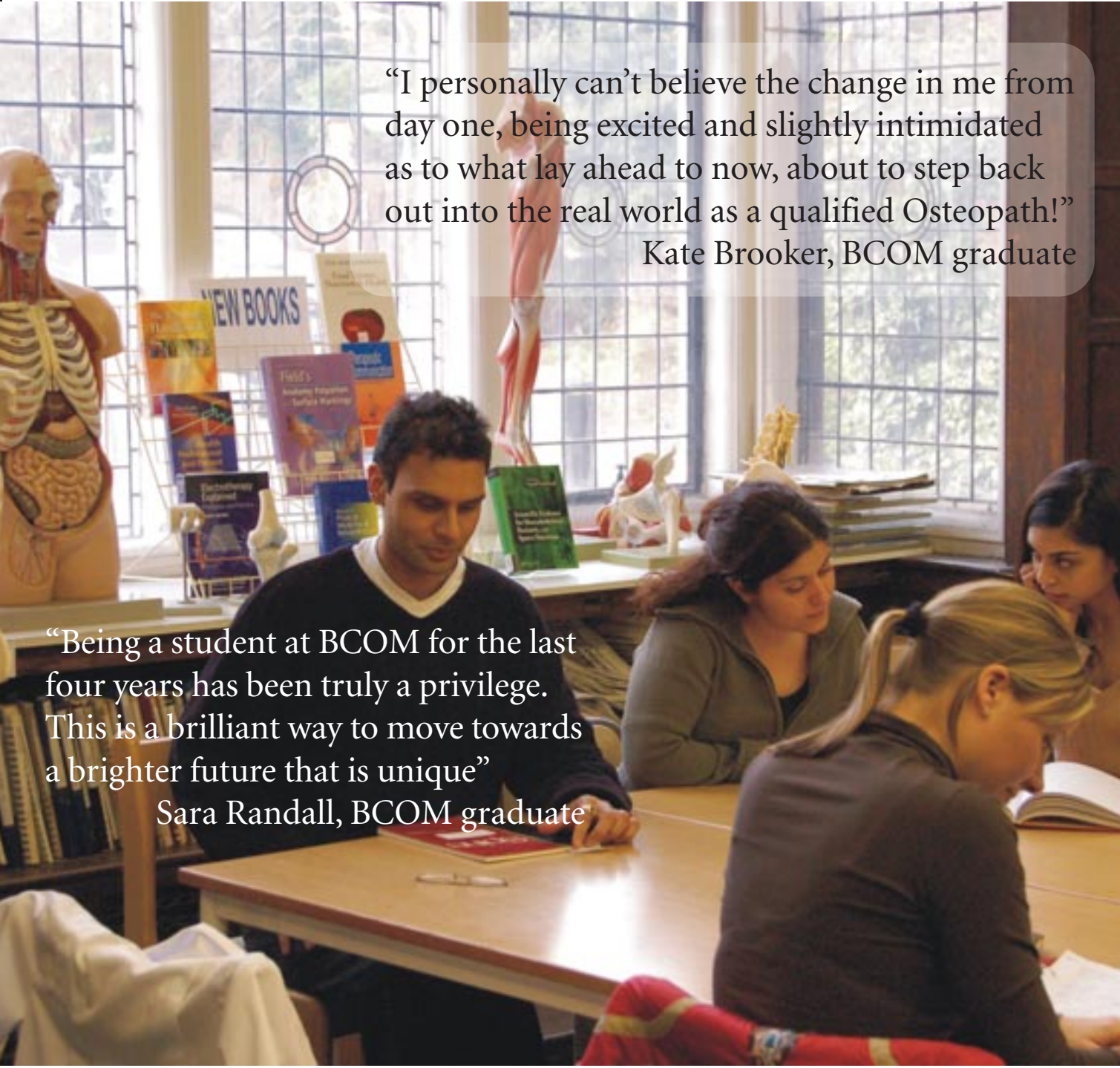
The College clinic is available, free of charge, for students with health problems, provided that a senior clinical tutor has assessed and agreed the case. The clinical staff are also available to help students who require advice on where to find specialist care or support.

Accommodation

The College helps students find living accommodation. The Registrar, in collaboration with the Student Union, maintains and updates an accommodation register that includes a range of house lets, flats, bedsits and hostel accommodation within easy reach of the College.

“As well as the Year Tutor, each student has a personal tutor whom they choose themselves. This tutor will usually accompany the student through the four years of the course and will help, guide or refer the student if they have problems.”

What Students Say



“I personally can’t believe the change in me from day one, being excited and slightly intimidated as to what lay ahead to now, about to step back out into the real world as a qualified Osteopath!”

Kate Brooker, BCOM graduate

“Being a student at BCOM for the last four years has been truly a privilege. This is a brilliant way to move towards a brighter future that is unique”

Sara Randall, BCOM graduate

“You will find, in both your colleagues and your tutors - and all staff at BCOM - warmth and friendliness, which I believe is unparalleled in the academic world. And I have done a degree before!”

Barry Kleinberg, BCOM graduate

“I believe that you could not make a better choice than to become an Osteopath and that BCOM is the best place for you to do that.”

Message from the Student Union President

If you are reading this prospectus, it means two things:-

1. You are considering a career in Osteopathy – well done.
2. You are considering pursuing your studies at BCOM – brilliantly done!

At BCOM, you will be provided with a first-class education. You will become excellent anatomists, have superb handling of your patients etc etc but that is not why you are reading my contribution to this prospectus. You will find, in both your colleagues and your tutors - and all staff at BCOM - warmth and friendliness, which I believe is unparalleled in the academic world. And I have done a degree before!

BCOM is a relatively small college, which means that within a very short period of time you will know most of the students and all of the teaching staff. They will provide you with friendship and more importantly, a support system throughout what is a challenging course. You will find your colleagues provide academic support as well as one or two drinking buddies, no doubt! You will find a remarkable mix of people at the College. There are students from many countries, speaking different languages and from vastly different backgrounds. Many BCOM students are school leavers, whilst others are in their thirties, forties and beyond and from other professional backgrounds.

The facilities offered by BCOM are excellent, with use of the UCL Dissection Room (no other Osteopathic colleges offer this), an extremely well-equipped human performance lab and a well-stocked library. You will also be exposed to much more than just biomechanical Osteopathy, again a unique part of your BCOM experience. You will learn lots about nutrition whilst also qualifying as a Naturopath. Indeed these should be viewed as intrinsic parts of your practice as an Osteopath. BCOM is well situated with easy access by rail, tube and bus and we all use local pubs, restaurants and shops regularly.

All in all, I believe that you could not make a better choice than to become an Osteopath and that BCOM is the best place for you to do that. Good luck and looking forward to you joining us soon.

Student Union President





The Student Union

There is an active Student Union at the College. It is affiliated to the National Union of Students and offers members reduced-price travel and various other typical NUS benefits. The student-elected President and team have their own dedicated office within the student common room. Regular parties, inter-collegiate sporting activities and curry nights are just a selection of extra-curricular activities organised by the team.

The Student Union also participates fully in the academic life of the College and is represented in a number of important committees, acting as a liaison between students, College management and the BCOM Board of Governors. Student Welfare is also a key area of involvement.

Recreational Facilities

Students have their own common room and a communal games room with pool and table tennis tables, dartboard and coffee-break facilities. A canteen offers a daily health-conscious menu with breakfasts, hot meals and snacks. The canteen's sociable atmosphere makes it a popular meeting place for students. University recreational facilities are open to BCOM students.

“The canteen’s sociable atmosphere makes it a popular meeting place for students.”

Freshers Week

This is the first week of term at the College and is structured to introduce students to the course and to College life in general. The College Administration and Students Union prepare a programme of events to welcome students to BCOM. The first day is scheduled for enrolment, financial administration and a formal welcome from the Principal and members of Faculty, culminating in an early evening social event.

Introductory lectures and practical Osteopathic classes commence on day two, accompanied by an introduction to research, all with an emphasis on meeting Faculty and interacting with other peer groups of students.

Key members of staff will be on hand for dedicated advice during this week.

By week two, new students are feeling very much at home.



“The West End, Covent Garden, South Bank and City are all just 15-25 minutes away, offering easy access to a huge variety of some of the world’s best cinemas, theatres, parks, museums, shops and galleries.”



Living in London

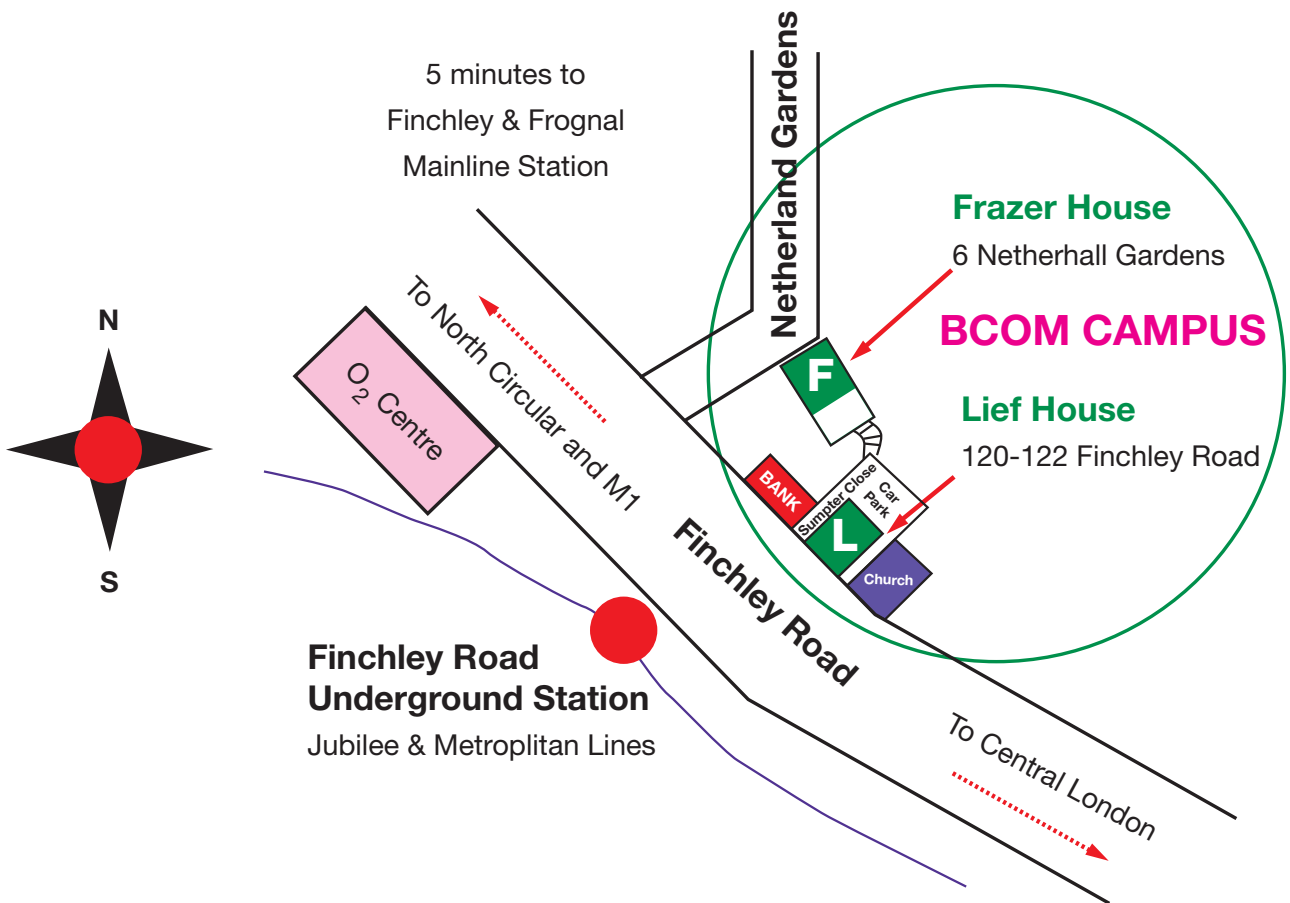
There is nowhere quite like London. No city in the world so effortlessly mixes the contemporary with the historic, the hip with the classic. From Carnival in Notting Hill to Christmas on Regent Street, through palaces and parks, world-famous museums and cutting-edge galleries, incomparable nightlife and innumerable restaurants, theatres and cinemas, London is the perfect place to be a student.

London is also home to unparalleled educational facilities as well as one of the world's largest communities of complementary practitioners – and a population that uses them. Just 15 minutes from the recreation hub of the West End by tube, BCOM offers its students access to its own highly regarded College Library, two on-site osteopathic clinics, one specialising in research, as well as university facilities and the British Library. At BCOM, you really are just moments from it all.

But London is also where millions of people – 400,000 of them students – come to live. BCOM is in elegant Hampstead, one of the city's most desirable areas, much-loved by Londoners for its green spaces, notably Hampstead Heath.

Hampstead is not just an exclusive neighbourhood: within easy reach of the College are pleasant, affordable areas in which to live, a buzzing multicultural world of cheap eats, health-food shops and international markets. In addition, in London students can use many special passes and offers, making life much more affordable.





The College is situated on the Finchley Road, near Swiss Cottage in London NW3, and benefits from good road and public transport links into and out of the capital. It is immediately opposite Finchley Road Underground station, which is on the Metropolitan and Jubilee London Underground lines. Bus routes 82, 13, 113, C11 and C12 are also close by.



“We are unique in offering a naturopathic/holistic approach to osteopathy, as well as being the only osteopathic college to provide on-site Human Performance Laboratory and hydrotherapy facilities – a cutting-edge laboratory and centre for applied physiology research.”



BRITISH COLLEGE OF
BCOM
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

BCOM, Lief House , 120-122 Finchley Road, London NW3 5HR

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7435 6464 • **Facsimile:** +44 (0) 20 7431 3630

Website: www.bcom.ac.uk • **Email:** admissions@bcom.ac.uk

Accredited by the General Osteopathic Council
and the General Council and Register of Naturopaths