



# Diploma in Paediatric Osteopathy (DPO) Prospectus

Foundation  
for Paediatric  
Osteopathy



Osteopathic  
Centre for  
Children

# Welcome

## Stuart Korth, Director of Osteopathy

For more than twenty five years now I have had the great good fortune to share my vision for osteopathy with many extraordinarily gifted colleagues through working in the clinics of the Foundation for Paediatric Osteopathy. Nothing, in my experience, can compare with the insights gained in sharing the joys, tragedies, treatment successes and exposure to unusual and severe conditions that happen in the open clinic setting on a daily basis.



## Nancy Nunn, Head of Education

As a practising osteopath who has completed a DPO programme, I think the experience gained from working at the Osteopathic Centre for Children is something which cannot be matched anywhere else. Students who have spent two years with a minimum of 90 days working in the clinic will have gained confidence to manage children from delicate neonates to robust adolescents. Personally, I found the exposure to the management of children with very serious illnesses and the “hands-on learning” which can be gained from regular supervision within a clinical setting to be invaluable. In addition, the skills gained enhanced my understanding of osteopathic principles and practice, guiding the development of a highly personal, yet consistent, style of osteopathic practice. I am in no doubt that you will also find the benefits for your paediatric practice significant and the course rewarding; I look forward to sharing your learning journey through this area of practice.



# The course

## The FPO's Diploma in Paediatric Osteopathy offers...

### A holistic approach to learning – in the clinic

As a postgraduate student on the DPO, all elements of your learning and assessment are based in and linked to our renowned paediatric clinic – the Osteopathic Centre for Children (OCC).

We offer every postgraduate student 90 days of supervised, consistent, hands-on paediatric experience, unlike other courses which offer more classroom based learning with some clinical observation.

The OCC is central to all learning; a postgraduate student's experience is guided and enriched by the breadth of patient presentations and expert faculty supervision. We are committed to ensuring the continued existence of a full-time specialist clinic in which to nurture in-depth paediatric competence.

Most of our postgraduate students will follow our standard 2-year part-time course. We feel that this learning pattern, based in the clinic, gives an osteopath the best grounding for their clinical practice.

We can also offer a small number of osteopaths a Flexible Route, an alternative pattern incorporating all the same elements but with a more flexible timescale. This makes our course an option for osteopaths who, for reason of distance, may otherwise be denied the opportunity to benefit from the expertise in our unique clinical environment.



# The course



## An osteopath's experience

"The treatment of children is a specialist field that demands excellence in provision of care. If you wish to take the field of paediatrics seriously then you require rigorous paediatric education. The Diploma in Paediatric Osteopathy (DPO) provides unparalleled paediatric training.

The unique clinical setting of the OCC is a rarity in osteopathy. You begin to integrate theoretical knowledge with the realities of clinical practice. You develop and refine your skills of palpation, examination, differential diagnosis, treatment, communication and management.

The DPO offers you the opportunity to learn specialist skills including five days per year in a neonatal intensive care unit. Nowhere else in the country can you gain the privileged experience of understanding and appreciating health within the context of prematurity.

The OCC provides an unrivalled experience that opens the door to a lifetime of personal and professional growth. The course gave me the competence and confidence to build a busy paediatric list in private practice. I can't imagine a more comprehensive manner in which this experience could be gained."

Roger Whalley M.Ost D.P.O. PgC ACE

# The course

## A clinical setting

The hub of the DPO course is the unique clinical experience it offers. As paediatric osteopathic practice is a practical subject, all your effective learning takes place in and around our clinic. The OCC, a charity clinic offering treatment to families regardless of their ability to pay, sees up to 100 paediatric patients per day. Consultation and treatment takes place in a lively open plan space.

Our postgraduate students attend weekly, ensuring there is continuous experience for them. Within the OCC clinic, learning is shared and collective, and the treatment, while individual, often feels collaborative and community-based. Osteopaths and patients alike experience a more integrated and connected osteopathy.

Ours is an innovative model which has been copied in postgraduate teaching across Europe.

## Continuity of patient lists

Each student manages an ongoing patient list; as an authentic autonomous practitioner, you see your own patients, monitoring and learning from their progress. Other students and tutors may assist in treatment and share the encounter but essentially each patient has one particular osteopath who follows their care.

“Studying at the OCC was the best thing I could have done to further my work with paediatric osteopathy and osteopathic treatment during pregnancy. The range of conditions which present to the OCC is vast, from every day conditions that we treat to very rare and complex disorders. Not only does the intensive course work give you the diagnostic skills to be safe and proficient, the one on one support provided by the extremely experienced and skilled consultants every week is invaluable. It provides an environment where you can discuss cases for diagnostics and then develop and clarify palpation skills to enable diagnosis treatment of complex conditions. I am also forever grateful for the continuing network and support that remains after completion of the course.

Allison Atkin M.Ost D.P.O.

# The course

## Faculty expertise

Our clinical faculty are all practising paediatric osteopaths with diverse osteopathic backgrounds and extensive expertise and originality. They embody a broad range of osteopathic traditions and technical approaches, not confined to one particular style or philosophy, but rather embracing all possible osteopathic principles and practice. It follows that your student experience is comprehensive, leading to diverse and unrestricted approaches and possibilities.



## International standing

Most of our faculty are considered leaders in the field, and are in much demand as guest lecturers on courses across the world and speakers at conferences.

The FPO has strong links with the Fondazione di Osteopatia Pediatrica in San Marino and the Osteopathisches Zentrum für Kinder in Vienna. Teaching and speaking appointments in the last few years have taken us to Antwerp, Gent, Vienna, San Marino and Poznan, among others.



“The extensive experience and knowledge I gained working at the Osteopathic Centre for Children helped develop my paediatric practice greatly but also left me with a skill set transferable to the rest of my osteopathic practice.

The osteopaths, from the consultants to students, working within the clinic create a nurturing and supportive environment in which you can hone existing skills, whilst evolving new approaches to the practice of osteopathy.”

Lauren Storey M.Ost D.P.O.

# The course

## Course structure

The course is divided into interconnected units delivering the different aspects of the course: clinical practice, applied anatomy, palpation, clinical presentations and advanced infants and neonates. Teaching and learning is in the form of seminar weekends, frequent tutorials, clinical supervision and guidance, report writing and clinical reflection. Assessment is similarly varied: case report marking and feedback, clinic assessment feedback and reflection, written and viva exams. All units are based in the clinic and around your individual clinical experience.



Introduction to Paediatric Osteopathy	Paediatric Clinical Practice	Applied Anatomy and Palpation	Clinical Presentations	Advanced Infants and Neonates	
Seminar weekends Clinical observations Tutorials	Clinical Supervision Supervised reflective practice and appraisal Attendance and outreach clinics Tutorials	Clinical Supervision Seminar weekends Tutorials	Seminar weekends Tutorials Case report writing	Hospital clinic attendance and supervision	FIRST YEAR
	Clinical Supervision Supervised reflective practice and appraisal Attendance and outreach clinics Tutorials	Clinical Supervision Seminar weekends Tutorials	Seminar weekends Tutorials Case report writing	Hospital clinic attendance and supervision Seminar weekend Tutorials	SECOND YEAR

Standard Route Course Outline

# The course

## Flexible route to the DPO

Many of our students travel significant distances to benefit from working in the OCC clinic and studying for the DPO. We appreciate that this is a substantial investment of time, money and travel, and recognize that at times distance can make this prohibitive.

We therefore offer a limited number of places to osteopaths who are unable to commute to London on a weekly basis. For some, this will mean that the course runs over more than two years but the standards and academic requirements will remain identical to our Standard Route. If you wish to be considered for the Flexible Route, your case will be considered on an individual basis and a specific route developed to enable you to access all elements of the DPO's learning opportunities.

## Access Course

Before starting work at the OCC, our students need to have attained skills beyond the level of undergraduate training. Our Access Course provides tailored training to increase palpation and paediatric/developmental anatomy, to prepare less experienced students for further paediatric training. Not all students will need to complete the Access Course as prior experience and other postgraduate training may be considered equivalent.

We collaborate with the Rollin E Becker Institute to deliver this 5-day course, which enables new graduates to reach the required standard for entry onto the DPO course, and does not limit our students to any one technical style. There is no need for you to have undertaken a SCTF-approved 'cranial course' before applying for our DPO.

## ACCESS COURSE DATES

Weekend 1:  
13-14 October 2018  
Weekend 2:  
27-28 October 2018  
Final day:  
18 November 2018

## Main entry requirements

- Be a qualified osteopath, registered with the General Osteopathic Council and be insured to work in the UK (this must be arranged prior to the start in clinic).
- Have a good undergraduate osteopathic degree or equivalent.
- Either have a place on the DPO Access Course or provide evidence of having completed an SCTF approved Involuntary Mechanism course at post-graduate level or the date of a course to be undertaken prior to enrolment.
- Provide an Enhanced Disclosure (with lists) check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and join the Update Service (for UK residents). Non-UK residents must submit police checks from their country of residence.

## Fee structure

The fees for the 2018–2019 academic year are £4,100 per annum for the standard route. Fees for the flexible route will depend on the timescale involved for completing the course and will therefore differ according to the pathway agreed.

## How to apply

The course is open to osteopaths who are qualified, registered with the General Osteopathic Council and insured to work in the UK.

Please email [admissions@fpo.org.uk](mailto:admissions@fpo.org.uk) with your CV and details of your registration and insurance/to request an application form.

**We will be accepting applications for the 2018 intake until Friday, 6 July 2018.**

**Interviews will take place on:**

- Wednesday, 11 July 2018 or
- Friday, 13 July 2018



# FAQs

## How do I get on the DPO course?

The course is open to osteopaths who are qualified, registered with the General Osteopathic Council and insured to work in the UK. For further details – [admissions@fpo.org.uk](mailto:admissions@fpo.org.uk).

The application process is now open for the 2018 intake.  
**Applications close 6 July 2018**

## Do I need to do a cranial course first?

No. We provide a short Access Course for recently qualified students, to introduce specific and relevant technical skills and knowledge which will be essential for starting work in the clinic. Further details on page 8.

## How academic is it? What is the written work like?

The programme is tailored to the needs of the practical osteopath. There is written work, seminars, tutorials and assessments, designed to encourage postgraduate students to become true professionals in managing children and their patients, but all academic work flows from the clinical experience.

Written work, in the form of well-researched and critical case reports, is based on real patients seen and managed in the clinic, and short reflective pieces based on your personal experience of the clinic and practice.

## What techniques do I need to use?

Any osteopathic techniques which are safe and effective. There is no one style of osteopathy, and a broad and embracing technical approach is encouraged and taught.

## Can I do this course in one year?

It is not possible to complete the course in one year, however we offer a Flexible Route for those unable to commit to the standard course. Further details on page 7.

## What sort of time should I allow for study?

We expect the written work and academic study to take around one day per week, in addition to your day in the clinic.

## Is the course externally validated?

Yes. We seek external scrutiny and advice from two external examiners who are experienced and recognised as experts in academia and the profession.

# Other learning at FPO

## The DPO isn't all we do at the Foundation

### Alumni programme

All our DPO graduates become FPO Alumni, opening up further opportunities for CPD and shared learning. Regular learning opportunities include speakers and workshops from colleagues, friends and external experts, bringing osteopaths together to share experiences and perspectives.

### Short courses

Designed as introductory session to the exciting scope of osteopathic practice, we offer an introductory-level paediatric course, the 'Developing Osteopathy in Paediatrics'.



### International conference

Since 2012 we have held regular international conferences in London, designed to share and promote paediatric expertise within osteopathy, and hear from paediatric practitioners from related fields, to create a stimulating professional development weekend.

Osteopaths meet friends old and new, hear unmissable speakers on diverse and relevant topics, and bring fresh perspectives back to their own practice.

Our past conferences have been in 2012, 2015 and 2017. Future dates will be announced on our website.

# About the charity

The Foundation for Paediatric Osteopathy is a specialist osteopathy charity (number 1003934), which trains skilled and knowledgeable paediatric osteopaths, researches osteopathy for children and provides excellent osteopathic care for children and perinatal women, at a dedicated paediatric clinic – the Osteopathic Centre for Children. Established in 1991, the charity has 25 years' experience in using osteopathic techniques to restore, maintain and support wellbeing for a lifetime.

The charity is an internationally recognised centre of excellence in paediatric osteopathy and education. As well as offering a unique clinic-led 2-year postgraduate Diploma in Paediatric Osteopathy, the charity brings international expertise to CPD events and conferences for osteopaths and those in related professions with an interest in osteopathy. The charity also designs and conducts robust, ethical studies to further understanding and skill in paediatric osteopathy; a gentle but effective treatment option.

The Foundation for Paediatric Osteopathy believes that access to osteopathy should never be determined by a family's disposable income. The charity provides up to 22,000 appointments per year, accepting private medical insurance and donations towards maintaining services from those who can pay, but never turns away a family that cannot afford osteopathy.

Children and perinatal women are seen at clinics in Wandsworth, Shoreditch, and an in-patient service at the Starlight neonatal unit at Barnet Hospital.

Join the conversations on Twitter,  
Instagram and Facebook:

Twitter: [@osteopathicCC](https://twitter.com/osteopathicCC)

Instagram: [occ\\_uk](https://www.instagram.com/occ_uk)

Facebook: [Osteopathic.Centre.for.Children](https://www.facebook.com/Osteopathic.Centre.for.Children)

[www.occ.uk.com/education](http://www.occ.uk.com/education)