



University College  
of Osteopathy

# Health Policy For Pre-Registration Students



Core Documentation Cover Page

## Health Policy for Pre-Registration Students

Version number	Dates produced and approved (include committee)	Reason for production/ revision	Author	Location(s)	Proposed next review date and approval required
V1.0	Produced October 2011 and sent to QAEC 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2011 Nov 2011, Academic Council	To ensure that details from students' health questionnaires are appropriately dealt with.	Vice Principal (Education)	All master versions will be held in J:\Core Documentation\ POLICIES, PROCEDURES, GUIDELINES Intranet	September 2012
V2.0	Aug 2017 PRAG Chair	Administrative Amendments to update institution name change from University College of Osteopathy to University College of Osteopathy, staff role titles.	Student Support Manager	All master versions will be held in: J:\0 Quality Team - Core Documentation Intranet	2017-2018

### Equality Impact

Positive equality impact (i.e. the policy/procedure/guideline significantly reduces inequalities)	X
Neutral equality impact (i.e. no significant effect)	
Negative equality impact (i.e. increasing inequalities)	

**If you have any feedback or suggestions for enhancing this policy, please email your comments to: [quality@uco.ac.uk](mailto:quality@uco.ac.uk)**

## Health Policy for Pre-Registration Students

### CONTENTS

1. Scope.....	4
2. Introduction .....	4
3. Health Questionnaire .....	4
4. What Happens if you Declare a Health Issue or Disability? .....	5
5. The Occupational Health Committee .....	5
6. Your Responsibility.....	5

## 1. SCOPE

- 1.1 This policy deals with information from pre-registration students from their health questionnaires and also details how the University College of Osteopathy (UCO) address health issues in relation to Fitness to Practise Procedures.
- 1.2 It is the UCO's duty to ensure that osteopathic students are fit to practise osteopathy in accordance with the expectations of the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC).
- 1.3 In exercising their responsibility to register only osteopaths who are fit to practise, the GOsC puts the safety of patients above all other considerations.
- 1.4 This student health policy limits itself to health and disability issues.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The UCO accommodates students with a range of ambitions, different faiths and backgrounds, as well as those with health conditions and disabilities. This diversity enriches the UCO and offers new insights into health issues.
- 2.2 It is the UCO's duty to ensure that osteopathic students are fit to practise osteopathy in accordance with the expectations of the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC). In exercising their responsibility to register only osteopaths who are fit to practise, the GOsC puts the safety of patients above all other considerations. Therefore as an osteopathic student you are expected to demonstrate all competences detailed in Osteopathic Practice Standards (2012) before graduation regardless of the career path that you may eventually follow.
- 2.3 This student health policy limits itself to health and disability issues. Rarely, an impairment or health condition will make it impossible for you to meet the competences required by the GOsC at the point of graduation. In such a circumstance, it is important, that the possibility you may not be able to practise is highlighted as early as possible and that all avenues reasonable to you and the UCO are explored in order to mitigate the problem and find a mutually acceptable way forward. If this is not possible, then it may be appropriate to reconsider osteopathy as a career.

## 3. HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE

- 3.1 Before you register as a pre-registration osteopathic student we ask you to complete a health questionnaire (Appendix 1). We ask you to disclose if you have a health condition that may affect your ability to take part in the course. You only need to declare information if you believe that your health may affect your ability to take part in any aspects of the course.
- 3.2 When we talk about 'health' we are not making judgments about whether people are 'healthy' or in 'good health'. We are also not making judgments about disabilities. You may have a long-term health condition which would mean that you would not consider yourself to be in 'good health'. However, as long as you manage your condition or disability appropriately, and have insight and understanding, this will not prevent you from registering onto the course. Obviously we encourage you to disclose any health issues but we do realise that not all students chose to do so.

## 4. WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DECLARE A HEALTH ISSUE OR DISABILITY?

- 4.1 The UCO will make all reasonable adjustments for any student who declares a health issue or a disability to allow you to achieve the outcomes set out in Osteopathic Practice Standards (2012) and to graduate.
- 4.2 Although adjustments cannot be made to the competences themselves, modifications may be made to the methods of learning and assessment through which you acquire and demonstrate them.
- 4.3 Most health conditions and disabilities do not raise fitness to practise concerns, provided appropriate care and reasonable adjustments necessary to study and work safely in a clinical environment at the UCO are made.
- 4.4 The UCO will offer you support and regular reviews of your progress.
- 4.5 If significant concerns are raised with regard to your ability to undertake the course, or to continue on the course, the Occupational Health Committee\* will be convened to discuss your case.

## 5. THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

- 5.1 If significant concerns are raised following a declaration or an observation by a member of UCO staff then the Occupational Health Committee will be asked to assess and advise on the impact of an impairment or health problem on your fitness to practise and, if appropriate, advise on adjustments in liaison with the relevant Course Leader.
- 5.2 If there is a chronic or progressive illness that could affect your fitness to practise, the Occupational Health Committee (OHC) will review your health and fitness status and provide advice on new adjustments if needed.
- 5.3 If compliance with a treatment programme is necessary to ensure that patient safety is not compromised, the Chair of the Occupational Health Committee should act as the point of liaison with treating medical practitioners.
- 5.4 In the most extreme cases the OHC can recommend that your health/disability issues may give rise to serious concerns and that reasonable adjustments to the course cannot be made without compromising the competences. At this point the Fitness to Practise Panel will meet to consider your future on the course.

## 6. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

- 6.1 If you are unsure of how your health issues may affect your Fitness to Practise it is your responsibility to raise this with the Student Support Manager.
- 6.2 If an osteopath, doctor or other healthcare provider needs to raise concerns about your Fitness to Practise then they should contact the Student Support Manager in the first instance.
- 6.3 Any exchange of confidential medical information should be in the best interests of protecting patients and the public and should preferably be with your knowledge and informed consent.
- 6.4 It is your responsibility to ensure that the UCO is informed if your health changes at any point on the course, please contact Student Support Manager for further advice.