



General
Osteopathic
Council

Registering with the General Osteopathic Council

THE APPLICATION
PROCESS

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A How to register if you qualified in the UK

If you have a qualification in osteopathy from a GOsC recognised course, you should contact registration@osteopathy.org.uk for a registration application pack. You can apply up to three months before graduation, but the GOsC cannot process your application until after you have graduated.

If you gained your qualification in osteopathy in the UK on or after 9 May 2000, you will be asked to submit the following:

- proof of your qualification (this will usually be provided by your university for newly graduated students)
- a completed GOsC registration form
- a completed GOsC character reference form - this must be from a person in a professional occupation such as an accountant, teacher, dentist or similar, who has known you for at least four years
- a completed GOsC health reference form - this must be signed by a general practitioner who has known you for at least four years or examined your medical records for at least four years
- a Criminal Records Bureau or other police check (see [page 14](#)) - this will be valid for six months after issue
- your registration fee (£375 in your first year on the register, £500 in your second year and £750 per year in subsequent years)
- a passport-sized photograph if you require an identity card
- proof of adequate professional indemnity insurance (see [page 13](#)) for minimum cover of £2.5 million.

B How to register if you qualified outside the UK

B.1 Introduction

If you wish to register with the General Osteopathic Council and you qualified outside the UK, the GOsC must ensure that your qualification is equivalent to UK qualifications.

You will need to provide evidence of your nationality, details of the course you have studied and your qualifications, your history as a practising osteopath and evidence that you have indemnity insurance. In some cases you will be asked to undertake a practical assessment of your skills (see Assessment of clinical performance on page 12).

The assessment process we use will depend on your nationality and the type of services you wish to provide. There are three different categories of applicants with qualifications from outside the UK. These are:

- European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA)* or Swiss nationals wishing to establish a practice in the UK
- EU/EEA* or Swiss nationals wishing to provide temporary or occasional services in the UK
- Applicants from countries outside the EU/EEA* and Switzerland.

- The European Economic Area consists of all the EU countries plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

B.2 EU/EEA or Swiss nationals wishing to establish a practice in the UK

Documents we will require

If you intend to set up your main osteopathic practice in the UK, you must submit the following:

- proof of nationality - passport or national identity card number
- proof of qualification - a certified copy of your professional osteopathic qualification
- a certified copy of your academic transcript which outlines the results you achieved for each module studied. To assist with the assessment process it is helpful to submit a course guideline/handbook which outlines the modules studied, but this is optional
- if you are applying from Finland, France, Iceland, Malta or Switzerland - evidence that you are registered with the regulatory body in that country. You should ask your regulatory body to provide a Certificate of Current Professional Status or equivalent. The certificate confirms that you are registered with the appropriate regulatory body, provides confirmation of your training standards and reports all relevant disciplinary actions that may have been taken against you
- if you are applying from any other EU or EEA country not listed above - evidence that you have practised as an osteopath for at least two of the last 10 years

Assessment of your qualification

Your qualification will be assessed and if it meets the standards required in the UK, then you may apply directly for registration. Application forms can be requested from the Registration Department at registration@osteopathy.org.uk.

If your qualification falls below the standard required by the GOsC you will need to provide further evidence of your level of practice. This may involve the submission of written information and/or the completion of a practical assessment (please see Assessment of clinical performance on page 12).

With your application form you also need to include:

- a completed GOsC character reference form - this must be from a person in a professional occupation such as an accountant, teacher, dentist or similar, who has known you for at least four years
- a completed GOsC health reference form - this must be signed by a general practitioner who has known you for at least four years or examined your medical records for at least four years
- a Criminal Records Bureau or other police check (see page 14); this will be valid for six months after issue
- your registration fee (£375 in your first year on the register, £500 in your second year and £750 per year in subsequent years). If you intend to practise outside the UK the fee is reduced by 50%
- a passport-sized photograph for an identity card
- proof of adequate professional indemnity insurance (see page 13) minimum cover of £2.5 million.

Timetable

The process of administering an application in this category can take up to four months to complete once all requested information is submitted to the GOsC. The GOsC will make a decision about registration and let you know within one month. At this stage you may be directed to either a further assessment of clinical performance (see page 12) or further training. The assessment element may take up to three months to process and arrange.

B.3 EU/EEA or Swiss nationals wishing to provide temporary or occasional services in the UK

You may wish to have your main practice in one member state of the EU/EEA or Switzerland and provide temporary or occasional services in the UK. Examples of temporary or occasional services include:

- a temporary contract at a UK osteopathic clinic
- the delivery of treatment to a specific patient in the UK
- the delivery of osteopathic technique lectures at a UK educational institution.

Documents we will require

If you wish to apply for temporary registration the process may take up to three months once the following information has been submitted:

- proof of nationality - a passport or national identity number
- proof of qualification - a certified copy of your professional osteopathic qualification
- a certified copy of your academic transcript which outlines the results you achieved for each module studied. To assist with the assessment process it is helpful to submit a course guideline/handbook which outlines the modules studied, but this is optional
- if you are applying from Finland, France, Iceland, Malta or Switzerland - evidence that you are registered with the regulatory body in that country. You should ask your regulatory body to provide a Certificate of Current Professional Status or equivalent. The certificate confirms that you are registered with the appropriate regulatory body, provides confirmation of your training standards and reports all relevant disciplinary actions that may have been taken against you
- if you are applying from any other EU or EEA country not listed above - evidence that you have practised as an osteopath for at least two of the last 10 years
- an attestation of legal establishment in the country of your main established practice. This will be documentary evidence, eg taxation records, that clearly establishes your practice in one member state other than the UK.

Assessment of your qualification

Your qualification will be assessed and if it meets the standards required in the UK you may apply directly for registration. Registration forms can be requested from the Registration Department at registration@osteopathy.org.uk.

If your qualification falls below the standard required by the GOsC you will need to provide further evidence of your level of practice. This may involve the submission of written information and/or the completion of a practical assessment (please see Assessment of clinical performance on page 12).

With your application form you also need to include:

- a completed GOsC character reference form - this must be from a person in a professional occupation such as an accountant, teacher, dentist or similar, who has known you for at least four years
- a completed GOsC health reference form - this must be signed by a general practitioner who has known you for at least four years or examined your medical records for at least four years
- a Criminal Records Bureau or other police check (see page 14) - this will be valid for six months after issue
- a passport-sized photograph for an identity card
- proof of adequate professional indemnity insurance (see page 13) for a minimum cover of £2.5 million.

Timetable

The process of administering an application in this category can take up to four months to complete once all requested information is submitted to the GOsC. The GOsC will make a decision about registration and let you know within one month. At this stage you may be directed to either a further assessment of clinical performance (see page 12) or further training. The assessment element may take up to two months to process and arrange.

B.4 Applicants from outside the EU/EEA or Switzerland

Documents we will require

In order for the GOsC to assess your application, you must submit the following:

- proof of nationality - passport or national identity card number
- proof of qualification - a certified copy of your professional osteopathic qualification
- a certified copy of your academic transcript which outlines the results you achieved for each module studied. To assist with the assessment process it is helpful to submit a course guideline/handbook which outlines the modules studied, but this is optional
- evidence that you are registered with the regulatory body in your country of origin (if applicable)
- evidence of your ability to communicate in English. This is waived for applicants from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America whose first language is English
- a portfolio of evidence of your practice of osteopathy.

Assessment

Once your nationality and qualification have been established, the portfolio will be assessed. This is subject to a fee of £100, which must be paid in advance.

On successful assessment of the portfolio, you will be asked to undertake a practical assessment of your skills (see Assessment of clinical performance on page 12).

If you successfully complete the assessment, then you may apply for registration. Registration forms can be requested from the Registration Department at registration@osteopathy.org.uk.

With your application form you need to include:

- a completed GOsC character reference form - this must be from a person in a professional occupation such as an accountant, teacher, dentist or similar, who has known you for at least four years
- a completed GOsC health reference form - this must be signed by a general practitioner who has known you for at least four years or examined your medical records for at least four years
- a Criminal Records Bureau or other police check (see page 14) - this will be valid for six months after issue
- your registration fee (£375 in your first year on the register, £500 in your second year and £750 per year in subsequent years). If you intend to practise outside the UK the fee is reduced by 50%
- a passport-sized photograph for an identity card
- proof of adequate professional indemnity insurance (see page 13) for a minimum cover of £2.5 million.

The whole application process will take a minimum of four months.

B.5 Assessment of clinical performance

This is a practical clinic-based exercise, used to assess an osteopath's clinical performance. You will be asked to manage and treat two new patients as you would in practice.

The assessments are held in the UK, at the clinic of an osteopathic training institution in London, and your approach will be monitored by trained GOsC assessors. After you have taken a case history and performed an examination of the patient, the assessors may ask you questions relating to your diagnosis and treatment plan, before you are asked to treat the patient.

The assessment of clinical practice (ACP) is subject to a fee of £330 in most cases. If it is necessary for you to have an ACP, you will be informed of the details by the Professional Standards Department of the GOsC. ACPs are held 4-6 times a year and allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please contact the GOsC for further information about current ACP dates; these are also available [on our website](#).

B.6 Documents

All non-English documents must be accompanied by translations into English. The GOsC will accept translations carried out by an official translation agency, a language department of a university or the British Embassy or High Commission. All translations should be printed on official headed paper and bear the name and signature of the translator.

A 'certified copy' of a document can be obtained from the organisation that issued the document, an embassy or high commission. The copy should carry an official stamp, signature and position of the individual who is attesting to the authenticity of the document.

C Information for all applicants

C.1 Professional indemnity insurance

In order to practise osteopathy lawfully in the UK, osteopaths must have professional indemnity insurance with a minimum cover of £2.5 million. Professional indemnity insurance does not have to be purchased in the UK.

You should seek advice from insurance intermediaries about insurance that is suitable for your needs and complies with the [Professional Indemnity Insurance Rules 1998](#).

You should communicate directly with such insurance intermediaries. In the UK, they include the following:

- [Balens Insurance Brokers](#), tel: 01684 580771
- [British Osteopathic Association](#), tel 01582 488455
- [Giles Insurance Brokers](#), tel: 01689 885822
- [Howdens Insurance Brokers](#), tel: 020 7623 3806
- [Three Counties Insurance Brokers](#), tel: 01789 204803
- [Towergate Medical Insurance Agency](#), tel: 01438 739777

Information about public indemnity insurance can also be obtained from the [British Osteopathic Association](#).

If you are a practising healthcare professional registered with an appropriate regulatory body and your existing insurance meets the requirements above, you may not need to obtain separate cover for osteopathy. Please refer to your indemnity insurer for further advice.

C.2 Criminal Records Bureau or other police check

As an osteopath you may work with children and/or vulnerable adults and therefore, as part of your registration, you are required to have a criminal records check which, in the UK, is performed by the Government agency the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

Osteopathy as a profession is excluded from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, so all convictions will be listed whether spent or unspent. Further information about the CRB is available on its [website](#).

A CRB disclosure application form will be issued to you by [CRD\(UK\) Ltd](#), which processes all CRB checks on behalf of the GOsC. This will include a unique application and password, which will enable you to apply online. All disclosures are provided by the CRB and contain details of all convictions held on the UK police national computer.

The GOsC will only receive a paper copy of the disclosure if there are any convictions/cautions relating to you. Once your check is complete, CRD(UK) Ltd. will send you a paper copy of the disclosure certificate. Nominated users from the GOsC will be able to access your completed disclosure via a secure website provided by CRD(UK) Ltd.

If you already have a CRB disclosure not more than six months old when you apply for registration, you do not need to obtain another. Send the original by registered post to the GOsC Registration Department. A copy will be made and the original will be returned to you

If you lived outside the UK before applying for registration with the GOsC, you will be asked to provide an additional police check in respect of the country where you were previously resident.

C.3 Annual renewal of registration

A key function of the GOsC is to protect the public and ensure that osteopaths on the statutory Register continue to practise to high standards of competence and safety.

Registration is granted for a period of 12 months, after which you will need to renew your licence to practise. Your registration will be renewed on submission of the following information and payment of the registration fee:

- declaration of any criminal or civil proceedings that may have been taken against you in the previous 12 months
- declaration of any health problems that have prevented you from working
- details of your current professional indemnity insurance
- submission of your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Annual Summary Form.

C.4 Identity cards

To reassure patients, the GOsC has introduced a voluntary identity card for osteopaths, which can be used when making home visits. The GOsC encourages patients to ask for identification in much the same way as they would with a police officer or council official. To obtain an identity card, you should include a passport-sized photo with your application for registration.