



**General
Osteopathic
Council**

Registering with the General Osteopathic Council



As a new graduate, you are required to register with the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) before commencing work as an osteopath in the UK. Under the Osteopaths Act 1993 the title 'osteopath' is protected by law and as such it is a criminal offence in the UK for anyone to claim expressly or by implication to be any kind of osteopath unless registered with the GOsC.

What we do:

The GOsC's role is to regulate and develop osteopathic practice in the UK by:

- Setting and promoting high standards of osteopathic practice and conduct.
- Assuring the quality of osteopathic education and training.
- Registering qualified professionals on an annual basis and ensuring their continuing fitness to practise.
- Helping patients with concerns or complaints about osteopaths and dealing with those complaints through fitness to practise procedures.

The GOsC currently registers around 5,500 osteopaths

Applying for registration

What do you need to do to register?

In order for your application for registration to be considered, you must submit **all** of the below documentation.

Registration checklist

- completed [registration application form](#)
- [Health reference form](#)
- [Character reference form](#)
- an [Enhanced check for Regulated Activity](#) (previously known as a CRB check) carried out in the last six months
- details of your [intended Professional Indemnity Insurer](#)
- [entry fee](#)
- proof of [Recognised Qualification](#) (RQ)

Completed documentation should be sent to us by email at student@osteopathy.org.uk prior to qualification so that any queries can be resolved as quickly as possible.

Please be aware:

- once we have received all your documentation, it can take up to ten working days to be added onto the Register.
- you are not able to book appointments or work as an osteopath until the Registrar has written to you confirming your registration and you have activated your insurance policy.
- if you start to practise without insurance in place, this is something the GOsC will consider as a fitness to practice matter.
- once you have received your insurance policy, you are required to forward a copy of the schedule of cover to registration@osteopathy.org.uk



Application form

- sign and date the declaration on the front of the application form
- sign and date the Data Protection Declaration
- please read the questions on the application form carefully
- ensure ALL questions have been answered on the application form, as failing to do so will slow down the registration process.

Health reference

A health reference must be signed by a GP who has known you for at least four years OR by a GP who has access to your medical records of the last four years (there may be a small charge for this) and who is not a relative.

Please ensure that your GP has ticked the appropriate box and has printed their name on the completed health reference, otherwise the reference will be sent back to you, which will hold up the application process.

If you are not registered with a GP and cannot provide a health reference, please contact the Registration Department by email at student@osteopathy.org.uk to explain the circumstances which prevent you from obtaining a Health reference signed by your GP. The Registration Department will advise how to proceed with your application.

Character reference

The character reference must be completed by a person in a professional occupation who has known you for at least four years, and who is not a relative.

Please ensure that your character referee has printed their name on the completed character reference, otherwise the reference will be sent back to you, which will hold up the application process.

See below for examples of some suitable professional occupations (list is not exhaustive):

Accountant
Articled Clerk of a limited company
Assurance Agent of recognised company
Bank/Building Society official
Barrister
Broker
Chairman/Director of limited company
Chemist
Chiropodist
Christian Science practitioner
Civil Servant (permanent)
Commissioner of Oaths
Councillor: local or county
Dentist
Engineer (with professional qualifications)



Fire Service official
Funeral Director
Insurance Agent of a recognised company
Journalist
Justice of the Peace
Manager/Personnel officer
Medical Doctor
Member of Parliament
Merchant Navy/Armed Services Officer
Minister of a recognised religion
Nurse (SRN and SEN)
Optician
Osteopath
Person with Honours (eg OBE, MBE etc.)
Photographer (professional)
Police Officer
Post Office Official
President/Secretary of an organisation
Salvation Army Officer
Social Worker
Solicitor/Solicitor Advocate
Surveyor
Teacher, Lecturer
Trade Union Official
Travel agency (qualified)
Valuer/Auctioneer (Fellow/Associate Members of the Incorporated Society)
Warrant Officers and Chief Petty Officers

Please note that all of the documentation required, such as the application form, health reference and character reference must be downloaded from the [‘Student zone’ section of the o zone](#)

Enhanced check for Regulated Activity UK (previously known as a CRB check)

As part of your registration, you are required to undergo an Enhanced check for Regulated Activity through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Anyone wishing to have one of these checks carried out cannot apply directly to the DBS; they have to go through an umbrella body that is registered with the DBS.

The GOsC uses the services of First Advantage (formerly called GBGroup plc) which is registered with the DBS and administers Enhanced checks for Regulated Activity on our behalf.



How do I get an Enhanced check for Regulated Activity?

1. You need to give us written permission to forward your name and email address to First Advantage. You can do this by emailing student@osteopathy.org.uk
2. The GOsC will provide your name and email address to First Advantage.
3. First Advantage will email you with a pin number and link to their online verification system.
4. Follow the link and update your details following the on-screen prompts.
5. Once completed, print the verification page and take it and your selected documentation to your nearest Crown Post Office. Payment is taken at the Post Office and the cost of a DBS check via First Advantage is £58.60.¹
6. To find your nearest Crown Post Office, visit www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder, changing the service required to CRB and ID Verification Service and enter your post code.
7. The Crown Post Office will verify the documentation and confirm to First Advantage that this has happened by scanning the bar code on the verification page.
8. Once you have had your documentation verified, your Enhanced check for Regulated Activity will be undertaken by First Advantage.

If you have an existing Enhanced check for Regulated Activity which is not older than six months since its date of issue, you do not need to obtain another. Please scan and send the original certificate by email to student@osteopathy.org.uk so the details can be verified.

Your Enhanced check for Regulated Activity must be no more than six months old from the date of issue at the time your application for registration is being considered.

Once your Enhanced check for Regulated Activity is completed, First Advantage will send a disclosure certificate to you by post. You do not need to send the disclosure certificate to us as the Registration Department will be able to view your completed check online via First Advantage's secure website.

If you have any convictions/cautions on your disclosure certificate, we will not be able to view this online. You will need to scan and send your copy of the original disclosure certificate by email, together with a supporting statement which outlines the circumstances which led to the caution/conviction being issued.

Once received, you may be asked to provide further information. Any convictions or cautions which are not 'protected' as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (as amended in 2013) will be taken into account by the Registrar when considering your application.

¹ Accurate as at January 2022



Please be aware on rare occasions an Enhanced check for Regulated Activity can take up to six months to be completed.

The regulation of healthcare professionals is a matter reserved to Westminster and the GOsC will continue to require applicants to comply with the England and Wales criminal disclosure scheme.

Protected convictions and cautions

Please note the following is provided for your information only.

If you seek clarification concerning protected convictions and cautions, you will need to contact the organisation/s below for further information/advice.

Please note that the GOsC will not be able to advise you on whether you do, or do not, have a protected conviction and/or caution:

- [Disclosure & Barring Service](#)
- [Disclosure Scotland](#)

What is a 'protected conviction or caution'?

The 2013 amendments to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 Exceptions Order 1975 mean that certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected'.

This means that you do not need to tell us about them and we will not take them into account when assessing your application for registration.

Protected cautions (England/Wales/Northern Ireland)

You do not need to tell us about a caution if:

- more than six years have passed since you received the caution (or more than two years have passed if you were under the age of 18 at the time of the caution) **and**
- it is not for a 'listed offence'. (see below).

Protected cautions (Scotland)

Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2015 you do not need to disclose any cautions received.

Protected convictions (England/Wales/Northern Ireland)

You do not need to tell us about a conviction if:

- more than 11 years have passed since the date of conviction (or more than five years and six months have passed if you were under the age of 18 when convicted).
- it is not for a 'listed offence' (see below) **and**
- you did not receive a custodial sentence **and**
- you have not been convicted of any other offence at any time.

If you have ever been convicted of more than one offence (whether as an adult or under the age of 18) you must tell us about all of your convictions.



Protected convictions (Scotland)

You do not need to tell us about a conviction if:

- more than 15 years have passed since the date of conviction (or more than seven years and six months have passed if you were under the age of 18 when convicted)
- it is not for a 'listed offence' (see below) **and**
- you did not receive a custodial sentence **and**
- you have not been convicted of any other offence at any time.

If you have ever been convicted of more than one offence (whether as an adult or under the age of 18), you must tell us about **all of** your convictions.

Listed offences

You must tell us about any conviction or caution received for a 'listed offence'.

Listed offences include serious violent or sexual offences and other offences, which are relevant to the role of a registered healthcare practitioner.

They also include equivalent offences for those committed outside of the UK.


You can find the list of offences that will never be filtered from a criminal record and that you must declare on the [Disclosure & Barring Service website](#)

Please note the Disclosure and Barring Service have advised that it is not possible to capture a definitive list of all equivalent offences under the law of all other jurisdictions. Where you are aware that you have committed an offence overseas which may be equivalent to an offence in the UK you should seek independent expert or legal advice to ensure you provide information that is truthful and accurate.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Once you are registered and before you can begin to practise, **you must ensure that you are covered by Professional Indemnity Insurance with a minimum cover of £5 million**. Your insurance must be appropriate to your professional needs and compliant with the GOsC Professional Indemnity Insurance Rules.

- once registered but prior to commencing practice, you must ensure your Professional Indemnity Insurance policy is active
- you must forward a copy of your insurance policy to the GOsC
- **it is your responsibility to make sure that you hold continuous professional indemnity insurance cover at all times in the future**
- **if your practising status should change eg you go non practising, practising overseas or you return to practice, you should contact the GOsC immediately so that your registration status can be updated on the Register**
- **you should also contact your insurance provider immediately to advise them of the change in your registration status so that they can either arrange run off insurance cover or reinstate full insurance cover**

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- if you are not intending to begin practising immediately once you become registered, you must complete a Non Practising form which can be downloaded from the o zone and send via email to the Registration Department registration@osteopathy.org.uk so that your registration status on the Register can be updated to that of non-practising.

You are not required to hold professional indemnity insurance until you begin to practise.

Before you begin to practise, you must inform the Registration Department in writing, of the date that you are intending to start practising so that your registration status can be updated to that of practising on the Register and you must also forward a copy of your professional indemnity insurance.

You must not practise whilst your registration status is that of non-practising on the Register.

Once your registration status on the Register has been updated, you will be informed in writing by the Registration Department.

Intended Professional Indemnity Insurer

As part of your application, you will be required to provide the GOsC with the name of your intended insurance provider.

The following insurance intermediaries can offer you advice on professional indemnity insurance that meets your requirements:

- [Balens Insurance Brokers](#)
- [BGi.UK](#)
- [Howdens Insurance Brokers](#)
- [Institute of Osteopathy](#)
- [Towergate Caring Professions Division](#)

Entry fee

Entry fee onto the Register is £320.

Fees are payable in one lump sum if paying by cheque or debit/credit card. If you would prefer to pay your entry fee by direct debit, credit/debit card details must also be provided for an initial payment of £33 to be taken on entry to the Register. The remainder of the entry fee can be paid by direct debit over a maximum of nine monthly instalments providing you have a UK bank account.

Proof of a Recognised Qualification

Osteopathic educational institutions (OEs) forward proof of their students' Recognised Qualification (RQ) directly to the GOsC. The GOsC has no control over when RQ confirmation is sent by the OEs, therefore you should check with your OEI that proof of your RQ has been sent to the GOsC.

Return to practice process

If you do not register with the GOsC within 24 months after receiving your RQ you will be required to go through the return to practice process. [Further information can be found on our website](#)



Once you are registered

You will receive the following:

- registration confirmation email
- welcome to the register email
- you will be able to download your registration certificate from your record on the o zone

Continuing professional development (CPD)

CPD is the term used to describe activities undertaken to maintain, enhance and develop your osteopathic knowledge and skills after the completion of your professional qualification.

Over a three-year CPD cycle, osteopaths will need to undertake 90 hours of CPD in total with no less than 45 hours in the category Learning with others across all themes of the Osteopathic Practice Standards, including at least one objective activity, and one CPD activity relating to communication and consent. You will also need to keep a CPD record and, with a colleague, complete a Peer Discussion Review.

Your first three-year CPD cycle and the hours required will be outlined in your registration confirmation email.

Further information and resources available can be found on our [CPD website](#):

Contact details

You can change an existing address via the registrants' website, the o zone or by emailing the Registration Department at registration@osteopathy.org.uk

If you are sending any changes to your contact details by email, you must ensure that you make it clear which details are to be removed from our database (if any), and whether these are for your correspondence/home and/or your practice address. Include any telephone numbers, email and website details you would like us to publish via the online Register.

Further information

If you have not been able to find the answer to your question in this booklet you should read the FAQs provided in the supplementary booklet or look online at the Students section of the o zone.

If your question/query remains unanswered, please contact the Registration Department using the contact details at the end of this booklet.

GOsC contact details

Address to send application documentation to:

student@osteopathy.org.uk

Registration Manager

Brenda Buckingham

x256

bbuckingham@osteopathy.org.uk

Senior Registration Officer

Ben Chambers

x229

bchambers@osteopathy.org.uk

Registration and Overseas Applications Officer

Lorraine Palmer

x238

lpalmer@osteopathy.org.uk

Registration and CPD Assistant

Shardai Blythe-Weir

x235

sblythe-weir@osteopathy.org.uk

General Osteopathic Council
Osteopathy House
176 Tower Bridge Road
London
SE1 3LU
Tel: 020 7357 6655

www.osteopathy.org.uk



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