



UNITED KINGDOM

Osteopathic Medicine

The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) regulates the practise of osteopathy (and thus osteopathic medicine) under the terms of the Osteopaths Act 1993.

The GOsC has a statutory duty to develop and regulate the profession of osteopathy in the UK. It fulfils its duty to protect the interests of the public by ensuring that all osteopaths maintain high standards of safety, competence and professional conduct throughout their professional lives.

The UK's Osteopaths Act 1993 protects the title of osteopathic physician, stating that:

'a person who, whether expressly or implication describes himself as an osteopath, osteopathic practitioner, osteopathic physician, osteopathist, osteotherapist, or any kind of osteopath is guilty of an offence unless he is registered as an osteopath'.

The GOsC holds the register of osteopaths and for an osteopathic physician to obtain registration with the GOsC they must either:

- Hold a UK osteopathy qualification that is recognised by the GOsC

or

- Have their qualifications assessed to judge their equivalence to UK qualifications and also undergo a test of competence.

The assessment process depends on the nationality of the applicant (European and non-European graduates are considered in different ways) and the type of services to be provided.

Details of the different routes to registration can be found at: www.osteopathy.org.uk/practice/How-to-register-with-the-GOsC

Osteopathic physicians who wish to exercise their full medical practice rights must also hold registration with a licence to practise with the General Medical Council (GMC).

Details of the GMC registration process can be found at: www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/before_you_apply.asp

The General Medical Council also maintains separate registers for those wishing to work as specialists or as general practitioners.

Contact:

General Osteopathic Council

Tel: +44 (0) 207 357 6655

Email: info@osteopathy.org.uk

Website: www.osteopathy.org.uk

General Medical Council



Tel: +44 (0)161 923 6602
Email: gmc@gmc-uk.org
Website: www.gmc-uk.org

Statutes/Regulations

The Osteopaths Act 1993: 'An Act to establish a body to be known as the General Osteopathic Council; to provide for the regulation of the profession of osteopathy, including making provision as to the registration of osteopaths and as to their professional education and conduct; to make provision in connection with the development and promotion of the profession; and for connected purposes.'

http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts1993/UKpga_19930021_en_1.htm

Subsidiary regulations under the Act, put in place by the General Osteopathic Council, can be found at:
www.osteopathy.org.uk/about/legislation

Osteopathic Medical School Programs for Physicians:

A number of osteopathic educational institutions have accelerated learning programmes for those with an existing healthcare qualification wishing to gain a GOsC recognised qualification in osteopathy.

Details of the osteopathic educational institutions providing recognised qualifications can be found at:
www.osteopathy.org.uk/practice/becoming-an-osteopath/training-courses

Organisations/Associations:

British Osteopathic Association (Professional Association)

3 Park Terrace
Manor Road
Luton
LU1 3HN
Tel: +44 (0) 1582 488455
Email: boa@osteopathy.org
Website: www.osteopathy.org

General Osteopathic Council (Regulatory Body)

176 Tower Bridge Road
London, SE1 3LU
Tel: +44 (0) 207 357 6655
Email: info@osteopathy.org.uk
Website: www.osteopathy.org.uk

General Medical Council

Registration Services
5th Floor, St James Buildings
79 Oxford Road
Manchester
Tel: +44 (0)161 923 6602
Email: gmc@gmc-uk.org
Website: www.gmc-uk.org