



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Academic Unit
Of
Ophthalmology
And
Orthoptics.



BMedSci Honours Orthoptic Degree.

What is orthoptics?

Orthoptics is an allied health profession working with other members of the eye care team and multidisciplinary teams such as paediatric development, stroke rehabilitation and neurology. Orthoptists are highly skilled in investigating, diagnosing and treating disorders of binocular vision and defects of eye movements including misalignment of the eyes (strabismus), reduced vision (amblyopia), double vision (diplopia) and other visual symptoms.

The work involves assessing patients of all ages, especially children and the elderly, some of whom have a learning or physical disability. Detailed assessment and monitoring of patients' signs and symptoms, vision, ocular alignment, ocular movements and binocular vision are essential to make a diagnosis and implement an appropriate treatment plan.

Other roles comprise of: assessing and monitoring patients with glaucoma; cataract and diabetic retinopathy; visual field testing; computerised optic disc assessment; low vision clinics; performing electrodiagnostic testing of visual function; and recording eye movements. These roles often require some additional post-graduate training.

Is orthoptics the career for me?

A career in orthoptics is likely to appeal to students who: like to work within the medical field as part of a multidisciplinary team enjoy working with people of all ages and are good at science, biology in particular. Good communication skills, self-motivation, accurate observational skills and enthusiasm for continued learning are essential.



About us

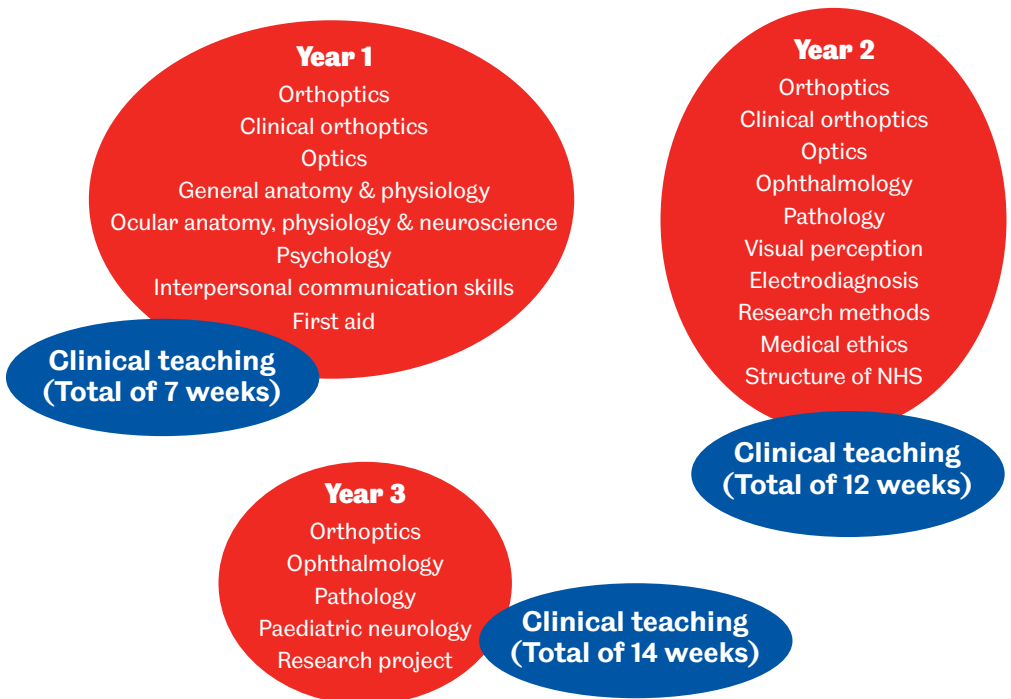
We pride ourselves on the friendliness of our staff and the quality of our student experience. We are part of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health. The academic staff engage in a variety of vision science research which inspires and ensures up-to-date research led teaching.

Degree structure and content

The BMedSci (Honours) Orthoptic degree is an extended 3 year full time programme. Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, tutorials and clinical skills interspersed with block clinical placement at hospitals across the UK.

The academic year is divided into two semesters, each comprised of blocks of teaching at university and clinical teaching at hospitals.

In year 1 students receive an introduction to concepts of orthoptics, optics and anatomy and physiology required for orthoptic practice. Years 2 and 3 further develop this knowledge. Ocular abnormalities, disease processes and profession related topics including medical ethics and the organisation and structure of the NHS are also studied. In year 3 a research project is undertaken on a topic of the student's choice.



Assessment

There are a variety of types of assessment including written and practical examinations, assignments, assessment of clinical skills during clinical placement and a research project.

Career prospects

Orthoptics offers a rewarding, exciting and varied career. Most orthoptists gain a position in the NHS soon after graduation and there is opportunity for progression. Orthoptists can also develop areas of clinical interest or specialist scientific expertise through clinical research within the NHS or postgraduate studies at university. The degree is recognised internationally so there are good opportunities to work abroad.



The application process

How to apply

Applications must be made through UCAS (University and College Admissions Service) and submitted online via the UCAS website: www.ucas.com. For any enquiries UCAS can be contacted by email: enquiries@ucas.ac.uk or telephone: +44 (0)870 112 2211.

Selection process

Selection of applicants is based on the content of the UCAS form with particular focus on academic qualifications and personal statement. Applicants who receive an offer will be invited to a mandatory departmental open day which is an opportunity to informally meet staff and students, obtain detailed information about the course structure and accommodation, and have a tour of teaching facilities. Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) enhanced disclosure and Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) registration is part of the admissions process and an identity check will be performed at the open day.

We strongly advise applicants to contact their local orthoptic department and request the opportunity to observe the work of an orthoptist. Voluntary work experience with children, the elderly or people with disabilities is also considered a favourable asset.

What grades do I need?

We consider applicants from a wide range of different backgrounds. The entry requirements are BBB at A-level and Biology is preferred, Scottish Highers at grades AABB, or Irish Leaving Certificate at grades ABBBB. We welcome applications from candidates with other qualifications such as BTEC National Diploma or Access to Higher Education Diploma with appropriate scientific subjects. Advanced Diploma in Society, Health and Development in combination with an Additional or Specialist Learning (ASL) component in a Science subject (Biology, Maths, Physics or Chemistry), the International Baccalaureate, AQA Baccalaureate or Cambridge Pre-U qualifications are also considered.

All applicants must also have Maths, English Language and a science subject at GCSE grade C or above, or the equivalent.

Please visit our web pages: www.sheffield.ac.uk/medicine/orthoptics for further information or contact Karen Bailey, Admissions Secretary. Email: k.m.bailey@sheffield.ac.uk

How much will it cost?

There are no course tuition fees. The Department of Health covers the cost of fees for UK and EU students. In addition, home students can apply for a student loan and may also qualify for a bursary. For further details on funding, please visit the NHS Student Bursaries website: www.nhsstudentgrants.co.uk/

For any enquiries NHS Student Bursaries can be contacted by telephone 0845 358 6655.





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What our students say about us

I enjoy studying at Sheffield because I like the city, I feel safe when walking around. I like that all lecturers are friendly and helpful in all aspects of the course, and I enjoy all the facilities and opportunities that Sheffield holds as a university.
Dawn Revill, Orthoptic Student

The orthoptic degree is very career orientated with specific goal in sight. The University has loads of great services and can help you with anything.
Julie Orr, Orthoptic Student

I particularly enjoy the enthusiasm and expertise of the lecturers on the orthoptic course; the vocational style where learning is linked to the final career; the relatively small course where everyone knows each other and can help each other out.
Miriam Johnston, Orthoptic Student

For further information about the degree in Orthoptics please contact:

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www.sheffield.ac.uk/medicine/orthoptics