



Chiropractor/Osteopathy /Physio



OVERVIEW

The healthcare industry offers many career opportunities that cater to a variety of skills and professional aptitudes. These healthcare careers involve working directly with patients to diagnose, treat, and maintain their health and have specific training requirements that include a degree as well as specific work experience.

SKILLS

Skills needed for working as a chiropractor, physiotherapist or osteopath require:

- extensive knowledge of the human body's structure and functions.
- the ability to perform precise, controlled adjustments and manipulations with the hands.
- the ability to analyse and develop treatment plans tailored to individual patient needs.
- strong communication skills and a caring and empathetic approach.

Routes to qualification and professional accreditation

Chiropractor:

To be a chiropractor you will need a chiropractic degree. The number of chiropractic education providers in the UK is growing, with five HEIs currently offering courses, see [Become a chiropractor | British Chiropractic Association](#). The General Chiropractic Council (GCC) is responsible for regulating and setting standards in all stages of chiropractic education, see [Becoming a chiropractor](#) on the GCC website.

Osteopath: You must be registered with the General Osteopathic Council and complete a recognised degree that typically lasts four years full-time. See the GOsC website for a [list of training courses](#). Courses include elements of anatomy, physiology, nutrition, biomechanics, pathology and pharmacology, in addition to over 1,000 hours of clinical training.

Physiotherapist: A university degree is the most popular way to become a physiotherapist. A full-time degree can take three years, and a part-time course will take six years. A two-year accelerated master's degree is an option if you already have a relevant degree. Once you have successfully completed your degree you will need to register with the Health and Care Professions Council ([HCPC](#)).

Entry Requirements to degree courses and degree apprenticeships

Chiropractor: You will need to complete a degree in a science-based subject and then register with the [General Chiropractic Council](#). The chiropractic degree usually takes three years to complete. Students must spend their fourth year working under **supervision**. The entry requirements include:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4
- Proficiency in Science, Maths and English Language
- 3 A-Levels

Osteopath: You will need a degree that is recognised by the [General Osteopathic Council](#).

The entry requirements include:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English Language, Maths and Science
- 2 or 3 A-Levels, or equivalent, including a Science, for a degree

Physiotherapist: To work as a physiotherapist in the UK, you must study for a degree and be registered with the [HCPC](#) and comply with the [HCPC Standards](#).

Entry requirements for a 3-year undergraduate degree in Physiotherapy are typically:

- 2 or 3 A-Levels, including a biological Science and/or PE.
- 5 GCSEs (grades A-C), including English Language, Maths and at least one Science.

A degree apprenticeship with a healthcare provider is another way to become qualified. Search for apprenticeships at [UK Gov Find an Apprenticeship](#), [The Apprenticeship Guide](#) and [NHS apprenticeships](#).

Work Experience

Chiropractor: In addition to your academic degree, you're also required to have at least 1 year of work experience with a chiropractor.

Osteopath: Although previous experience isn't essential, it may be useful to spend some time with a practising osteopath before applying for a place to study. Experience of working with people in a caring role is also useful.

Physiotherapist: [Work experience](#) is essential for every applicant and will help you gain insights into the role and reflect on whether physiotherapy is right for you.

What can it lead to?

Chiropractors can choose to specialise in areas such as sports chiropractic, paediatrics, geriatrics or rehabilitation. For example, sports chiropractors work with athletes to improve performance and prevent injuries. Specialisation often requires additional training and certification.

Osteopath: There is no formal structured career path in osteopathy, but you'll usually start by working as an associate in an osteopathic practice and then move on to set up and run your own practice. Alternatively, you might progress from an associate to working within a group osteopathic practice.

Physiotherapist: If you're working in an NHS hospital, there's a defined career structure. You begin in a rotational role, working in different departments to get more experience in different specialties, e.g. outpatients and orthopaedics. Following clinical experience, you can specialise in an area of practice such as neurology, sports injuries or critical care or with particular types of patient, such as the elderly, children or cancer patients.

Useful websites

[General Chiropractic Council](#)
[Institute of Osteopathy](#)
[The Chartered Society of Physiotherapists](#)
[Health Careers](#)