

BSc (Hons)

Foundation to Orthoptics (Year 0)

UCAS code P0HG

Study mode	Duration	Apply by: 14 January 2026
Full-time	4 years	Starts on: 28 September 2026

About this course

A year zero foundation programme, designed for mature students who have typically been out of formal education for some time or who have taken non-traditional qualifications, which leads to access onto an Orthoptics BSc programme.

Introduction

The University of Liverpool, in collaboration with local FE partners, has developed a year zero foundation programme for Home students that leads to access onto a variety of vocational Health Studies programmes. Our Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions (Orthoptics) course is for students seeking entry to undertake the Orthoptics BSc (B520) programme.

Students seeking entry to Orthoptics will study a foundation year (year zero) at [Carmel College, St Helens](#), about nine miles from the university campus, where the class sizes are small and the standards of academic achievement high.

This programme is specifically targeted at Home mature and non-traditional students, who typically have taken a break from studies.

Please note that we will not consider applications from prospective students who have multiple UCAS applications for a variety of programmes, as this does not demonstrate a clear commitment.

For further information on how to apply to this programme please contact: shs@liverpool.ac.uk.

What you'll learn

- Skills needed for independent study at undergraduate degree level
- Undertaking a variety of learning methods and assessment tasks
- A breadth of patient-focused practical experience in a region with a particularly diverse population
- Skills to diagnose and manage conditions which may present in a range of patients
- The fundamentals of the nervous system, neuro-anatomy and physiology, and where it relates to the practice of orthoptics

Routes

- [Orthoptics](#) BSc (Hons)

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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Year zero

In all modules at year zero, the study skills needed for independent study at undergraduate degree level are developed. Students are also introduced to a variety of learning methods, such as formal taught sessions, workshops and practical laboratory sessions, as well as a variety of assessment tasks, such as written assignments, in class data handling, written and practical examinations to provide a good grounding for vocational programmes.

There are some shared modules for all students, and then route specific modules to ensure the students are prepared for their chosen undergraduate programmes.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>BIOLOGY FOR HEALTH STUDIES 1 (HEAL001)</u>	22.5
<u>BIOLOGY FOR HEALTH STUDIES 2 (HEAL002)</u>	22.5
<u>MATHS FOR HEALTH STUDIES 1 (HEAL003)</u>	7.5
<u>MATHS FOR HEALTH STUDIES 2 (HEAL004)</u>	7.5
<u>FOUNDATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (HEAL005)</u>	15
<u>APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY FOR HEALTH STUDIES (HEAL006)</u>	22.5
<u>HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FOR HEALTH SCIENCES (HEAL007)</u>	22.5

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Learning is promoted through a wide variety of activities that enable students to become autonomous and continuous learners. Interactive lectures, practical and clinical skills group work, simulation, directed study, role play, problem based learning, small group work, student-led seminars, collaborative project work and interactive tutorials are key learning strategies of the programmes. Practical work using our imaging suite digital equipment, 3D virtual reality radiotherapy facility, Clinical Skills Resource Room and the Human Anatomy Resource Centre complement teaching activities. Face-to-face interactions between all students will occur at shared lectures, tutorials and group work and online interaction will be encouraged and facilitated. There are also inter-professional education and learning opportunities across all healthcare professions programmes.

How you're assessed

Using a mixture of coursework and examination, a range of assessment methods can be seen across the programmes. These include seen and unseen written examinations, essay assignments with specific word lengths, multiple choice questions, case study presentations, video analysis and interactive practical examinations. Assessment of the work-based learning element of all programmes is an important aspect. You will be required to communicate your views orally and in written form; analyse, implement and evaluate your practice; and to extend the research and evidence base of your chosen profession.

The various methods of assessments have been chosen to provide a balance that will permit the undergraduates to demonstrate their intellectual abilities in all areas to the full.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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Careers and employability

Orthoptic graduates are eligible to apply for statutory registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). This programme offers graduates a rewarding career as an autonomous practitioner and part of the health care team with an excellent record of graduate employment.

Most graduates choose to work in the National Health Service as an orthoptist in an eye care team.

However, there are opportunities to progress within your role as an orthoptist in a number of additional extended roles and advanced practice such as stroke, age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma and special educational needs.

There may also be opportunities to work in a private clinic or even abroad due to the international high recognition of the qualification.

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Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £9,535

Foundation year fee – £7,500

Year abroad fee – £1,385 (applies to year in China)

Following the foundation years, standard course fees apply.

Fees are for academic year 2025/26.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Clinical Entry Requirements

Please view the [2023 Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions entry requirements.](#)

Applicants should normally be considered ineligible for direct entry to the BSc route.

A levels

This programme is designed for mature students who have typically been out of formal education for some time or who have taken non-traditional qualifications. Please note that we will not consider A-Level students or School Leavers. However, consideration may be given to candidates who studied some time ago. In order to give all applicants an equal opportunity, applicants who have been rejected following an interview will not normally be considered again.

T levels

T levels are not currently accepted.

GCSE

3 GCSEs at a minimum grade 4 (C) to include Maths; English Language; Science (single; dual; combined). Will consider GCSE resits and/or ONE pending GCSE grade. Applied GCSE Science will not be accepted.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

Students currently studying BTEC level 3 will not be considered; BTEC level 2 will not be accepted in lieu of GCSE

International Baccalaureate

Applicants currently studying for International Baccalaureate will not be considered

Irish Leaving Certificate

Applicants currently studying for Irish Leaving Certificate will not be considered

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

Applicants currently studying for Scottish Highers will not be considered

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

Applicants currently studying for Welsh Baccalaureate will not be considered

Graduate application

Applicants with a previous degree but do not meet criteria for direct entry to the degree programme will be considered if they are returning to education following a break.

Access

Applicants currently studying for an Access Diploma will not be considered. Mature students who have taken alternative routes with a range of qualifications will be looked at on an individual basis.

Profession-specific knowledge and skills required

Evidence of a clinical visit is highly recommended but not compulsory.

Declaration of criminal background

Applicants may be expected to complete either a Declaration of Criminal Background or have a full Disclosure Barring Service check as part of their application.

Disability information

Additional support is given to students who have declared a disability on their UCAS application.

Work Experience Requirements

Applicants with relevant work based qualifications will be considered. However, there will be no concession on number of GCSEs or grades/ topics.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our direct entry requirements. Although there is no direct Foundation Certificate route to this course, completing a Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), can guarantee you a place on a number of similar courses which may interest you.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

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