UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

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BSc (Hons)

Orthoptics

UCAS code B520

Entry requirements	Study mode	Duration	
A level: BBB	Full-time	3 years	Apply by: **30 June 2026** Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

Our Orthoptics programme prepares future professionals for an enriching career in a highly significant field within the modern healthcare world.

Introduction

Our Orthoptics programme will equip a graduate with the necessary skills to diagnose and manage conditions which may present in a range of patients from infants to the elderly.

These can include strabismus disorders (eye misalignments), amblyopia (sometimes called lazy eye), traumatic injuries, tumours, head injuries, diabetes and strokes.

In addition, you will focus on the fundamentals of the nervous system, neuro-anatomy and physiology, and where it relates to the practice of orthoptics.

This background knowledge will enable a graduate orthoptist to perform as a competent and reflective practitioner, capable of becoming a valuable member of an eye care team.

What you'll learn

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Numeracy skills
- Science acumen
- Research gathering
- Observational skills

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Course content

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

Year one

In year one, a wide range of factual knowledge and basic clinical skills are developed. The whole of semester one is spent in the University. This enables you to develop core knowledge and skills and more specifically the knowledge required to undertake orthoptic practice via profession-specific modules. This provides preparation for the professional practice placement observation week which occurs prior to the second semester. During year one, you will learn about the basic principles of eye movement systems and binocular vision, be able to undertake essential orthoptic assessments and have a total of seven weeks clinical placement.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY AND NORMAL DEVELOPMENT (ORTH139)	15
CLINICAL AND THEORETICAL ORTHOPTICS 1.1 (ORTH137)	30
CLINICAL AND THEORETICAL ORTHOPTICS 1.2 (ORTH140)	30
OPHTHALMOLOGY 1 (ORTH142)	15
PROFESSIONALISM AND HOLISTIC HEALTHCARE FOR ORTHOPTISTS (ORTH141)	15
PROFESSIONALISM AND SCHOLARSHIP (ORTH104)	7.5
VISUAL OPTICS (ORTH138)	7.5

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are currently reviewing all of our programmes. This may include refining study pathways, strengthening links with employers, integrating generative AI, developing students' research skills, and enhancing alignment with our research strengths. The course content currently shown on this page reflects the programme as it is running in September 2026. This page will be updated for students beginning in September 2027 by 1 September 2026 at the latest.

Year two

In year two, you will learn to apply the knowledge gained in year one to a wide range of clinical scenarios. Additionally, you will also gain the fundamental knowledge to enable you to use medicines under exemptions within the orthoptic scope of practice. You will continue to develop clinical skills at the University and at clinical sites throughout the UK (undertaking a total of 11-weeks clinical placement). Throughout year two, you will also learn essential principles for understanding and undertaking research, with the opportunity to undertake an orthoptic based clinical research project.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CLINICAL AND THEORETICAL ORTHOPTICS 2.1 (ORTH237)	15
CLINICAL AND THEORETICAL ORTHOPTICS 2.2 (ORTH240)	30
EXEMPTIONS FOR THE USE OF MEDICINES BY ORTHOPTISTS (ORTH230)	15
INTERPRETING THE EVIDENCE: RESEARCH METHODS & STATISTICS (ORTH238)	15
NEUROANATOMY (ORTH242)	15
MANAGEMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGICAL CONDITIONS (ORTH235)	7.5
ORTHOPTIC NEUROLOGY (ORTH236)	7.5

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH STUDY (ORTH241)	15

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Year three

In year three, you will focus on an evidence-based practice approach to their clinical care. During this year you will undertake a 12-week clinical placement, where you will prepare to become an autonomous practitioner. On completion of this year, you will be able to:

- Select and use appropriate orthoptic assessment techniques within their own practice accurately
- Devise an orthoptic intervention for a range of patients, and in accordance with established orthoptic standards
- Demonstrate a capacity to advise, with a high-level of autonomy and communication skills, individuals or their carers about management options which will be clinically effective
- Critically evaluate new concepts, arguments and evidence from a range of current theories and research from relevant disciplines and use these to analyse problems in orthoptic practice.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ADVANCED THEORETICAL ORTHOPTICS (ORTH330)	30

Compulsory modules	Credits
CLINICAL VISUAL OPTICS (ORTH332)	15
LITERATURE REVIEW (ORTH310)	30
ORTHOPTIC CLINICAL PRACTICE (ORTH335)	30
DEVELOPING AND ENHANCING PRACTICE (ORTH334)	15

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Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

We incorporate a wide variety of activities into our teaching to 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 all of the School of Allied Health Professions and Nursing programmes.

Practical work using state-of-the-art, professional-standard equipment, our 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 whilst 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 our Orthoptic programme. 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 School of Health Sciences programmes is an important aspect of our students' life. 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 Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching - learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning - taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment - assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

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Careers and employability

Orthoptic graduates are eligible to apply for statutory registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

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.

Overall, this programme offers graduates a rewarding career as autonomous practitioners and part of the health care team with an excellent record of graduate employment.

You can pursue a career in the National Health Service, Social Services or the private sector.

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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 - £9,790
Year in industry fee - £1,955
Year abroad fee - £1,465 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £32,000
Year in industry fee - £1,955
Year abroad fee - £16,000 (applies to year in China)

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

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 may include a laptop, books, or stationery. Additional costs for this course include Orthoptic equipment and travel to placements.

Stationery and equipment

Orthoptic equipment: £50

Travel to placements

This will vary due to geographical location, but is likely to be between £40 and £200 per week of placement (year one: seven weeks, year two: 11 weeks, and year three: 12 weeks).

* Home students are able to apply for reimbursement of travel/accommodation costs in relation to placement from the NHS Business Services Authority.

Find out more about additional study costs.

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Entry requirements

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

NHS Values will be assessed in all areas of an application including UCAS Personal Statement and at interview. For more details, please download our explanation of Value Based Recruitment.

A levels

BBB
to include one of the following: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology or Mathematics.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about how we make reduced grade offers.

If you don't meet the entry requirements, you may be able to complete a foundation year which would allow you to progress to this course.

Available foundation years:

- Foundation to Orthoptics (Year 0) BSc (Hons)

T levels

T levels considered in a relevant subject, Health and Science (Health, Healthcare Science and Science pathways) is accepted with an overall grade of Distinction to include in the core.

Applicants should contact us by completing the enquiry form on our website to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

GCSE

5 GCSE subjects at grade A*-C or grades 9-4. Subjects to include English Language, Mathematics and a Science. Core and Applied Science GCSEs will not be considered.

Science Dual Award is acceptable. Applied GCSEs will not be considered.

Subject requirements

Science practical Statement should be For applicants studying A levels with English exam boards: Where a science has been taken at A level (Chemistry, Biology or Physics), a pass in the Science practical of each subject will be required.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

BTEC Nationals are considered in addition to 5 GCSE subjects at grade A*-C or grades 9-4. Subjects to include English Language, Mathematics and a Science. Core and Applied Science GCSEs will not be considered. Science Dual Award is acceptable. Applied GCSEs will not be considered.

BTEC National Extended Certificate
Will be accepted at a minimum of Distinction accompanied by 2 A2 subjects at grade B to include one of the following: Biology, Maths, Chemistry, Physics or Psychology.

BTEC Level 3 National Diploma
Will be accepted in either Health and Social Care or Applied Science at Grade DD, plus 1 additional A Level at a minimum of Grade B.

BTEC National Extended Diploma
Will be accepted in in Health and Social Care and Applied Science at Grade DDD.

International Baccalaureate

30 points to include 3 Higher Level subjects at a minimum of grade 5. Biology must be offered at a minimum of a grade 5 or pass the IB Diploma plus 5,5,5 in 3 HL subjects including Biology grade 5.

European Baccalaureate

74% overall with a minimum mark of 8 in biology and no subject mark below 6.

Irish Leaving Certificate

6 Higher Level subjects to include English and Mathematics and one of the following Science subjects: Biology, Physics or Chemistry. Two subjects should be graded at H2 or

higher (this should include a Science subject) and the remaining four subjects should be graded at H3 or higher.

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

Highers: BBBBB (must include Biology, Physics, Maths or Chemistry).

Combination of Advanced Highers and Highers will be considered. A mixed presentation must include Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Maths at a minimum grade B. Advanced Highers must be in different subjects to those of Highers.

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

Grade BB at A-Level (which must include one of the following: Maths, psychology, Biology, Physics or Chemistry), plus the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate at Grade B

Cambridge Pre-U Diploma

Will be considered.

AQA Baccalaureate

Will be considered.

Graduate application

We welcome applications from graduates holding a minimum of a 2:2 classification. If your degree is not science related, contact the admissions tutor direct. Experience in health care is also an advantage.

The degree qualification should be supported by a sound academic background, with a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades A* – C, which should include English Language, Mathematics and Science.

Access

Essential: 45 credits at Level 3 in Biological, Psychological, Mathematical, Healthcare or Physics based subjects. 30 credits passed at distinction (Must include a minimum of 15 credits in a Biological or Physiological Science) and the remaining 15 credits must be passed at merit or higher. 2 GCSEs in Maths and English Language graded 4/C.

Profession-specific knowledge and skills required

Candidates must show evidence, in their UCAS Personal Statement, of a good understanding of the profession. It is highly recommended that a candidate should observe a state registered Orthoptist, but where this is not possible a visit to a clinical department involving discussion with the Orthoptist is required. The experience gained should be discussed in their UCAS Personal Statement, and the applicant must show evidence of a good understanding.

Candidates should be able to discuss in lay terms the conditions/examination procedures etc observed. They must also be aware of the differences between Orthoptics and Optometry.

Candidates should have experience of working with the general public and especially children, people with special needs and the elderly.

Careers conventions, information leaflets, and websites may also provide helpful background information.

Declaration of criminal background

You will understand that as an allied health professions and nursing student, and when you qualify, you will be asked to treat children and other vulnerable people. We therefore need information about any criminal offences of which you may have been convicted, or with which you have been charged. The information you provide may later be checked with the police.

If selected for interview you will be provided with the appropriate form to complete.

Health screening

The University and the School of Allied Health Professions and Nursing has an obligation to undertake health screening on all prospective healthcare students. Any offer of a place to study is conditional on completion of a health questionnaire and a satisfactory assessment of fitness to train from the University's Occupational Health Service. This will include some obligatory immunisations and blood tests.

Disability information

If you have, or think you have dyslexia or a long term health condition or impairment that may have the potential to impact upon your studies and/or your Fitness to Practice duty, please complete the Disability form. We will contact you to discuss your support needs.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

The IELTS requirement is an overall score of 7.0 with no component less than 6.5

Please note – whilst we do accept **IELTS** qualifications, we do not accept IELTS qualifications that have been sat and gained **online**. We only accept qualifications that have been sat and gained **in person**.

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.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a majority English speaking country.

We accept a variety of international language tests and country-specific qualifications.

IELTS

7.0 overall, with no component below 6.5

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 6 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 7 at Higher Level

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