

MSc

Orthoptics (Pre-registration)

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

24 months

Apply by: **15 January 2027**Starts on: **25 January 2027**

About this course

Enrol on our two-year, accelerated Orthoptics MSc programme to kickstart a rewarding, varied career in what is an interesting and challenging healthcare industry.

Introduction

Please note, your course welcome starts on 25 January 2027. Teaching starts on the 1 February 2027.

Early applications are encouraged. Applications submitted by 31 October will be given equal consideration. Applications submitted after this date are not guaranteed to be considered for the January start but may be considered for waiting list places.

If you are interested in working in healthcare, have an interest in eyes and vision or simply want a challenging, rewarding and varied career, consider this two year accelerated MSc programme in Orthoptics.

You will undertake seven modules over two years which are broadly categorised into three main themes: 'Orthoptic Clinical Practice and Theory', 'Ophthalmology and Optics' and 'Research Methods in Healthcare Practice'. Clinical education forms a key component of the programme and this will be delivered by giving students the opportunity to learn whilst on clinical placement and also using a high fidelity clinical simulation experience at the University.

The programme will ensure that upon graduation you are able to deliver outstanding patient care by using evidence based practice and continue to grow as an Orthoptist.

This course will provide you with an authentic experience integrating academic knowledge and clinical skills. Students will learn via a mix of home online learning, on campus teaching and clinical placement during specifically identified blocks of time for intensive practical clinical training. At the end of the two year programme you will be eligible to register with the Health Care Professions Council and practice under the protected title 'Orthoptist'.

Who is this course for?

This course is for you if you are interested in working in healthcare and have an interest in eyes and vision. You must have a good understanding of the profession and an awareness of the procedures undertaken.

What you'll learn

- An appreciation of different healthcare themes
- Numeracy skills
- Report writing skills
- Critical thinking and research skills
- The ability to diagnose and manage different eye complaints

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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, you will be introduced to the fundamental professional theory that underpins the industry. You will also develop primary clinical skills that will serve you throughout your academic and professional journey in Orthoptics.

Modules specifically relate to vital general academic skills like research as well as core subject themes including Neuro-orthoptics and Ophthalmology.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ORTHOPTIC CLINICAL PRACTICE AND THEORY I (ORTH421)	45
OPHTHALMOLOGY AND OPTICS I (ORTH420)	20
NEUROLOGY AND NEURO-ORTHOPTICS (ORTH422)	10
RESEARCH METHODS IN HEALTHCARE PRACTICE (HEAL417)	15

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

Year two

In the second year of your studies, your theoretic understanding of Orthoptics will evolve with the introduction of more sophisticated academic themes and subjects.

You will be given the opportunity to expand your clinical skills into more advanced areas of practice, and will demonstrate your knowledge of the industry through a dissertation

module in which you will be expected to explore a key aspect of your profession in considerable detail.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DISSERTATION: HEALTHCARE PRACTICE (HEAL418)	45
OPHTHALMOLOGY AND OPTICS II (ORTH423)	20
ORTHOPTIC CLINICAL PRACTICE AND THEORY II (ORTH424)	30

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Learning and teaching will be delivered using a hybrid model. Students will have blocks of on campus and online teaching.

The online blocks can range from 1-5 weeks where teaching and learning will be delivered online using asynchronous and synchronous activities. The 'on campus' blocks range from 2-7 weeks where students will engage with face-face teaching to consolidate their online learning and have the opportunity to integrate theory and practice. The simulation weeks will also be delivered on campus.

The learning and teaching strategy aligns with S2026 and meets the Liverpool Curriculum hallmarks and attributes. The students will experience the Liverpool hallmarks: 'Research-connected teaching', 'Active learning' and 'Authentic assessment'.

Through these learning opportunities the students will develop graduate attributes: confidence, digital fluency and global citizenship. Students will be required to interact with a number of digital platforms, for example, the University VLE, Microsoft Teams, recorded clinical skills, innovative Virtual Reality technology, Endnote and formative assessments tools like Kahoot to enhance their digital fluency and active learning.

The programme is culturally rich using inclusive teaching methods, having the opportunity to learn with and from individuals from diverse backgrounds and to interact with groups of people from all backgrounds. These hallmarks will enable students to develop into confident independent orthoptists who are autonomous, self-aware and capable of undertaking evidence based practice.

In year one of the programme, students will have the opportunity to attend a clinical placement site anywhere in the UK for 10 weeks (2x blocks of 4 weeks and 1 block of 2 weeks).

In year two, students will attend clinical placement for 11 weeks (1 block of 3 weeks and 2x blocks of 4 weeks) gaining valuable clinical experience to consolidate their knowledge.

How you're assessed

The assessment strategy for this programme aligns with the 'Authentic assessment' hallmark of the Liverpool Curriculum Framework where students will undertake assessment tasks across the two years that is reflective of the skills and knowledge required to practice as an orthoptist.

These include a range of different assessment methods requiring the student to demonstrate active learning and assesses their ability to demonstrate an integrated application of academic knowledge and practical skills relevant to orthoptics. Assessments include Online quizzes, written and practical examination and portfolios. These are scheduled appropriately throughout the 2-year programme. The research modules involve the student writing a project proposal at the end of year one and a journal article at the end of year two.

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

Graduates in Orthoptics are key to the National Health Service healthcare workforce as this field is a highlighted skill shortage area within the NHS.

Qualified orthoptists have the opportunity to develop into 'specialist' and 'advanced' professionals who can become consultant orthoptists and team and department managers.

Furthermore, upon graduation, this degree will allow individuals to pursue a range of general graduate and research careers in health sciences or the wider healthcare industry.

Employment opportunities are available nationally and internationally.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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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

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £32,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27. Please be advised that this tuition fee is subject to increase each year, 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.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.
- If you're eligible for tuition fees and maintenance support from the Student Loans Company, you may qualify for the NHS Learning Support Fund for this course.

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, specialist equipment, or stationery.

You can find information on the general and subject-specific costs you could expect to incur on our study costs webpage.

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Entry requirements

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

Postgraduate entry requirements

You should include a personal statement of no more than 700 words in support of your application. This should reflect on your understanding of the profession and relevant qualities valuable to a healthcare professional.

You will normally need a 2:2 honours degree, or above, or equivalent. While science subjects are preferred, we will consider graduates from a range of disciplines.

Applicants with a non-science degree will be considered with supporting information outlining relevant recent experience or further study. Each application will be assessed on its own merits.

You must demonstrate a good understanding of the orthoptist profession, including an awareness of the procedures undertaken. You are encouraged to arrange a clinical observational visit to an orthoptic department in support of your application.

An interview forms part of the selection process. The interview follows the values-based recruitment (VBR) process and you will be expected to demonstrate the relevance of the [NHS' values](#) and pertinent skills required within the orthoptic role.

Please note: meeting the minimum criteria does not guarantee a place on the programme as competition is high. You are encouraged to present the strongest possible application.

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. Please visit the [Higher Education Occupational Practitioners website](#) for further information.

International qualifications

[Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.](#)

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MSc, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

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](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

7.0 overall, with no component below 6.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 100 overall, with minimum scores of listening 21, writing 21, reading 21 and speaking 23. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 5 overall, with 4.5 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

135 overall, with writing not less than 140, speaking and reading not less than 125, and listening not below 120. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 130 overall, with no component below 120.

Pearson PTE Academic

69 overall, with no component below 61

LanguageCert Academic

75 overall, with no skill below 70

PSI Skills for English

C1 Pass in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	30 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 7.0 overall, with no component below 6.5, for further details.

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