**PROGRAMME INFORMATION**

**Course Title: BSc (Hons) Orthoptics**

**UCAS Code: B520**

We look forward to welcoming you to the Orthoptic Programme and we hope you are looking forward to embarking on your journey to becoming part of the wonderful Orthoptic Profession. During your three years of study with us we aim to develop you into confident graduates who are independent, reflective practitioners through authentic and active teaching & learning. Below is an overview of some of the key information you need to be aware of before you join us in welcome week.



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***Year One Module Overview:***

Year 1 of the programme consists of a range of modules from core orthoptics to clinical optics and other complimentary topics to give you the foundation of knowledge your will need to understand the clinical conditions you will encounter in your practice. Other modules are designed to develop you as a professional to instil within you the values and behaviours expected of a health professional. Below is a summary of the modules you will undertake. Further details about the modules can be found in the Programme Handbook.

**Attendance pattern/ year overview**

Below is a week-by-week calendar overview of your first academic year. Most of your first semester will be spent at University engaging in active learning activities. You will be scheduled a mixture of lectures and reading tasks to prepare for clinical tutorials and skills sessions. You will be expected to have a good level of foundation of knowledge from these preparation tasks and to use the tutorial opportunities to ask questions and clarify any areas of uncertainty, so it is essential that you prepare fully and keep on top of the work. At the end of semester 1 you will attend one of our clinical placement sites across the UK for 1 week to give you an insight into clinical practice, you will return to placement in March for 2 weeks with a final 4 week placement in the Summer to allow you to put the clinical skills you have learnt into practice. Assessments take place at the end of each semester in January & May. For calendar overviews for 2nd and 3rd year please see the programme handbook.

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| **Week Commencing** | **Academic Year** | **YEAR 1** |
| **15th September 2025** | **Welcome Week** | **Welcome Week** |
| **22nd September 2025** | **Week 1** | **University** |
| **29th September 2025** | **Week 2** | **University** |
| **6th October 2025** | **Week 3** | **University** |
| **13th October 2025** | **Week 4** | **University** |
| **20th October 2025** | **Week 5** | **University** |
| **27th October 2025** | **Week 6** | **University** |
| **3rd November 2025** | **Week 7** | **University** |
| **10th November 2025** | **Week 8** | **University** |
| **17th November 2025** | **Week 9** | **University** |
| **24th November 2025** | **Week 10** | **University** |
| **1st December 2025** | **Week 11** | **University** |
| **8th December 2025** | **Week 12** | **Placement** |
| **15th December 2025** | **Vacation** | **VACATION** |
| **22nd December 2025** | **Vacation** | **VACATION** |
| **29th December 2025** | **Vacation** | **VACATION** |
| **5th January 2026** | **Teaching/Assessment** | **Assessment** |
| **12th January 2026** | **Teaching/Assessment** | **Assessment** |
| **19th January 2026** | **Teaching/Assessment** | **Assessment** |
| **26th January 2026** | **Week 13** | **University** |
| **2nd February 2026** | **Week 14** | **University** |
| **9th February 2026** | **Week 15** | **University** |
| **16th February 2026** | **Week 16** | **University** |
| **23rd February 2026** | **Week 17** | **University** |
| **2nd March 2026** | **Week 18** | **University** |
| **9th March 2026** | **Week 19** | **University** |
| **16th March 2026** | **Week 20** | **Placement** |
| **23th March 2026** | **Vacation** | **Placement** |
| **30th March 2026** | **Vacation** | **VACATION** |
| **6th April 2026** | **Vacation** | **VACATION** |
| **13th April 2026** | **Week 21** | **University** |
| **20th April 2026** | **Week 22** | **University** |
| **27th April 2026** | **Week23** | **University** |
| **4th May 2026** | **Week 24** | **University** |
| **11th May 2026** | **Teaching/Assessment** | **Assessment** |
| **18th May 2026** | **Teaching/Assessment** | **Assessment** |
| **25th May 2026** | **Teaching/Assessment** | **Assessment** |
| **1st June 2026** | **Vacation** | **VACATION** |
| **8th June 2026** | **Vacation** | **VACATION** |
| **15th June 2026** | **Vacation** | **VACATION** |
| **22nd June 2026** | **Vacation** | **VACATION** |
| **29th June 2026** | **Vacation** | **Placement** |
| **6th July 2026** | **Vacation** | **Placement** |
| **13th July 2026** | **Vacation** | **Placement** |
| **20th July 2026** | **Vacation** | **Placement** |
| **27th July 2026** | **Vacation** | **VACATION** |
| **3rd August 2026** | **Vacation** | **Assessment** |
| **10th August 2026** | **Assessment Period (TBC)** | **Assessment** |
| **24th August 2026** | **Assessment Period (TBC)** | **Assessment** |
|  |  | **VACATION** |

**Clinical Placement**

As a condition of you being accepted on the programme, you will be expected to travel to clinical placement sites through-out the UK during your studies (3 x placements in each year)to undertake work-based training and apply theory to practice. You will therefore need to ensure that you have the appropriate financial provision in place for travel and accommodation costs. Students who are eligible for finance will have access to the NHS Learner support fund: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund> and will receive a £6000 training grant (£5000 basic + £1000 specialist subject payment) to help with training costs. Travel and accommodation costs can also be claimed back from the NHS Learner Support fund

**Essential Urgent Actions**

Prior to your arrival at University, you will be sent some forms to complete for Occupational Health checks and Disclosure & Barring Service checks. It is essential that you complete these forms and return them as soon as possible as these checks take time to process and you will not be cleared to attend clinical placement until they are complete. If you experience any difficulties with completing these forms, then it is important that you let a member of academic or professional services staff know so that we can assist you. Failure to complete these forms on time or notify us of delays will be a disciplinary matter.

**Your Programme Timetable**

Sessions during welcome week to introduce you to the Orthoptic Lecturing Staff and give you an overview of the programme will be take place on CAMPUS, your timetable and room location details will be sent to you by email.

Academic timetables will be available to students via the University Timetabling system and on the University Timetabling App. Please ensure you register for your University MWS account and download the relevant apps by Friday 16th September at the latest.

**Your Programme Handbook**

Programme handbooks will be available when you arrive in Liverpool and you will be shown where to access these during Welcome Week.

**Your Academic Advisor**

All students at the University of Liverpool will be assigned a named academic member of staff as their Academic Advisor. Their role is to provide information, advice, and guidance on academic matters and to direct you to further sources of information on the wide range of services available to students at Liverpool. You will have an opportunity to meet with your academic advisor during welcome week to get to know them and voice any questions/ concerns you may have.

**Clinical Equipment**

Every Orthoptist has their own ‘bag of tricks’ consisting of basic essential clinical equipment; occluder, clinical grade pen torch and a range of fixation targets. Orthoptic students will be asked to purchase essential clinical equipment required for clinical practice during Welcome Week at a cost of around £35. Arrangements for this ordering this will be discussed at the welcome session during Welcome Week. Students will also be able to buy additional non-essential equipment at this point if they wish.



**Uniform**

Students are expected to wear clinical uniform during clinical placements and for clinical exams. The cost of this uniform will be covered by the University, you will be sent details of how to order your uniform by the student experience team and this will be distributed to you at the first face-to-face clinical skills sessions in semester 1.

**Professional Membership** 

The Professional Body for Orthoptists is the British and Irish Orthoptic Society (BIOS). Orthoptic students benefit from free membership throughout their studies which offers many benefits including access to the latest information and guidance as well as a range of high-quality learning resources via the brand-new clinical education platform, PEARL. Students will be required to register for BIOS membership at the start of the course, guidance on how to register will be provided in welcome week.

The link to the BIOS website is <https://www.orthoptics.org.uk/> should you wish to visit this to learn more about the profession before you start the programme. It is recommended that you access the ‘About Orthoptics’ pages to explore some of the key aspects of the profession.

**Course Preparation**

In year 1 of the programme focuses on giving students a grounding in anatomy of the head, neck eye and orbit and the physiology the various systems of the body e.g brain and central nervous system vascular, endocrine. It would be advantageous to read around some of these aspects prior to arrival.

**Preparatory Books**

*Seely, Stephens & Tate*

*Anatomy & Physiology*

*McGraw Hill*

*ISBN* 0073109428

**Suggested Books**

*Ansons AM, Davis H. (Used throughout the 3 year course -* ***ESSENTIAL****) Diagnosis and Management of Ocular Motility Disorders*

*Blackwell Scientific Publications*

*ISBN 0632047984*

*(Both hard cover and Kindle versions of this are available.)*

*Rowe FJ. (Used in year 1 only)*

*Clinical Orthoptics, 3rd Ed. 2012*

*Blackwell Scientific Publications*

*ISBN 1405113421*

***Other books***

*Millodot, Michel, Laby, Daniel. (Used throughout the 3 year course)*

*Dictionary of Ophthalmology*

*Elsevier Butterworth Heinemann*

*ISBN 0750647973*

*Remington Lee Ann (Used throughout the 3 year course)*

*Clinical Anatomy and Physiology of the Visual System*

*Elsevier Butterworth-Heinemann*

*ISBN 10: 1437719260*

*Snell RS, Lemp MA. (Used in years 1&2)*

*Clinical Anatomy of the Eye*

*Blackwell Scientific Publications*

*ISBN 063204344x*

*Wong, A W (Used in years 2&3) (Available as an ebook from the library catalogue)*

*Eye Movement Disorders*

*Oxford University Press*

*ISBN10: 0195324269*