



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

ORTHOPTIST



“ I really enjoy my job as every day brings a different challenge - from treating poor eyesight in children to diagnosing and treating adults with double vision. ”

THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TEAM NEEDS YOU

ORTHOPTIST

Orthoptists investigate, diagnose and manage abnormal eye movements and visual defects such as squint, lazy eye and double vision. Orthoptic treatment aims to achieve maximum visual potential and the relief of symptoms. It includes a combination of eye exercises, glasses, patching and surgical intervention.

Orthoptists are involved in many areas of care. You may work in multidisciplinary teams that include ophthalmologists, optometrists, paediatricians, neurologists and other healthcare workers.

Graduates are able to take up employment in hospital eye departments, health centres and other community settings once they become registered with the Health Professionals Council. Opportunities exist to specialise in areas of orthoptic care associated with conditions such as stroke, trauma, paediatrics and neurosciences.

Skills Required:

An Orthoptist's work demands an ability to communicate well with people of all ages, but particularly with children. It also requires technical skills.

Training Programme:

BSc (Hons) Orthoptics

University of Liverpool undergraduate full-time 3 year programme

B.Med Sci (Hons) Orthoptics

University of Sheffield undergraduate full-time 3 year programme

Entry Qualifications:

University of Liverpool:

A minimum of 240 UCAS tariff points if three subjects at A level are studied, or 250 tariff points, if two subjects at A level are studied with additional AS levels.

University of Sheffield:

GCE/VCE A levels – BBB

Two GCE A levels plus two GCE AS levels - BB+AB

There are opportunities for clinical placements during the programme to be based in Northern Ireland hospitals.

Career Pathway:

The majority of Orthoptists are employed in the National Health Service. Opportunities exist for career progression either in management to Head Orthoptist or specialist in clinical practice.

Professional Recognition:

The courses are recognised by the Health Professions Council (HPC).

How to Apply:

For undergraduate full-time programmes, application should be made through Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Web Links:

University of Sheffield – www.shef.ac.uk

University of Liverpool – www.liv.ac.uk

British Orthoptic Society – www.britishorthopticsociety.co.uk

Contact address for further copies

HPSS Careers
The Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
Human Resources Directorate
Workforce Development Unit
Room D1.4
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast BT4 3SQ
Tel: (028) 9052 2664
www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

