



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

PROSTHETIST & ORTHOTIST



“ The provision of orthotic devices to support or protect the body from head down to toe makes every day a different challenge for an Orthotist. Giving people back independence for everyday life makes the outcome rewarding. ”

THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TEAM NEEDS YOU

PROSTHETIST & ORTHOTIST

Prosthetists and Orthotists are responsible for the assessing, measuring, design, fit, supply and review of prostheses and orthoses for patients. A prosthesis is a device that replaces a missing limb whilst an orthosis is a device fitted to an existing body segment. Prosthetists design and fit artificial replacements for patients who have lost or were born without a limb. They design a replacement limb by taking a plaster cast of the area on to which it is to fit.

Orthotists provide braces, splints and special footwear to help patients' with movement difficulties and to relieve discomfort. The orthotist assesses the patient's problem and decides upon a prescription and then designs the orthosis, supervises its manufacture, fitting and adjustment, and teaches the patient how to use it.

Skills Required:

You will need a high level of technical knowledge, particularly in biomechanics and movement. Your training will provide this. There is, however, much more to the role than technical ability. You must be able to deal with clients with patience and tact, to give them clear explanations and advice, and to reassure and encourage them.

Training Programme:

BSc (Hons) Prosthetics and Orthotics
University of Salford undergraduate full-time four year programme
BSc (Hons) Prosthetics and Orthotics
University of Strathclyde undergraduate full-time four year programme

Entry Qualifications:

University of Salford:

GCSE: 5 passes with grades A to C including English Language and Mathematics.
Advanced GCE (A2/AS level): 180-240 points. Biology is essential, preferably with Mathematics and/or Physics.
A-Level: At least two passes, preferably three to a total of 18 points. Biology is essential with Mathematics or Physics.
AS Level: Acceptable in combination with A levels or alone. Must be equivalent to A-Level points and must include Biology, Mathematics and Physics.

University of Strathclyde:

SCE Higher Grade: 4 passes at BBBB including Maths and two Science subjects (Biology, Physics, Technological Studies or Chemistry are preferred subjects).
Marginally under-qualified applicants from sixth year are advised to take CSYS or GCE Advanced level rather than to upgrade Highers.
GCE Advanced Level: 3 passes at CCC including Maths and at least one further Science subject (Biology, Physics, Technological Studies or Chemistry are preferred subjects).
Applicants with GNVQ and other qualifications can apply.

Career Pathway:

Most prosthetic and orthotic graduates begin their careers working for commercial companies who work for the Health & Personal Social Services (HPSS). However, there are increasing opportunities to work directly for the health service. As you become more experienced you may specialise in a particular area of clinical work or move into management, teaching or research.

Professional Recognition:

On completion of the course you will be eligible to apply for State Registration and become full members of the Health Professions Council and the British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists

How to Apply:

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

Web Links:

University of Salford – www.salford.ac.uk

University of Strathclyde - www.strath.ac.uk

Contact address for further copies

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