



THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHY

# POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN RESEARCH METHODS

## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the British School of Osteopathy (BSO)'s Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods validated by the University of Bedfordshire. This course welcomes UK, EU and international osteopaths, chiropractors and other specialists in manual medicine. The course is designed to fulfil individual and professional needs and meet the challenges of professional revalidation, both in terms of short and long-term study.

For osteopaths and other manual therapy practitioners who are currently involved in teaching or research, or are considering an academic career, this one year course aims to support their professional development as academics and/or researchers. The course is also designed for manual therapy practitioners who want to develop and evaluate their practice by enhancing their competence profile in research methods and criticality.

The course forms part of the British School of Osteopathy (BSO)'s developing portfolio of postgraduate courses, which aim to provide osteopaths and other manual medicine practitioners with opportunities to develop the required capabilities to facilitate the development and growth of their professions as a whole.

For students enrolled on osteopathy or manual medicine courses at master's and doctoral level, the Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods provides adequate preparation to consider, design, propose and deliver research as appropriate. Successful completion of this course will enable students registered on the BSO's Professional Doctorate in Osteopathy (also validated by the University of Bedfordshire) to progress to its final two years.

Three important features characterise the course:

- It has a strong manual medicine and therapy focus, which is achieved within two structured units of learning.
- Students on this course will participate in high quality educational, scholarship and research activities that will empower them to transform their practice and contribute to the development of their own profession.
- The course provides an opportunity for osteopaths, chiropractors and other manual medicine practitioners to engage in shared learning and enquiry.



## COURSE CONTENT

There are two compulsory units of learning:

- 1. Advanced Research Methods and Design** equips you with the knowledge and skills required to locate, appraise and use research, as well as plan and design a research project. To this end, it aims to prepare you to develop a suitable research question and use this as the basis for identifying the appropriate research methodologies for a small-scale research project. On completion of this unit you will be able to plan and outline a rationale for a piece of primary research which is relevant to health care practice. The unit will focus on the importance of research for the development of a body of evidence in osteopathy/manual therapy by drawing upon research methodologies commonly used within the field of health care. This will be achieved using on-line and face to face teaching and learning strategies, which are supported by your tutors.
- 2. Statistics for Health Care Research** provides coverage of standard and advanced statistical methods for you to develop your competence in applied statistics. This unit is organised around three main areas:
  - A detailed coverage of descriptive and inferential statistics
  - An introduction to multivariate and multivariable analysis
  - Practice of data analysis using SPSS and other statistical software packages.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Critically examine the research process, research methodologies and their underpinning theoretical perspectives
- Critically explore methods of data collection and analysis and justify their use for particular research questions
- Appraise and select appropriate methods of statistical analysis and analyse a range of simple and complex data sets
- Demonstrate an ability to effectively locate sources of credible information using systematic searching techniques and use these to develop arguments regarding the provisional nature of claims made in the fields of osteopathic and health care practice.

## TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Using a wide range of established learning and teaching methods such as lectures, seminars/tutorials, workshops, e-learning, self-directed study, and group work (e.g. journal clubs), you will be exposed to a meaningful, collaborative and challenging educational experience that draws upon knowledge and skills acquired at undergraduate level as well as the experiential learning acquired as a professional health care practitioner. This approach will enable you to develop as a professional by situating core research knowledge and skills within your specific area of practice. You will be strongly encouraged to work with staff and peers on appraising relevant research evidence and on designing potential research projects.

Assessments include a research proposal for a primary data collection project using a mixed-methods design, a portfolio of statistical data analyses and a multiple-choice exam.

Apart from research-specific knowledge and skills, upon completion of your programme of study, you will have developed transferable skills in areas such as communication, information literacy, creativity and critical thinking that will enable you to develop as a professional in your chosen field. You will therefore have acquired skills that will enable you to pursue a career in academia and research, capable of working with and learning from others, of adding significantly to your profession and be fully equipped for life in today's ever-changing health care environment.

## TEACHING TEAM

The delivery of the course will be supported by members of the BSO research team who have extensive knowledge, skills and expertise in research methods and analysis to effectively fulfil its aims. The course will be delivered at the BSO. Access to specialised resources (e.g. literature in the field of research methods and statistical software packages) will be facilitated by the BSO and University of Bedfordshire's libraries and by the BSO's ICT department.

## ENTRY CRITERIA

You should hold:

- A UK or overseas degree from a recognised academic institution, or an equivalent professional qualification
- A recognised health care qualification in osteopathy, chiropractic or physiotherapy
- All students are required to have basic IT skills and a computer internet connection.

## HOW TO APPLY

For further details relating to postgraduate study at the BSO, or to apply to study please contact **Gayda Arnold** on [g.arnold@bso.ac.uk](mailto:g.arnold@bso.ac.uk) or + 44 (0)20 7089 5315



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The BSO has made every effort to ensure that the information in this prospectus is accurate at the time of publication. However we do not accept liability for any inaccuracies. The BSO reserves the right to change or cancel our courses and services at any time without liability even after students have registered with us.

The BSO is a registered charity (no. 312873) which educates osteopaths, provides treatments for patients and promotes osteopathic research.