

COURSE DETAILS

Master of Osteopathy (MSc.Ost)

Type of course: Award leading

Mode of Delivery: Face to Face and Blended Learning

Title of qualification: Master of Science in Osteopathy (MSc.Ost)

MFQ level: 7

Total Learning hours: 2250

Total ECTS: 90

Course Type and Duration: Full time

Target Group: 18+ / career changers

Languages of instruction: English and Italian

Entry requirements: All applicants must demonstrate proficiency in Italian or English to CILS Due B2 or equivalent.

- (a) A relevant MQF/EQF Level 6 degree in osteopathy at second class or above from an approved Osteopathic Educational Institution or university, or
- (b) An MQF/EQF Level 6 degree in osteopathy plus a portfolio evidencing relevant work experience for at least 3 years, or
- (c) A qualification deemed by Malta ICOM Educational to be equivalent to the qualifications listed in (a) and (b) above

EU and Overseas Applicants must, where applicable, be registered as practicing clinicians with the relevant regulatory authority or association and must, irrespective of the former, hold appropriate professional indemnity insurance.

Relationship to occupation:

Obtaining a **Master's degree in Osteopathy** from Malta ICOM Educational offers the chance to embark on a fulfilling and demanding career within European National Health Services, Social Services, or the private sector.

Upon completing the program, graduates are equipped to collaborate with other skilled professionals across diverse clinical settings, contributing to the implementation of advancements in the diagnosis of disease, treatment, and the understanding of health.

In Malta, graduates can work in the private sector following successful registration with the [CPCM](#).

With accumulated experience, graduate osteopaths may opt to engage in teaching and research activities. Opportunities for careers in academia arise as graduates advance their educational journey.

Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

The programme aims to provide a high-quality learning experience, enabling students to develop a profile characterised by highly developed knowledge, skills and competences in all areas of osteopathic practice. Students graduating from this programme will possess a well-developed competence profile that enables them to practise as autonomous, primary contact practitioners within specific specialist areas of professional practice. Graduates from this programme will be skilful osteopaths delivering excellent person-centred care and possess sound academic abilities, which will enable them to develop their practice and the profession as a whole. Therefore, these graduates will contribute to and promote an evidence-based culture within the osteopathic profession and possess the required capabilities to facilitate the profession's development and growth as a whole.

The graduate from this programme will be able to:

- Critically evaluate current research and in the fields of osteopathy and health and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses that have the potential to inform their own research, their own practice and that of others.
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to research or advanced scholarship in osteopathy as a means of designing, implementing, evaluating research projects and disseminating their outcomes to a range of audiences.
- Provide safe, ethical and critically informed evidence-based osteopathic care underpinned by contemporary osteopathic and healthcare person-centred care models, adequate consideration of the patient's health and well-being, and a judicious selection and application of safe and effective treatment and management strategies.
- Communicate and work effectively and appropriately with patients, carers, colleagues and other members of the healthcare team.
- Critically evaluate and monitor their professional performance in order to identify and plan for continuing professional development needs and undertake their own independent learning.
- Critically evaluate the role of osteopathic care in various specialist areas and patient populations. Through self-reflection, critical thinking and a commitment to lifelong learning and professional development critically appraise future career pathways in osteopathy.
- Develop and promote a commitment to life-long learning, research, and evidence-based practice, continued professional development.
- Demonstrate highly developed clinical reasoning and decision-making competencies required to operate in the context of clinical complexity and unpredictability that characterise autonomous osteopathic practice.

The graduate from this program will:

- possess a well-developed competence profile that enables them to practise as autonomous, primary contact practitioners within specific specialist areas of professional practice.
- be skilful osteopaths delivering excellent person-centred care and possess sound academic abilities, which will enable them to develop their practice and the profession as a whole.
- contribute to and promote an evidence-based culture within the osteopathic profession and possess the required capabilities to facilitate the profession's development and growth as a whole.

The program provides osteopaths with relevant evidence-based learning opportunities, which will enable them to progress in their journey towards clinical expertise.

Overall Intended Program Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

- Critically evaluate current research and in the fields of osteopathy and health and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses that have the potential to inform their own research, their own practice and that of others.
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to research or advanced scholarship in osteopathy as a means of designing, implementing, evaluating research projects and disseminating their outcomes to a range of audiences.

Skills

- Provide safe, ethical and critically informed evidence-based osteopathic care underpinned by contemporary osteopathic and healthcare person-centred care models, adequate consideration of the patient's health and well-being, and a judicious selection and application of safe and effective treatment and management strategies.
- Communicate and work effectively and appropriately with patients, carers, colleagues and other members of the healthcare team.
- Critically evaluate and monitor their professional performance in order to identify and plan for continuing professional development needs and undertake their own independent learning.

Competence

- Critically evaluate the role of osteopathic care in various specialist areas and patient populations. Through self-reflection, critical thinking and a commitment to lifelong learning and professional development critically appraise future career pathways in osteopathy.
- To develop and promote a commitment to life-long learning, research, and evidence-based practice, continued professional development.
- Demonstrate highly developed clinical reasoning and decision-making competencies required to operate in the context of clinical complexity and unpredictability that characterise autonomous osteopathic practice.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

All MSc teaching hours will be delivered in 3-week teaching blocks in Malta ICOM teaching Centre in Malta.

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is an academic credit system based on the estimated student workload required to achieve the objectives and learning outcomes of a module or program of study. It is designed to enable academic recognition for periods of study, to facilitate student mobility and credit accumulation and transfer. The ECTS is the recommended credit system for higher education in Malta and across the European Higher Education Area.

The ECTS weighting for a module is a measure of the student input or workload required for that module, based on factors such as the number of contact hours, the number and length of written or verbally presented assessment exercises, class preparation and private study time, laboratory classes, examinations, clinical attendance, professional training placements, and so on.

The program is delivered as a 3-semester full time or a 3 year part time course the tables below clarify the delivery modes. The part-time program will be delivered over a minimum of three academic years with 30 ECTS per year. The two core modules of the program will be delivered in Year 1 of the program as they provide important foundational knowledge, skills, and competencies that students will require to subsequently undertake the elective modules. In Year 2 of the program, students will complete two of the three available elective modules, therefore completing 30 ECTS. In Year 3 of the program, students will complete their Dissertation module. Considering that part-time education requires an added level of flexibility, particularly for those on fulltime clinical practice who may want to undertake this MSc, students will have the flexibility to complete the program over a maximum of 5 years. This would include for example the completion of the core modules over Years 1 and 2, followed by the elective modules in Years 3 and 4, and the Dissertation in Year 5. Students will be eligible for breakout qualifications of a 30 ECTS Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Osteopathic Clinical Practice, and a 60 ECTS Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Osteopathic Specialist Clinical Practice.

Teaching Methods

The curriculum uses a blended approach to teaching and learning, employing a diverse variety of methods and resources. The curriculum is delivered using class and clinical based as well as virtual learning environments and focus on providing students with an integrated approach to theory and clinical practice through facilitated self-managed learning. Problem-based learning is used to develop critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning skills.

Problem-based learning is used to develop critical thinking and clinical reasoning skills. Classroom-based or online learning activities are organised around a clinical case scenario that is introduced at the beginning of each teaching week and revisited at the end that same week. Students will be required to critically analyse the clinical scenario, identify their own learning needs and to use the knowledge, skills and competencies acquired during that teaching week to inform their problem-based learning discussions at the end of that same week.

Seminars and online activities will enable students to explore, and problem solve the concepts presented in lectures, and interact with tutors and peers to further develop communication, knowledge, and skills and to acquire relevant competences.

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Organised clinical tutorials will enable students to explore, and problem solve the concepts and presented in the classroom-based learning environment and interact with tutors and peers to further develop communication, knowledge, and skills and to acquire relevant competencies. Moreover, organised clinical tutorials will enable the application of the underpinning theories and interpretation of their value to the student as a clinician therefore promoting the development of high-level clinical reasoning capabilities. Through supervised clinical practice, dialogue, critical discussion and analysis of scientific and clinical knowledge, and critical evaluation of their own developing practice, students develop appropriate knowledge, skills and capabilities in patient evaluation and treatment methods for osteopathic paediatric care. Students will also develop competence in clinical reasoning and reflective practice to support their patient evaluation and treatment, future professional development and life-long learning.

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Attend face-to-face and online lectures using Microsoft Teams or other VLE;
- Attend online masterclasses, case-based tutorials, journals clubs and webinars using Microsoft Teams or other VLE;
- Attend participatory workshops and seminars;
- Practical workshops and seminars on osteopathic evaluation and technique;
- Clinic-based learning with real-life and simulated-patient encounters;
- Participate in face-to-face and group discussion in relation to the issues relevant to clinical practice;
- Give and receive face-to-face feedback to peers on learning activities.
- Participate in face-to-face and online individual research supervision tutorials using Microsoft Teams.

Many of the lectures are from visiting or online experts who practice and/or research in their specific field. The course is academic in nature and at level 7 students are expected to use the basic content as a springboard for further self-study. All programme presentations and materials are available on our VLE (the Malta ICOM on-line learning platform) for follow up after lectures.

Self-managed and directed learning, supervised by tutors, provides students with opportunities for greater autonomy and self-management, skills needed for students to demonstrate that they are prepared for their future professional life.

General assessment procedures

The program has a variety of assessment styles including dissertation; reflective essays; case study-related essays; oral and digital presentations; clinical competence assessments; Mini Clinical Examinations (MCE) and written examinations.

The dissertation is a substantial piece of research (8000-12000 words) that will be linked to leading changes in the fields of clinical practice. The dissertations will be supervised by an academic within Malta ICOM and supported by a series of online resources. Students will be expected to maintain a portfolio of evidence reflecting their developing competency in advanced clinical practice throughout the course. These are normally related to osteopathic practice and include systematic enquiry, investigation, analysis, and evaluation, and should demonstrate the student's ability to apply appropriate analytical methods, whether qualitative or quantitative, and to plan and carry out a research project.

Portfolios are used to collect and collating evidence to demonstrate that learning outcomes have been met. They capture experiences by documenting the acquisition of practical and/or clinical and/or affective skills.

Practical examinations: in which students demonstrate their skills in selecting and performing a range of safe and effective osteopathic techniques.

Grading system: 0-100%

Pass mark: 50%