

Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions (Orthoptics) (Year 0) BSc (Hons)

COURSE DETAILS

- UCAS code: P0HG
- Study mode: Full-time
- Length: 4 years

KEY DATES

- Apply by: [29 January 2025](#)
- Starts: 22 September 2025

Course overview

A year zero foundation programme, designed for mature students who have typically been out of formal education for some time or who have taken non-traditional qualifications, which leads to access onto an Orthoptics BSc programme.

INTRODUCTION

The University of Liverpool, in collaboration with local FE partners, has developed a year zero foundation programme for Home students that leads to access onto a variety of vocational Health Studies programmes. Our Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions (Orthoptics) course is for students seeking entry to undertake the Orthoptics BSc (B520) programme.

Students seeking entry to Orthoptics will study a foundation year (year zero) at [Carmel College, St Helens](#), about nine miles from the university campus, where the class sizes are small and the standards of academic achievement high.

This programme is specifically targeted at Home mature and non-traditional students, who typically have taken a break from studies.

Please note that we will not consider applications from prospective students who have multiple UCAS applications for a variety of programmes, as this does not demonstrate a clear commitment.

For further information on how to apply to this programme please contact: shs@liverpool.ac.uk.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Skills needed for independent study at undergraduate degree level
 - Undertaking a variety of learning methods and assessment tasks
 - A breadth of patient-focused practical experience in a region with a particularly diverse population
 - Skills to diagnose and manage conditions which may present in a range of patients
 - The fundamentals of the nervous system, neuro-anatomy and physiology, and where it relates to the practice of orthoptics
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ROUTES

- [Orthoptics](#) BSc (Hons)
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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

YEAR ZERO

In all modules at year zero, the study skills needed for independent study at undergraduate degree level are developed. Students are also introduced to a variety of learning methods, such as formal taught sessions, workshops and practical laboratory sessions, as well as a variety of assessment tasks, such as written assignments, in class data handling, written and practical examinations to provide a good grounding for vocational programmes.

There are some shared modules for all students, and then route specific modules to ensure the students are prepared for their chosen undergraduate programmes.

COMPULSORY MODULES

BIOLOGY FOR HEALTH STUDIES 1 (HEAL001)

Credits: 22.5 / Semester: semester 1

This first semester module is part of the one year Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions programme and aims to facilitate knowledge and understanding of the basic structure and function of the mammalian body at a cellular level which is required before students study HEAL002 Biology for Health Sciences 2 in semester 2. It is designed for all routes through the programme to include Allied Health Professions, Nursing, Medicine, Dentistry, Dental therapy and Veterinary Science.

It can be delivered either face to face or through a blended approach using small group e-lectures and e-tutorials based upon DoFE guidelines at the time of delivery. Support tutorials will be offered alongside laboratory teaching sessions onsite to promote development of practical skills relevant to the biological sciences and independent learning strategies. The module is assessed by continuous coursework based on the practical laboratory skills and an end of semester multiple choice examination to assess knowledge of structure and function of mammalian cells.

BIOLOGY FOR HEALTH STUDIES 2 (HEAL002)

Credits: 22.5 / Semester: semester 2

This second semester module is part of the one year Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions programme and is designed to build on the knowledge and understanding of mammalian cells developed in the semester 1 HEAL001 Biology module. It is delivered to all students on the programme to include Allied Health professions, Nursing, Medicine, Dentistry, Dental Therapy and Veterinary Science routes. The module introduces the student to more complex physiological processes in mammals and to some aspects of gross mammalian anatomy. The module can be delivered either face to face or using a blended approach with some face to face and small group e-lectures, as well as on-site tutorials to include laboratory work which develops practical skills relevant to the biological sciences and promotes independent learning strategies. The mode of delivery will depend upon DoFE guidance. The module is assessed by coursework and an end of semester written examination to assess knowledge of the systems explored.

MATHS FOR HEALTH STUDIES 1 (HEAL003)

Credits: 7.5 / Semester: semester 1

This first semester module forms part of the Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions Programme and aims to facilitate knowledge and understanding of basic mathematical concepts which underpin calculations used in the HEAL001 Biology 1, HEAL002 Biology 2 and introduction to research included in HEAL006 Applied Psychology modules. It is designed for the Allied Health and Nursing routes through the programme. It also prepares students for further study in their chosen professional pathway which will require an understanding and application of mathematical calculations. The module is normally delivered face to face, however if needed it can be offered as a 50/50 hybrid blended approach using lectures/e-lectures, small group tutorials on-site and on-line using University of Liverpool electronic platforms. It also includes continuous weekly formative feedback sessions to support students in their problem solving abilities. This module is assessed by a one hour unseen written paper which can be delivered electronically online or face to face on site depending upon DoFE COVID guidelines which are not yet available for this academic year.

MATHS FOR HEALTH STUDIES 2 (HEAL004)

Credits: 7.5 / Semester: semester 2

This second semester module forms part of the Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions programme and builds upon the sem 1 HEAL003 Maths 1 module. It is designed for the Allied Health and Nursing routes through the programme. It introduces additional mathematical concepts which underpin the HEAL002 Biology2 and HEAL007 Health and Social Care for Health Sciences modules that require application of maths in either laboratory sessions or in research. It is normally delivered through face to face interactive teaching sessions, however if COVID restrictions are still in place then a 50/50 blended approach using e-lectures and e-tutorials as well as on-site small group work will be implemented. Weekly formative self assessment exercises are offered to encourage the student to analyse their progress and identify any areas of concern. This module is assessed by an unseen written examination paper which will be delivered either face to face or electronically through University of Liverpool platforms depending upon DoFE guidance.

FOUNDATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES (HEAL005)

Credits: 15 / Semester: whole session

This module forms part of the Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions programme and is delivered over both semester one and semester two. All students take this module, apart from those on the Veterinary Science route who have their own professional studies module (HEAL012). The foundation route has ten health professional pathways leading to a vocational career where an understanding of health and social care is essential. This module is designed to introduce the Allied Health, Nursing, Medicine, Dental and Dental Therapy students to the health and social care environment and the issues currently faced within it. In addition it supports the development of study skills that will support students throughout their degree and into their professional careers.

The module is partly assessed through a reflective portfolio which can be carried forward throughout their degree and into clinical practice. Students will also create an assessed presentation on a topic that interests them and deliver it to their peers. This is an essential skill in health related careers where presentation of research findings at conferences is common.

Relevant topics to support development of the portfolio and presentation are delivered through interactive lectures, small group discussions, seminars and practical sessions. The module contains compulsory elements such as a background to reflective practice and the use of portfolios; reflective assignments based upon the student's own learning experiences and a short essay exploring the health and social care environment through research of published work. This final task demonstrates the students research skills that are essential moving forward in their studies.

A formative assessment opportunity is in place at the end of semester one to ensure a student has feedback on their work to feed forward into semester two and aid completion. The portfolio is submitted in electronic format using the University of Liverpool electronic platforms. The presentation is delivered either face to face or via a virtual learning platform.

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY FOR HEALTH STUDIES (HEAL006)

Credits: 22.5 / Semester: whole session

This module is delivered across both semesters and forms part of the Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions programme leading to a vocational degree in the Health Sciences and a clinical career. It is designed for the Allied Health Professions and Nursing routes through the programme. Psychology is an integral part of those degrees focussed upon the patient and their healthcare journey. This module offers an introduction to key psychological aspects through the scientific study of human thought and behaviour that attempts to explain how and why people act, react and interact both as individuals and in groups. It interrelates with social science, behavioural science, neuroscience and health science and leads to an understanding of the relationship between brain function, the environment and human behaviour which will be useful for students moving forward. Principles of applied psychology delivered in the module focuses on the use of these various psychological concepts to understand how an individual's health and wellbeing might be affected.

Under normal conditions the module is delivered face to face, however can be offered using a 50/50 blended hybrid approach with some sessions delivered on line if required following DoFE guidance. A range of learning experiences are used to include lectures/e-lectures, small group tutorials/e-tutorials and group work.

The module is assessed by coursework and an end of semester 2 written examination which can be managed onsite or remotely if needed.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FOR HEALTH SCIENCES (HEAL007)

Credits: 22.5 / Semester: semester 2

This semester 2 module forms part of the Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions programme which leads into vocational degrees and a professional career in healthcare. It is designed specifically for the Allied Health professions and Nursing routes on the programme.

As a subject discipline, Health and Social Care combines elements of sociology, psychology, biology, nutrition, law, and ethics, and is therefore a relevant area to include in this programme.

This module complements information delivered in HEAL002 Biology 2 and HEAL006 Applied Psychology for Health Studies by giving additional context within the UK healthcare provision and linking to the other elements described above. It aims to help students understand issues such as what 'health' is, how it can be assessed/measured, the many biological, psychological, environmental, and ethical factors that can influence the health of individuals in a negative or positive way. In addition the principles and importance of health promotions in educating people to change behaviours for the betterment of their health are explored. The module is delivered through a range of methods to include lectures/e-lectures, tutorials/e-tutorials and student led group work.

There are two elements of assessment : Coursework and a presentation.

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

HOW YOU'LL LEARN

Learning is promoted through a wide variety of activities that enable students to become autonomous and continuous learners. Interactive lectures, practical and clinical skills group work, simulation, directed study, role play, problem based learning, small group work, student-led seminars, collaborative project work and interactive tutorials are key learning strategies of the programmes. Practical work using our imaging suite digital equipment, 3D virtual reality radiotherapy facility, Clinical Skills Resource Room and the Human Anatomy Resource Centre complement teaching activities. Face-to-face interactions between all students will occur at shared lectures, tutorials and group work and online interaction will be encouraged and facilitated. There are also inter-professional education and learning opportunities across all healthcare professions programmes.

HOW YOU'RE ASSESSED

Using a mixture of coursework and examination, a range of assessment methods can be seen across the programmes. These include seen and unseen written examinations, essay assignments with specific word lengths, multiple choice questions, case study presentations, video analysis and interactive practical examinations. Assessment of the work-based learning element of all programmes is an important aspect. You will be required to communicate your views orally and in written form; analyse, implement and evaluate your practice; and to extend the research and evidence base of your chosen profession.

The various methods of assessments have been chosen to provide a balance that will permit the undergraduates to demonstrate their intellectual abilities in all areas to the full.

LIVERPOOL HALLMARKS

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

Careers and employability

Orthoptic graduates are eligible to apply for statutory registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). This programme offers graduates a rewarding career as an autonomous practitioner and part of the health care team with an excellent record of graduate employment.

Most graduates choose to work in the National Health Service as an orthoptist in an eye care team.

However, there are opportunities to progress within your role as an orthoptist in a number of additional extended roles and advanced practice such as stroke, age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma and special educational needs.

There may also be opportunities to work in a private clinic or even abroad due to the international high recognition of the qualification.

99% OF HEALTH SCIENCES STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL FIND THEIR MAIN ACTIVITY AFTER GRADUATION MEANINGFUL.

Graduate Outcomes, 2018-19.

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

TUITION FEES

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)	
Full-time place, per year	£9,250
Foundation year fee	£7,500
Year in industry fee	£1,850
Year abroad fee	£1,385

International fees
This course is not available to international students.

Following the foundation years, standard course fees apply.

Fees shown are for the academic year 2024/25. Please note that the Year Abroad fee also applies to the Year in China.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

ADDITIONAL COSTS

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

We offer a range of scholarships and bursaries to provide tuition fee discounts and help with living expenses while at university.

Check out our [Liverpool Bursary](#), worth up to £2,000 per year for eligible UK students. Or for international students, our [Undergraduate Global Advancement Scholarship](#) offers a tuition fee discount of up to £5,000 for eligible international students starting an undergraduate degree from September 2024.

[Discover our full range of undergraduate scholarships and bursaries](#)

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

CLINICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Please view the [2023 Foundation to Human and Animal Health Professions entry requirements](#).

Applicants should normally be considered ineligible for direct entry to the BSc route.

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
A levels	<p>This programme is designed for mature students who have typically been out of formal education for some time or who have taken non-traditional qualifications.</p> <p>Please note that we will not consider A-Level students or School Leavers. However, consideration may be given to candidates who studied some time ago.</p> <p>In order to give all applicants an equal opportunity, applicants who have been rejected following an interview will not normally be considered again.</p>
GCSE	3 GCSEs at a minimum grade 4 (C) to include Maths; English Language; Science (single; dual; combined). Will consider GCSE resits and/or ONE pending GCSE grade. Applied GCSE Science will not be accepted.
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma	Students currently studying BTEC level 3 will not be considered; BTEC level 2 will not be accepted in lieu of GCSE
International Baccalaureate	Applicants currently studying for International Baccalaureate will not be considered
Irish Leaving Certificate	Applicants currently studying for Irish Leaving Certificate will not be considered

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher	Applicants currently studying for Scottish Highers will not be considered
Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced	Applicants currently studying for Welsh Baccalaureate will not be considered
Graduate application	Applicants with a previous degree but do not meet criteria for direct entry to the degree programme will be considered if they are returning to education following a break.
Access	Applicants currently studying for an Access Diploma will not be considered. Mature students who have taken alternative routes with a range of qualifications will be looked at on an individual basis.
Profession-specific knowledge and skills required	Evidence of a clinical visit is highly recommended but not compulsory.
Declaration of criminal background	Applicants may be expected to complete either a Declaration of Criminal Background or have a full Disclosure Barring Service check as part of their application.
Disability information	Additional support is given to students who have declared a disability on their UCAS application.
Work Experience Requirements	Applicants with relevant work based qualifications will be considered. However, there will be no concession on number of GCSEs or grades/ topics.
International qualifications	Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our direct entry requirements. Although there is no direct Foundation

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
	Certificate route to this course, completing a Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College , can guarantee you a place on a number of similar courses which may interest you.

ALTERNATIVE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

THE ORIGINAL

REDBRICK