

ORTHOPTIST

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Orthoptists are involved in the diagnosis and treatment of vision and abnormalities of eye movement and eye position. The professional role of the Orthoptist is to work with patients of all ages, from very young to the elderly. They use their special skills to help give better vision and therefore better quality of life.

An Orthoptist forms part of the care team looking after people with eye problems, in particular:

- Ocular motility (eye movement)
- Binocular vision
- Amblyopia (lazy eye)
- Strabismus (squint)

The Orthoptists performs tests to diagnose problems and determine appropriate management.

Most Orthoptists work closely with Ophthalmologists but have large amount of autonomy in the diagnosis and management of their patients. Many Orthoptist have an extended eye care role and carry out vision screening, glaucoma and low vision work or working with special needs services.

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify as an Orthoptist in the UK you must have an Orthoptics degree approved by the Health Professions Council (HPC).

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

The job title of Orthoptist is protected by law. Anyone, wishing to practice as an Orthoptist in the UK must be registered with the HPC. The HPC register is on-line at <http://www.hpc-uk.org/> Only EEA Nationals will be offered a period of adaptation training. Non-EEA nationals must submit their qualifications to the HPC international department to apply for registration. For further information regarding the HPC registration please see [Appendix 1](#).

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

B&C

If the migrant worker is HPC registered then they meet the skills criteria. Applicants should provide a HPC registration number and caseworkers should check this against the HPC register. Work permits can only be issued where the overseas national holds current HPC registration. Work permits must NOT be approved for adaptation training for this occupation.

TWES

Training

This occupation does not meet the TWES criteria for training.

Work Experience

This job is suitable for work experience when the worker is HPC registered.

SALARY

The NHS is introducing a new pay structure called Agenda for Change. This is the principal pay structure for the NHS. All NHS salaries are based on a 37 ½ hour week.

Band Level	Agenda for Change
Band 5 Orthoptist	£19,166 - £24,803
Band 6 Orthoptist Specialist	£22,886 - £31,004
Band 7 Orthoptist Advanced	£27,622 - £36,416
Band 8 Clinical Managers	£35,232 - £73,281

The NHS Work Force Review team has confirmed that salaries in the private sector for Orthoptists are broadly comparable to those in the public sector.

ADVERTISING

Vacancy Lists published by trusts of The National Health Service (NHS) www.nhs.uk

NHS jobs www.jobs.nhs.uk

Parallel Vision

British and Irish Orthoptic Society
Tavistock House North
Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9HX
Tel: 020 7387 7992

CONTACTS

British and Irish Orthoptic Society

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www.orthoptics.org.uk

The Health Professions Council

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Park House

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London
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Tel: 020 7582 0866
Fax: 020 7820 9684
Website - <http://www.hpc-uk.org/>
e-mail – info@hpc-uk.org

Archived

Appendix 1

HPC registration

Registration with HPC should take between six weeks and a few months. To receive HPC registration an individual who has been trained in the UK must attend a Degree or Postgraduate diploma/ Master's course that has been approved by the HPC. The list of approved courses can be found on-line at http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutregistration/educationandtraining/approvedcourses_or/ The Orthoptist must also adhere to the usual ethical standards.

If the Orthoptist was trained overseas they must apply to HPC international department who can check the applicants qualifications, work experience and ethics are equivalent to UK standards. The HPC can suggest that they undertake a test of competence if the applicant is already in the UK. This can include an interview or clinical test of competence and should only take a few days. The HPC will not offer adaptation to any non-EEA applicant.

EEA nationals and non-EEA nationals who are married to EEA nationals are covered by the EU's General System Directives 89/48/EEC and 92/51/EEC (this includes Romanian and Bulgarian nationals). The Directive means that the HPC has to take the applicant's qualifications from their home country into account. The HPC will decide if any additional training is required and unlike non-EEA nationals the HPC can advise that applicants undertake supervised practice.