

Association of Orthopaedic Practitioners UK

CAREER PATHWAY

Orthopaedic Practitioners work in the field of Trauma & Orthopaedic Outpatients, Accident & Emergency Departments and Operating Theatres.

It is their job to apply casts to patients, at the doctor's request following an accident, for elective orthopaedic conditions or following surgery.

Casting materials used today are varied. As well as Plaster of Paris, we use a wide range of resin based materials based on fibreglass, polypropylene and polyesters.

To be a qualified practitioner you have to hold the British Casting Certificate (BCC)

This certificate is validated by the British Orthopaedic Association (BOA) ; the Association of Orthopaedic Practitioners - UK (AOPUK) ; and supported by the Society of Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing (SOTN) of the Royal College of Nursing. Academic accreditation is awarded by Glasgow Caledonian University.

Interested In Becoming A Trainee Orthopaedic Practitioner?

We remain committed in progressing towards a recognised training pathway. Negotiations continue through a joint working party, exploring the possibility of Orthopaedic Practitioners being regulated by the Health Professions Council and to be recognised as a professional body.

Meanwhile, should you wish to pursue a career in Orthopaedics as a practitioner, primarily you should gain experience of working in a casting room. You cannot attend an approved course to qualify as an orthopaedic practitioner until you achieve the following criteria:

- Working in a casting room for a minimum of one year
- A good standard of education
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Be able to demonstrate some manual dexterity

The course / examination can be undertaken in the following ways;

5 week residential course held at Stanmore, London.

Or you can undertake one of the several day release courses held over 20 weeks at: -

- Bradford
- Newport
- Glasgow
- or Belfast

Details can be found on <http://www.boa.ac.uk/en/casting/information>

It is not common to see an advertised post for a trainee orthopaedic technician. We recommend that you seek a post as a Health Care Assistant. In time, visit the casting room, talk with the staff, and demonstrate an interest in applying casts.

You are welcome to join the AOP as an associate member.

To access the AOP web site, go to : WWW.AOP-UK.COM

Read our Notice Board; review job vacancies, or simply post your questions to us.