

Regulations of education in Osteopathy in the Pediatric Field:

Minimal standards for a postgraduate pediatric training compiled by the International Network of Pediatric Osteopathy (INPO)

Minimal standards:

400 hours a 45 min contact hours (maximum of teaching hours: 10 x 45 min per day) with at least 100 hours clinical work

What a graduate should know and be able to do on completion of the programme of study

Knowledge and understanding in the context of the subject

- advanced osteopathic and medical terminology in relation to paediatrics;
- specific anatomy and applied anatomy of the musculoskeletal system, the body cavities and the skull (in particular the TMJ), neuroanatomy of the central, peripheral and autonomic nervous systems and endocrinology, all applied to paediatric osteopathy;
- embryology and developmental stages of a child from birth to adolescence;
- premature birth and implications for health and osteopathic treatment;
- normal development of a child at a physically and emotionally level from birth to adolescence and methods of assessment;
- sensorimotor development and the importance of reflexes in the osteopathic evaluation and treatment of a child;
- physiology and pathophysiology adapted to childhood sufficient to interpret normal function and diseases;
- paediatric internal medicine, neurology, psychology, orthodontics, linked to signs and symptoms, behaviour, conditions and diseases; sufficient to interpret findings in view of differential diagnosis, examination procedures and safe osteopathic practice;
- knowledge on when to refer a patient or work in conjunction with other specialists;
- knowledge on the immune system of children;
- knowledge on genetic, congenital and acquired diseases and the implications for the child's health and osteopathic treatment with special attention to contraindications;
- knowledge on different attempts to explain health and disease in children
- knowledge on signs and symptoms of child abuse and appropriate ways to deal with it as well as implications for osteopathic treatment of previously abused children;
- ability to take a paediatric full case history, write appropriate case notes, summarise, collect and order data for use in practice and communication with other medical professions;
- assessment skills in the form of clinical paediatric osteopathic examination of the child using skilful examination procedures in the context of their relevance for differential diagnosis and treatment planning;
- assessment skills in the form of paediatric clinical medical screening and neurologic and orthopedic examination in the context of their relevance for diagnosis, osteopathic treatment or referral;

- a technical mastery in the application of osteopathic principles in the treatment of children with the use of a variety of osteopathic approaches and techniques individually tailored to the child's needs and diagnosis;
- evaluation of the patient, treatment outcomes and further plans for treatment and management;
- ability to inform the parents or older children on their problem and give advice on how to deal with a situation, use self help measures or other prophylactic advice in general;
- appropriate patient handling and communication skills in osteopathic practice using a patient-centered approach;
- deepening of knowledge on how to undertake independent self-directed research, critically evaluate own researched and other data in relation to the existing research in the pediatric field; discuss and compare research papers; awareness of ethical issues both in research and practice in relation to the treatment of children.

Subject-specific practical/professional skills

- case history taking, observation, examination and diagnostic abilities to come to a working diagnosis and plan of management for the premature, newborn, baby, toddler and growing child;
- palpatory mastery to determine as exactly as possible tissue states and somatic dysfunction;
- physical and manual mastery and dexterity;
- treatment skills from a variety of osteopathic backgrounds all adapted to the changing needs of a child from premature to newborn, baby, toddler and the growing child ;
- a technical mastery in the specific techniques of paediatric osteopathy;
- ability to react fast, effectively and safely to unexpected problems;
- child handling skills ensuring safe, caring and professional interaction with parents and children;
- general clinical skills ensuring further the safety and care of the children;
- ability to communicate and work with other professionals in this field academically and practically handling conflicts effectively and motivating others;
- skills associated with collection and interpretation of data for research including the construction of reports, essays, critical validation and discussion of research articles culminating in a thesis;
- osteopathic and medical terminology applied to pediatrics.

Qualities, Skills and Capabilities Profile

The educational and training goals of the programme seek to promote and demonstrate the following qualities, skills, capabilities and values in the student:

Intellectual

- academic study skills applied to the study of paediatric osteopathy;
- capacity to synthesise and summarise information and generate hypothesis/differential diagnosis in the field of pediatrics;
- capacity to test the validity of hypothesis/differential diagnosis;
- problem solving skills when dealing with clinic, osteopathic and intellectual challenges as well as contradictory information found in research and publications;
- justification of chosen strategies both in osteopathic clinic and research;
- interpretation of diagnostic findings and data gathering findings;
- awareness of ethical issues involved when treating children

Practical

- calm handling of osteopathic techniques on the child;
- apply osteopathic/medical diagnostic skills in order to come to an accurate diagnosis;
- use fine palpatory skills in order to determine tissue states, find the correct tissue to be treated and examine treatment outcome;
- apply osteopathic and medical treatment skills adapted to the needs of the child;
- flexibility and originality in the therapeutic encounter with a child and the ability to react appropriately to sudden problems or changes;

Personal and Social

- awareness of the needs and feelings of children and ability to communicate with them;
- communicate effectively with other health professionals in the pediatric field;