

# YOUR GUIDE TO JOINING THE ESO



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# Congratulations on your offer!

Choosing your place of study is likely to be one of the most important decisions you will make. This guide is to make sure you have all the information you need about the European School of Osteopathy - of course, if you have any questions then please do get in touch with our Admissions Team, who will be happy to help.

## Your Offer Explained

The notes below are to help you understand the full details of your offer. These should be read alongside the ESO offer letter.

### Responding to your offer

You can view your offer online on UCAS Track. UCAS will give you a date by which you need to reply to your offer, and it is important that you do so. UCAS will send you a reminder of this.

### Meeting the conditions

Your offer may come with conditions such as grades that you must meet in order to be accepted.

Your conditions are detailed on UCAS Track and should normally be met by 31 August 2020.

If you have any mitigating circumstances, such as illness, which may affect your exam results you should inform the examination board via your school or college as soon as possible.

If, because of this, you have not achieved the grades set out in your offer, please let our Admissions Team know as soon as possible - we may be able to take this into account.

### Deferred entry

If you have applied for deferred entry your offer will be for entry September 2021. You will still have to meet your conditions by 31 August 2020. If you change your mind about your chosen year of entry, get in touch with our Admissions Team to request the change. This is not normally a problem.

### Your offer

Your offer is based on the information provided in your UCAS application and at interview. If any of this information proves to be incorrect, we reserve the right to review and possibly withdraw your offer.

On enrolment day, you will be required to provide satisfactory evidence of your qualifications, in line with your UCAS application.

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# Why Choose the ESO?

## A broad curriculum

Become an all-round practitioner. We teach a broad range of osteopathic techniques, with cranial and visceral techniques covered as core subjects; from the first week of the course you will start learning practical skills. To underpin anatomical learning, students are given the opportunity to observe prosection.



## An established teaching clinic

Established for over 40 years, the Clinic carries out around 20,000 treatments per year. Students gain a broad range of experience by covering the specialist clinics offered in addition to the general clinic: Sports; Children's; Maternity; Women's Health; Headache; MSK Diagnostic Ultrasound.



## Academic quality

Learn from the experts; over 95% of our faculty are practising osteopaths, committed to providing the highest quality teaching and learning support and with experience of teaching osteopathy across the world.



## Preparation for your future career

We ensure that you acquire valuable skills for your future. We'll provide you with the theory and practical skills needed to become a proficient osteopathic practitioner. Business skills are part of the programme, enabling you to set up your own practice and start your rewarding career.



## Affordable Accommodation

Accommodation costs start at around £65 per week, based on 3 sharing a house. 100% of our students are settled in their accommodation before the start of term.



## A superb location

Boxley is in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Set in 17 acres of parkland and surrounded by vineyards, Boxley House provides a relaxed environment in which to study. Maidstone is just an hour by train from London, so you can have the best of both worlds.



## Making Your Choice

To help make your decision, we strongly recommend that you visit the ESO for an Open Day. To find out when the next one is and to book your place visit [www.eso.ac.uk/open-days/](http://www.eso.ac.uk/open-days/)

Open Days run monthly from November to April and give you an opportunity to get a real feel for the School, meet ESO students and staff and visit our busy teaching clinic. You can also observe lectures on the day.

If you have already attended an Open Day, or just fancy spending a bit more time at the ESO, you may like to book onto a Taster Day.

Taster Days provide an opportunity to sit in on lectures and spend time with existing ESO students. These run less frequently than Open Days - please visit our website to find out when the next one is scheduled.

Don't worry if you can't make a scheduled visit, individual visits can be arranged by contacting [admissions@eso.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@eso.ac.uk).

**" I have to say, my expectations were more than met. The faculty, environment, atmosphere and facilities are outstanding "**

Open Day attendee

# The Applicant Journey



## JAN - JULY

### Apply for funding

You don't need to wait for offers to apply for funding. UK students should apply as early as possible and EU students can apply from April.

## MAY - JUNE

### Offer acceptance

If you received all of your university offers by **31 March**, you must confirm your choices with UCAS by **5 May**. If you received all your offers after **31 March**, you must confirm your choices by **4 June**.

## JULY - SEPT

### Exam results

BTEC, A-Level & IB results are available - let our Admissions Team know as soon as you have them. If you have met your offer conditions, your place will be confirmed. If not, contact us as soon as possible.

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## FEB - APR

### UCAS Extra

From February, applicants who are not holding offers are given a chance to apply to courses that still have vacancies.

## MAY - SEPT

### Accommodation & VLE

Applicants who have accepted our offer will be provided with login details for the ESO's Virtual Learning Environment. Useful information about the course and accommodation will be posted on here from early July.

## 21 SEPT

### Course starts

Registration and DBS checks will take place on the first day. Inductions and Freshers events are held throughout your first week to help you settle in.

### Applicant Day

Sunday 19th July - see page 13

# Fees & Finance



**Tuition fees are a key matter for all students and it is important that you are familiar with how to pay and what support is available to you. Tuition fees for the academic year 2020/21 are outlined in your offer letter. Fees are charged on an annual basis and may be subject to an inflationary increase.**

## UK AND EU STUDENTS

Tuition fees for UK and EU students will be £9250 per year for 2020 entry. There are several ways you can pay:

### Tuition fee loans from UK Government

Eligible UK and EU students can apply for a tuition fee loan from Student Finance England (SFE) to cover their tuition fees. This is paid directly to **Buckinghamshire New University (Bucks)**.

To ensure your finances are in place at the start of the course you should apply for your tuition fee loan by the end of May 2020. You do not need a confirmed place at university to apply. You will need to reapply for student finance each year.

To apply and for further information visit [www.gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance) If you are from Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales, your application will be dealt with by the relevant Student Finance organisation.

### Interest payments

You will be charged interest on your loan from when you receive your first payment until it has been repaid in full. The interest will be compounded (i.e. added to the total amount you owe) every month. The most up-to-date information can be found at [www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk/](http://www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk/)

### Student Loan Repayments

Tuition Fee Loan repayments are due to begin in the April after you finish (or leave) the course. These are based on any earnings above the repayment threshold, as illustrated on the ESO website.

## LOAN APPLICATION CODES

University Code: B94  
Course Code: B310  
Campus Code: E

### Self funding students

If you wish to pay your tuition fees without a loan, or if you are not eligible for a loan, then you will pay these directly to the **European School of Osteopathy**. The ESO will issue an invoice at the time of enrolment. You can choose to pay in full or in 3 equal instalments: October, January and April.

### Students with existing higher level qualifications

Government policy means that if you already have a degree or other higher education qualification and you choose to study for another equivalent or lower level qualification (ELQ) you will not normally be eligible for government funding such as grants and living cost and tuition fee loans.

## MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT

### UK Students

Eligible UK students may apply for a maintenance loan to help with living costs.

Extra support may also be available for students who have dependents, or who have a disability or long term health condition or learning difficulty. Visit [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance) to find out your entitlement.

### EU/International Students

EU and International students are unlikely to be able to claim maintenance or support from the UK government. If you need help with living costs during your studies you should enquire about this in the country in which you are currently residing. Like all students you need to make sure you have enough money for day-to-day expenditures.

The UK Council for International Student Affairs website [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk) may be of help or you can use the calculator provided at <https://international.studentcalculator.org/>

## INTERNATIONAL (NON EU) STUDENTS

Tuition fees for International students for the academic year 2020/21 are available on the ESO website. Students requiring a visa to study in the UK under the TIER4 system will be required to pay a £3000 deposit as part of the enrolment process. This will be deducted from the total at the time of registration (see ESO International Guide for details). Fees must be paid up-front at the beginning of each academic year and may be subject to change.

More information about fee status assessment is available on the UKCISA website [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

# Enrolment



The ESO is a partner college of Buckinghamshire New University (Bucks) and you will be required to enrol with them during the first week of the course. Enrolment takes place at Boxley House, when we will check your ID, passport and certificates relating to your offer.

## Enrolment

You will need to complete a Bucks enrolment form on the first day of the course, providing your term time contact details and other details relating to your fee status. We will also take a photograph of you for your student ID card.

## Please bring with you:

### Identification

A valid passport or Photo Driving Licence. You must be UK born to produce the driving licence and this must be accompanied by evidence of National Insurance Number and full birth certificate.

If you are a holder of a non-UK/EU/EEA passport, we will also need to see your immigration status (e.g Indefinite Leave to Remain, Family member of EU/EEA National etc). This is to ensure that the ESO is complying with Home Office regulations, which require us to check that all our students have the right to remain and study in the UK.

### Proof of Qualifications

The qualifications listed on your UCAS form. Please bring the **original** certificates and a photocopy of these with you.

### Tuition Fees

If you have applied for a student loan, financial notification from Student Finance or the Student Loans Company (not your payment schedule letter). Or another method of payment - credit card, bank transfer form, e-payment, cheque or cash (if paying your own tuition fees).

### Equipment and Resources

You will need to purchase diagnostic equipment, treatment couch covers and clinic wear before the end of the first year and can expect to pay about £300 in total.

The ESO is not prescriptive in its recommendation of books. However, you will need to buy some books whilst on the course and we recommend that you set aside approximately £200 for this purpose.

### Criminal Records Check

All offers are subject to a satisfactory criminal records check. UK students will be asked to apply for this via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), whilst non-UK students will be required to bring a certificate of good conduct (or equivalent) with them. Details of this process will be posted on the Learning Zone during the summer.

### Fitness to Practice

Osteopathy is one of the health professions regulated by law in the UK. It is the responsibility of the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) to regulate the osteopathic profession. The GOsC set the standards and levels of professionalism expected of osteopaths and student osteopaths. Your conduct in both your personal and professional life counts when considering professional behaviour.

The GOsC defines professional behaviour as: "...demonstrating appropriate values, behaviours and relationships using appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes. It manifests itself as doing the right thing and behaving appropriately when no one is checking. Regulation begins with personal responsibility."

Don't worry! The expectations of osteopaths and osteopathic students' behaviour is a core aspect of the M.Ost programme at the ESO.

As osteopathic students you hold a privileged position and as part of your education and training as a healthcare professional, you will continue to learn about professional behaviour and personal responsibility. We strongly advise that you read the following documents produced by the ESO and the GOsC to help you prepare to enter the professional world of osteopathy:

- ESO Student Fitness to Practise Policy
- GOsC Student Fitness to Practise

Guidance about Professional Behaviours and Fitness to Practise for Osteopathic Students (2012). Both documents are available to view on the ESO website.

## CHECKLIST

- Valid passport or EU card (or birth certificate and drivers licence) plus photocopy
- Original certificates relevant to your education, as listed on your UCAS form, plus photocopies
- All offers are subject to a criminal records check: UK students will need to apply for a DBS check, which will cost £60
- EU and International students need a Certificate of Good Conduct

# Inspirational Teaching



"The clinic experience is where I have learnt everything I need for my professional career"

Year 4 ESO Student

We want you to get the most out of your experience at the ESO - through inspirational teaching and excellent support. This is what some of our students have had to say about our programme.

## Year 1 Students

"The lecturers and faculty have been outstanding and very approachable. This aids learning and well-being of the students."

"The mix of theory and practical lectures works well as it splits learning styles"

"The lecturers always went out of their way to provide extra help or assist learning. Sometimes lecturers would work into their break time to help students"

## Year 2 Students

"The practicals (classes) were really interesting and have pushed me to want to learn more."

"The indirect techniques were a real bonus in understanding how the body works and how osteopathy can affect the human body in such a smooth way."

"Prosection sessions have really improved my anatomical knowledge"

## Year 3 Students

"The whole concept of the clinic is a great experience. Although summer clinic is a lot of hours, I feel like I'm learning a lot in a short space of time"

"Diversity of practical lectures in 3rd year: SAT\*, BLT\*, Cranial, Visceral etc - it's a lot of different approaches and can be overwhelming but at the same time very inspiring."

## Year 4 Students

"The clinic experience is where I have learnt everything I need for my professional career"

"The clinic tutors were invaluable to my development as an osteopath"

"It was great to get to treat children and pregnant women"

# Support & Accommodation



The ESO prides itself on its friendly and supportive atmosphere. Our staff are approachable and happy to help with daily problems that students may encounter. Nevertheless we recognise that occasionally there are problems that require a little extra help.

## Disabilities

The ESO is committed to treating all of its students fairly and equally. We have experience of supporting students with a range of learning needs. If you have specific needs arising from learning difference, we advise you to contact us as soon as possible. Contact the Admissions Team or our Student Welfare Officer, Jacqui White, ([jacquiwhite@eso.ac.uk](mailto:jacquiwhite@eso.ac.uk)).

## Dyslexia

If you have been diagnosed with dyslexia, please provide evidence of this on arrival, so that we can put support in place from the outset.

## Study Support

The ESO is a fairly small institution and we are able to provide an individual approach for students needing extra support with study skills and any other problems encountered during their time with us.

Whatever your problem, our Student Welfare Officer is here to help.

## Personal Tutors

Personal Tutors are seen as vital for helping students feel part of the ESO community. They act as the first formal point of contact throughout the duration of the course and offer academic guidance from the outset, helping support your autonomous learning. Personal tutors also provide pastoral support should difficulties arise.



Jacqui White  
Student Welfare Officer

**" I think there is definitely a positive attitude towards disability at the ESO ... every student is treated as an important individual "**

ESO Student Disability Questionnaire

## Accommodation

There is a range of affordable housing in Maidstone and most of our students house-share with other ESO students.

We don't have halls of residence but we do help students find somewhere to live by producing accommodation lists, which are published on the ESO's VLE.

Online sites such as [rightmove.co.uk](http://rightmove.co.uk) and [zoopla.co.uk](http://zoopla.co.uk) may also be useful sources when looking for accommodation.

**Please note:** Properties are NOT vetted by the ESO and we recommend viewing to ensure suitability.

Each year, 100% of our students find accommodation before term starts



## Applicant Day

Date for your diary! We will be hosting an Applicant Day on **Sunday 19th July 2020, 11:00 - 14:00**. It is an opportunity to meet other students who will be starting with you on 21 September.

We will provide a picnic and you can network and start to immerse yourself in the wonderful atmosphere at Boxley.

The Admissions Team and Student Ambassadors will be there to make you feel at home and answer any questions you have, whether about the course, funding or tips on finding accommodation.

Why not take the opportunity to view some properties on the same day? Make sure to contact the landlords before the day to arrange a viewing.





# Life as an ESO Student



**With a student body of around 220 students, never feel you're an anonymous face in the crowd. The ESO Student Association hosts a number of events during Freshers Week, and you will soon find your way around and get to know your fellow students.**

## What is there to do in Maidstone?

Boxley House provides a relaxed atmosphere and students are able to take full advantage of the surrounding countryside. Maidstone itself is the lively county town of Kent, with numerous cafés, restaurants and nightclubs.

ESO students are able to enjoy the benefits of both country and town life.

## How do I keep fit?

Many of our students stay fit by simply running and walking around the Boxley grounds. Joining a gym is also a popular option and there are plenty to choose from in Maidstone.

We are fortunate to have students who have qualified as fitness instructors, who continue to teach. There is usually a schedule of classes each term such as salsa, yoga, pilates, and meditation.

## How do I get to Boxley/ESO Clinic

Maidstone town centre is about 3 miles from Boxley and the ESO Clinic is around 3.9 miles away.

Most of our students car-share. Getting to and from Boxley/Clinic is never a problem and there is plenty of free parking available at Boxley.

Some students also choose to cycle or walk to Boxley, particularly during the summer months.

During the winter, it should be borne in mind that it can start to get dark as early as 16.30 and lectures sometimes don't finish until 17.20. Due to Boxley's semi-rural location, we recommend you wear high visibility clothing when cycling.

There is also a bus service from central Maidstone to Boxley. Visit [www.nu-venture.co.uk](http://www.nu-venture.co.uk).

## Can I buy food on site?

Boxley's subsidised canteen offers freshly prepared food on a daily basis, with a vegetarian and vegan options provided; snacks and drinks can be purchased throughout the day.

## What facilities are there on site?

The Libraries at Boxley and Clinic provide an extensive range of excellent resources to support the School's curriculum.

You will be given a full library induction during your first few weeks on the course. The library can be contacted directly at [esolibrary@eso.ac.uk](mailto:esolibrary@eso.ac.uk).

Student common rooms provide a space for students to relax, play table tennis, pool etc; showers and lockers are available. Boxley offers outdoor gym equipment and an indoor fitness studio with a variety of calisthenic equipment.



## Assessments and Exams

All assessments happen during the published term dates.

You will be given more details on assessment at the start of each year.



# General Information



**At the ESO we recognise that starting on a new course can be daunting and there is a lot to think about. We have answered questions that are frequently asked by students prior to enrolment, but do feel free to contact us directly with any concerns.**

## Can I work part-time?

Many of our students work part-time in and around Maidstone. It should be remembered, however, that the M.Ost programme is FULL-TIME. There is also a lot of coursework to do. Some students do not find the time to work on top of this. It is a good idea to complete the first term to see how you get on before making any work commitments.

## International students (non-EU)

In line with UK Visas and Immigration regulations, students at the ESO are permitted to work a maximum of 20 hours per week, during term times. Please see the ESO's International Student Guide, available to view on the ESO website, for further information.

## Do I pay Council Tax?

Council Tax is a UK tax which is based on the value of a property and covers costs of local services such as fire brigade, police and rubbish collection.

If you are house-sharing, and everyone you live with is a student, the house will be Council Tax exempt.

You will need to give the Council a letter from the ESO to confirm this, which you can obtain by emailing: [info@eso.ac.uk](mailto:info@eso.ac.uk) or by contacting our receptionist. (This letter can only be provided once you have moved into a property and have completed enrolment.)

Council Tax rules are complex. Contact the local council to obtain information about your individual circumstances. Visit [www.maidstone.gov.uk](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk)

## How do I open a bank account? (EU/International students)

You will need a UK address and letter from us confirming you are a student before opening an account. You can request this on enrolment day. Useful guidance can be found on the UKCISA website (see p18 for web link).

## When will I get the Timetable?

The timetable will be made available on the VLE before you start. Instructions on how to install the timetable on your smartphone or tablet will also be provided via the VLE; the Timetable Co-ordinator will be available during Orientation week to provide help if required.

## Trains

If travelling from Maidstone to other parts of the UK by train there's a good chance you will need to journey to London first, where there are several train stations that connect to other destinations. The train from Maidstone East station takes you to London Victoria in about 50 minutes and there are around 3 trains per hour.

## Airports

Stansted, London Gatwick and City Airports are within 50 miles from Maidstone and are more easily accessible by rail (via London Victoria), or by car via the M25 motorway.

## The Channel Tunnel/Eurotunnel

The channel tunnel is only 30 minutes' drive from Maidstone and provides easy access to the Continent with a vehicle - from Folkestone to Calais in just 35 minutes.

## Driving in the UK (International students)

Please visit the UKCISA website for guidance (see p18 for web link)

## Medical Care in the UK

As a full-time registered student you will have access to free medical care in the UK.

For regular medical care, it is essential that you are registered with a doctor's practice close to where you live. Visit the National Health Service (NHS) Direct directory (see p18 for web link)

## International (Non-EU) students

You will need to pay a fee to access the NHS when you apply for your study visa. Please refer to the International Student Guide for more information.

## Dental Treatment

Dental treatment is not free, but significantly reduced cost dental treatments are available through NHS dentists. Private dental care is also available.

## LINKS

### Accommodation

[www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/council-tax](http://www.maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/council-tax)

### Fees and Funding - EU and UK Students

[www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

[www.eso.ac.uk/fees-funding/](http://www.eso.ac.uk/fees-funding/)

Student Finance Northern Ireland - [www.studentfinancenir.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancenir.co.uk)

Student Awards Agency for Scotland: [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

Student Finance Wales – [www.studentfinancewales.co.uk](http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk)

### Fees and Funding - International Students

[www.ukcisa.org.uk/](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/)

[www.international.studentcalculator.org/](http://www.international.studentcalculator.org/)

[www.eso.ac.uk/fees-funding/](http://www.eso.ac.uk/fees-funding/)

### Health

[www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/GP/LocationSearch/4](http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/GP/LocationSearch/4)

[www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Health-and-healthcare?q=healthcare&ExactMatch=True](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Health-and-healthcare?q=healthcare&ExactMatch=True)

### Driving - International Students

[www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Driving](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Studying--living-in-the-UK/Driving)

### Banking

[www.bba.org.uk/publication/leaflets/opening-a-bank-account-if-you-are-new-or-returning-to-the-uk/](http://www.bba.org.uk/publication/leaflets/opening-a-bank-account-if-you-are-new-or-returning-to-the-uk/)

### Student Life

ESO Student Association: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100011386439590](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100011386439590)

*The information in this leaflet was correct at the time of print and may be subject to change.*

## TERM DATES 2020/21

Term	Start date	End date
Autumn Term	Sept 21st 2020	Dec 11th 2020
Autumn Reading Week	Oct 26th 2020	Oct 30th 2020
Christmas Break	Dec 14th 2020	Jan 1st 2021
Spring Term	Jan 4th 2021	Mar 26th 2021
Spring Reading Week	Feb 8th 2021	Feb 12th 2021
Easter Break	Mar 29th 2021	Apr 16th 2021
Summer Term	Apr 19th 2021	July 9th 2021
Summer Reading Week	May 31st 2021	June 4th 2021

## CONTACT

**Bernie Ranger**  
**Admissions Officer**  
[admissions@eso.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@eso.ac.uk)  
**+44 (0)1622 671558**

**Gemma Holt**  
**Student Recruitment & Admissions Assistant**  
[admissions@eso.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@eso.ac.uk)  
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**Jacqui White**  
**Student Welfare Officer**  
[jacquiwhite@eso.ac.uk](mailto:jacquiwhite@eso.ac.uk)  
**+44 (0)1622 671558**

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## NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY



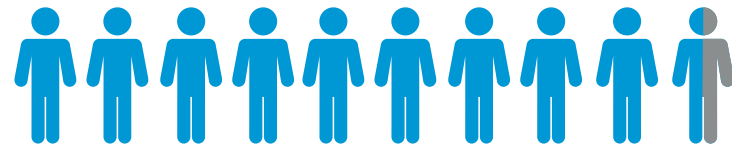
92%

Staff are good at explaining things

92%



The course is intellectually stimulating



95%

I feel part of a community of staff and students