Operating Department Practitioner

A different type of healthcare career.
A career that is rewarding and challenging.
A job where every day is different.
Operating Department Practitioner

What is an Operating Department Practitioner?

Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs) work alongside doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals caring for patients undergoing surgery. ODPs are important members of the multidisciplinary operating department team, working in the anaesthetic room, the operating room and in the post anaesthetic care unit, ensuring that up to date, safe care is given to patients having investigations and operations.

Where do Operating Department Practitioners work?

Operating Departments consist of a number of clinical settings. These settings include:

- Reception Area
- Anaesthetic Room
- Operating Room (Theatre)
- Post Anaesthetic Care Unit (Recovery)

Although ODPs are primarily employed in operating theatres, there is increasing recognition of their skills in other critical care areas and health care specialities such as Accident & Emergency, Resuscitation Teams and Intensive Care Units.
How do I become an Operating Department Practitioner?

You will start as a student ODP based at a hospital and attached to the University of Central Lancashire, undertaking the Diploma in Higher Education Operating Department Practice.

What does the course involve?

The course is delivered over 3 years on a full-time basis. Students will divide their time between study within the University and clinical practice placements in participating hospitals. In the final year of the course, you will attend the University on a day release basis. During your time in clinical practice, you will be supported by a named assessment team and will learn in a supportive environment in a clinical setting.

How much will it cost?

For UK students there are no tuition fees payable and in addition most students will receive a bursary.

How will I learn?

You will learn through a variety of settings including lectures, demonstrations, group activities such as discussion and role play, problem solving case studies and Web based resources. In the practice environment you will be observing, shadowing, practicing under supervision and participating in daily activity.

Knowledge and skills in relation to the three main areas of perioperative practice - anaesthesia, surgery and postoperative care are introduced, developed and enhanced over the duration of the course. Professional issues, research awareness and the management of operative care delivery are also explored.

Contact Details

If you would like to speak to someone about this course, contact:
Course Enquiries, Faculty of Health, University of Central Lancashire, Preston PR1 2HE
How will I be assessed?

A number of modules are assessed in both theory and practice. Theory assessment is by written assignments, oral viva and examinations. Clinical practice will be assessed through the completion of the integrated skills schedule and the production of a supporting portfolio of evidence.

Careers

A wide range of future career opportunities are available to Operating Department Practitioners. On successful completion of this three year programme of study you will have a qualification for employment within operating departments in the NHS or with private providers and are eligible for registration with the Health Professions Council. Progression into operating department management or education is another possibility. Opportunities also exist for the continuing professional education for ODPs to degree level.

- Become involved in the management of a theatre unit
- Further develop your skills and become an Advanced Surgical Practitioner
- Choose to specialise in a particular area of patient care such as Accident & Emergency, Intensive Care Units or Cardiac Arrest Teams
- Move into education and become a Lecturer or Skills Facilitator
- Focus on research

Participating Hospitals

Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust
  Blackpool Victoria Hospital

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust
  Burnley General Hospital
  Royal Blackburn Hospital

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
  Royal Preston Hospital
  Chorley District General Hospital

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust
  Royal Lancaster Infirmary
  Furness General Hospital
  Westmorland General Hospital

North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
  Cumberland Infirmary Carlisle
  West Cumberland Hospital Whitehaven

The Fylde Coast Classic Hospital
  Abbey Gisburn Park Hospital, Gisburn

Tel: 01772 893805  Email: healthcourses@uclan.ac.uk
Web: www.uclan.ac.uk/odp
What type of work does an Operating Department Practitioner do?

ODPs are required to provide high standards of patient care and carry out a wide range of roles in the following clinical settings:

**Anaesthetics**
- Assisting the anaesthetist with care of the patient before, during and whilst emerging from anaesthesia
- Undertaking clinical skills such as airway management and patient monitoring

**Surgical ‘Scrub’**
- Preparation of themselves, instruments and instrument trolleys
- Maintaining a sterile environment
- Anticipating the requirements of the surgical team and responding effectively
- Performing swab, needle, instrument and blade count
- Wound management

**Circulating**
- Assisting the team with scrubbing, gowning and gloving
- Working with the scrub person to prepare instrument trolleys
- Assisting the scrub person by the provision of sterile supplies during surgery
- Assisting with swab, needle, instrument and blade count

**Post Anaesthetic Care**
- Caring for patients following emergence from anaesthesia to their return to the ward
- Assessment and monitoring of pain control and management of post-operative nausea and vomiting
- Liaising with members of the surgical and anaesthetic teams
- Care of high dependency patients awaiting transfer
How do I apply?
Applications are usually accepted from April each year. Applicants indicate their preferred hospitals. If you are offered a place on the course you will be based where possible at the hospital you have selected.

Application packs can be obtained from Course Enquiries, Faculty of Health, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, PR1 2HE. If you are working in an NHS Trust or private hospital you should look for internal advertisements and apply as per instructions. If you are accepted onto the course you will be seconded by your hospital for the duration of the course.

Entry Requirements
- Applicants should be 18 years or over
- 5 GCSE ‘O’ levels Grade A, B or C, or CSE Grade 1 (one of which should be English and one either a science subject or mathematics)

Professionally approved equivalents are currently:
- NVQ Level 2 ODS with evidence of recent professional/academic development and operating department experience
- NVQ Level 3 in Care with operating department experience with continuing evidence of professional/academic development

All applicants being considered for an offer of a place will be required to attend a selection interview. Acceptance will also be conditional on a satisfactory health check and an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure clearance.

Accreditation of Prior and Experimental Learning
Applications from individuals with non standard qualifications, relevant work or life experience, and who can demonstrate the ability to cope with and benefit from this course are welcome. The accreditation of prior and experimental learning AP(E)L is a process that helps people of all ages, backgrounds, skills and attitudes to receive formal recognition for skills and knowledge they already possess. The AP(E)L process focuses on the assessment and certification of your prior learning and experience and at the end of the process you may have gained entry onto the course, or credit points towards a qualification. The maximum number of credits that may be accredited is equivalent to two thirds of the programme. If you think that you can use the AP(E)L process contact the course leader to discuss your options before you enrol.

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