

Careers in Orthoptics



Orthoptists are allied health professionals who specialise in visual function and are experts in understanding why and how neurological defects affect how we see. Orthoptists commonly work with patients in a hospital setting as part of a wider multi-professional team but can work in educational or social care teams in community settings.

What do orthoptists do? Orthoptists specialise in the assessment of visual function, particularly in children. They also diagnose and treat defects in eye movement and how the eyes work together. Orthoptists help patients to manage the visual symptoms of their conditions, along with providing advice for both the visual and general rehabilitation of these patients. In addition to their core knowledge and expertise, many orthoptists choose to undertake further training in areas such as stroke and brain injury, glaucoma, and special educational needs.

Where do orthoptists work?

Most orthoptists in the UK are employed by the NHS and work in:

- hospitals
- community - optical
- practice home visits
- rehabilitation centres
- schools
- child development centres.

What skills do I need to be a good orthoptist?

- good communication skills with the ability to adapt to the person/situation
- patient, friendly, and enjoy helping
- people have a keen interest in science, problem-solving and attention to detail
- good teamwork skills as well as the ability to work independently and make decisions.

How do I become an orthoptist?

To become an orthoptist you are required to have an undergraduate degree in orthoptics (BMedSci (hons) or BSc (hons) in Orthoptics) or complete a two-year pre-registration masters programme if you already have a degree in a science related subject. Once qualified you will then need to register with the [Health and Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#).

Following registration, further training can be undertaken to enable orthoptists to specialise in specific orthoptic services such as low vision.

How much do orthoptists earn? The starting salary for an orthoptist within the NHS is a band 5 (£27,055) with the potential to earn more with experience and if specialising in specific areas of orthoptics.

Want to find out more? Visit:

Careersville: <https://careersville.heiw.wales>

NHS Wales Careers: www.nhswalescareers.com



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