

BSc. (Hons) Operating Department Practice

Entry Criteria - - - Health Requirement

Health Criteria

Candidates applying for places on the course often ask whether there are specific health criteria they must meet before being considered for a place. The following guidelines should answer some of your questions. They are not intended to be totally comprehensive and candidates who would like further advice are advised to contact the Occupational Health Department, Leicester Royal Infirmary, (0116) 2585749.

The presence of a particular health problem does not mean the candidate will be rejected, but will be assessed on an individual basis. The Occupational Health Department is given the responsibility by the Department of Health to decide whether the candidate meets the current health criteria required to safely function as a qualified ODP. This may involve asking for a report from the candidate's GP or specialist. However, the final decision on whether the candidate is accepted or not lies with the University, as Occupational Health is an advisory service.

Candidates applying for places may consider the following guidelines:

Limbs and Joints

ODPs can be involved in a lot of physical activity. Significant ongoing problems may cause difficulties in completing the training.

Skin Conditions

If you suffer from eczema, especially on hands and arms, this could cause problems in your career as you could be exposed to infectious diseases and substances that may irritate your skin. Psoriasis will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Medical Conditions – Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy, Mental Health Problems

Asthma and diabetes that require frequent hospitalisation, or are not well controlled, may cause you problems. Breathing difficulties associated with sensitisation to certain products/substances, i.e. latex, nickel etc may be assessed on an individual basis. Epilepsy should not deter you as long as you are well controlled and have been fit-free for one year. All conditions including any mental health problems will be assessed on an individual basis.

Sight, Hearing and Other Communication Difficulties

These need to be discussed with the Occupational Health Department prior to pursuing an application.

Infectious Diseases

If you know that you are positive for certain blood borne viruses (e.g., Hepatitis) then you will not be able to pursue this career.

In the interest of infection control and efficient communication students working on clinical placement in the Operating Department are required to follow a strict dress code, this requires arms and faces to be uncovered. The ODP role involves dealing with patients in various states of undress. Prospective students who are unable to meet these requirements should seriously consider whether this is the correct education course for them..If you have a concern of this nature please discuss this with a member of staff at some time during your application process or interview.

Please note that there are strict attendance requirements for this course.