Operating department practitioners (ODPs) are an important part of the operating department team working with surgeons, anaesthetists and theatre nurses to help ensure every operation is as safe and effective as possible. This course will give you the skills and knowledge to become a competent, highly sought-after ODP, able to provide high standards of patient care and skilled support, alongside medical and nursing colleagues during peri-operative care.

THE COURSE

• Integrated theory and practice: the clinical experience you gain from your placements is backed up by seminars, lectures and small group work, as well as the use of simulation in teaching and virtual learning tools.

• Short pathway to a new profession: this course will prepare you to become a key member of the operating department in just two years.

• Superb teaching and facilities: our school has excellent facilities and teachers with a reputation for excellence.

• Developed in collaboration: This course has been developed in collaboration with our clinical partners and prepares you for registration with the Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC).

KEY ATTRIBUTES

You will have a caring and compassionate nature and a thoughtful and conscientious approach. You’ll enjoy working as part of a team, and excel within a pressurised and rapidly changing environment. Excellent problem solving skills are also key, as are good communication skills.

YOUR CAREER

ODPs are sought after professionals. Once you have qualified, pay and responsibility will depend upon experience and further specialist skills you may acquire. ODPs may work in a wide range of areas including transplant teams, orthopaedic clinics and special care baby units. You may go on to become a senior ODP, perhaps running a theatre unit. There are also opportunities in research, education and training. Options exist to work in other countries such as Australia and New Zealand, although roles may vary slightly.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE NHS CONSTITUTION?
All students who join our School must be able to identify with the NHS Constitution, which is embedded into all of our programmes. As part of our recruitment process, the values of the NHS Constitution will be explored at interview, alongside the ‘6 Cs’, with successful candidates demonstrating how these are reflected in their own beliefs.
www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/thenhs/about/Pages/nhscoreprinciples.aspx

WHAT ARE THE INTERVIEWS LIKE?
The interview lasts approximately 30 minutes and follows a multi-mini-interview format. The selection process will consist of a subject talk and interview. We will also check the documents you are asked to bring with you on the day.
www.uea.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/visit/interview-days

WHAT IS AN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND DBS CHECK?
All successful applicants will be required to complete a satisfactory Occupational Health and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Once you have been made an offer we will forward further information to you to let you know what you need to do.
www.uea.ac.uk/disclosure
www.umsuea.co.uk

WHAT ARE GOOD EXAMPLES OF WORK EXPERIENCE?
Work experience is a great way of seeing what it’s like working in the health service and showing your commitment to your future career in health. If you are able to get some work experience relevant to health it would give you a very good insight into possible careers. However, we do also look at other types of work experience that demonstrates you have some of the key attributes that employers look for in their staff.
www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-who-you-are/teachers-and-careers-advisers/work-experience/
www.stepintothens.nhs.uk/work-experience

ARE THERE ANY USEFUL RESOURCES YOU WOULD RECOMMEND?
The NHS is a valuable source of information when you’re researching what career you would like to follow: www.nhs.uk
You might also like to look at:
Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC): www.hpc-uk.org

WHO WILL I BE TAUGHT BY?
You will be taught by a group of supportive, dedicated lecturers who are all experts in their chosen area. The university also actively encourages research and excellence, and the school has a great reputation for delivering world-class research and learning.

WHAT IS INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING?
Interprofessional learning will enable you to practice and develop the skills required to work as part of an effective interprofessional team by encouraging collaboration on practical tasks, case scenarios and presentations.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM MY PLACEMENTS?
We offer a diverse range of placements to give you a real insight into the areas you might go into when you graduate. You will spend time in a variety of settings, interacting with patients, clients and families, where you will apply and develop your practice skills under the supervision of highly-skilled and experienced professionals. By the end of your course, the placement experiences will have allowed you to build an individual placement profile demonstrating you have undertaken the necessary time in practice required by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) to allow professional registration.

You will undertake placements usually in one Trust and are allocated to speciality teams in the operating department (e.g. general surgery, orthopaedics, gynaecology, etc.). Learning is supported and supervised by a Placement Mentor who is an experienced and qualified operating department practitioner or nurse.

WHAT IS THE ACCOMMODATION LIKE?
Research shows that we have some of the best value student accommodation when comparing prices across the country’s top 30 universities. Our accommodation is located within walking distance of our campus library, shops, restaurants, sports facilities and music venue.
www.uea.ac.uk/accommodation

HOW MUCH DOES THE COURSE COST?
Students will pay course fees and be able to apply for maintenance and tuition loans in the same way as most other degree programmes. Tuition fees for courses starting in 2018 are currently £9,250.
www.uea.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/finance/fees-loans-grants
www.uea.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/degree/detail/diphn-operating-department-practice

HOW DO I APPLY?
Apply online at: www.uea.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/apply
Apply: http://search.ucas.com/course/summary/42263/operating-department-practice
If you have any questions about your application:
Email: admissions@uea.ac.uk / Telephone: 01603 591515

HOW IS THE COURSE TAUGHT?
You will receive a high level of education drawn from the latest research, theories, practice and techniques. In addition, our state of the art purpose built facilities will provide you with an excellent learning environment. The course uses a blended learning approach which includes lectures, seminars, student-led learning, simulated practice and Enquiry Based Learning (EBL). The majority of learning will take place in small tutorial groups. EBL often explores different real life scenarios in packages of learning. For example, in Enquiry Based Learning packages you will identify issues raised for an individual, gather relevant information to address the issues and agree an action plan to meet any unmet needs.

The course involves approximately 40% theory and 60% practice. During the taught sessions, the timetable involves full time attendance, with placement shifts up to 12 hours in duration. These follow a 24/7 pattern including weekends and nights.