

BSc (Hons) Chiropractic PROSPECTUS

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the McTimoney College of Chiropractic is to educate and train students to be competent in the philosophy, science and art of chiropractic, in order to benefit patients.

The McTimoney College of Chiropractic is the only college offering mixed mode courses in chiropractic. It emphasises training in the McTimoney method of chiropractic, a skilful and effective, low force holistic treatment developed by its founder John McTimoney who began teaching his methods in 1972. The College also runs the only University validated post-graduate course in chiropractic for animals in Europe. With expansion of the College in recent years through growing demand, McTimoney-style chiropractors now represent over one quarter of the UK chiropractic profession.

The College is a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status (Registered Charity Number 294750). This prospectus includes information about the College, its courses and the McTimoney method of chiropractic.

SECTION 1

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The College

The McTimoney College of Chiropractic is located in Abingdon, a few miles away from its former home in Oxford. It is proud to have as its Patron, His Grace, the Duke of Bedford.

The College began as the Oxfordshire School of Chiropractic, founded by John McTimoney in 1972. By training a small number of pupils, he aimed to increase the availability of the treatment he had developed and to ensure that his techniques would not be lost.

In 1982, after John McTimoney's death, the school was taken over by three of his original pupils. They developed a course covering basic sciences and philosophy as well as the important skill of adjusting bones with extreme accuracy and speed. The school catered for the mature student with 'life experience' and some understanding of the problems that their patients might bring to them.

The demand for training in the McTimoney method of chiropractic continues to increase, and the course is validated by the University of Wales as a BSc (Hons) Chiropractic degree. The College also offers postgraduate animal and paediatric courses. It is thought by all involved that John McTimoney would be proud of his College today, which has grown from a group of eight taught in his own home to a yearly intake of up to 70 students. Each student, now as then, is given intensive tuition and supervision throughout their practical and clinical training to ensure the high quality and reputation of the McTimoney method.

Course Programme

The courses run by the College aim to prepare students for a career in their chosen profession. Chiropractic in general is becoming widely recognised by the medical profession and the general public as a key part of the healthcare system, its emphasis being on a holistic or whole body approach in addition to a sound understanding of the medical and scientific implications of the work.

College Premises and Resources

The College is located in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. This is centrally located just south of Oxford, only a few minutes from the A34 trunk road, and within easy access of the M4 and M40 motorways (see map enclosed).

Its premises have been recently custom-designed, and include a 100-seater lecture theatre with audio-visual equipment, a 2000 square foot technique room fitted with practical benches and teaching models, a comfortable student common room with drinks machines, microwave and fridge and student changing facilities and IT room. A small academic library, with Internet, electronic journal and CD-ROM facilities is available with additional resources being available at Warwickshire College for students on the animal course. Students are encouraged to build a close personal link with their local public or medical library and academic institute, facilitated by the College Librarian.

The College staff represent a range of academic, practical and clinical experience. The lecturers are supported by a full-time staff of administrative and accounting personnel. Technique teaching is conducted in small groups with a high staff-student ratio, and clinical training also offers this high staff-student ratio as clinical skills are developed.

The College also utilises off campus sites, both academic and practical. The Warwickshire College, where Students on the Animal Manipulation course will spend most of their time, is located at Moreton Morrell, near Wellesbourne in Warwickshire. The College is just eight miles from Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick and Leamington Spa and just minutes away from the motorway network. All of the College's resources are accessible to McTimoney students registered on the Animal Manipulation course. Resources that will specifically apply to those students are:

- 1) Library/Learning Resource Centre (Moreton Morrell)
- 2) Information Technology Resources
- 3) Equine Resources
- 4) Animal Care Resources
- 5) Agriculture Resources

The McTimoney Union

The McTimoney Union is elected by the students themselves to represent student interests while they are at College. The main objective of the Union is to represent students to the College and to act as a point of contact between the College and the student body. It facilitates communication between students in different years and coordinates ideas and actions. The College sends students to represent the College at the Conference of the World Council of Chiropractic Students (WCCS) each year, and this is funded through events organised by the Union.

Each cohort elects students to represent their year on the Union. From those elected a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary are selected. Elections take place in January and those elected serve for a period of one full calendar year. The Union meets at least four times annually and there is an AGM in March of each year. Accounts are maintained by the Union; the year-end is 31st December and the accounts are presented at the AGM. The Union Student levy of £10 p.a. is collected by the College at the beginning of each year.

Minutes of the Union committee meetings are available in the College Library and may be accessed there at the usual times.

The McTimoney Chiropractic Association

The McTimoney Chiropractic Association (MCA) is the professional body for graduates of the BSc (Hons) programme. It has an Executive Committee, which represents the membership, offers a wide range of professional services, and works to maintain its members' freedom to practise. The Association's main service to Student Members is to represent their interests with regard to their future registration with the General Chiropractic Council, and to provide information on chiropractic and general association and professional matters throughout the course.

Senior Staff

PRINCIPAL

Christina Cunliffe BSc (Hons) PhD DC CBiol FIBiol FCC FMCA MCC (Paeds)

COURSE LEADER (BSc Chiropractic)

Kalim Mehrabi DC DP FCC MNIMH

RESEARCH DIRECTOR

Ian Johnson BSc (Anat) BSc (Chiro) PhD FCC FIBiol FHEA

COURSE LEADER (MSc Animal Manipulation)

Sarah Hedderley RMANM, MMAA, PG Dip

COURSE LEADER (Small Animals)

Georgina Walker DC AMC MMCA

COURSE LEADER (MSc Animal Manipulation Osteopathic Pathway)

Tony Nevin DO

COURSE LEADER (MSc Chiropractic Paediatrics)

Neil Davies DC

COURSE MANAGER for BSc Chiropractic, MSc Chiropractic (Paediatrics)

Emma Brown

COURSE MANAGER for MSc Animal Manipulation

Melanie Goodchild

LIBRARIAN

Sylwia Markiewicz MA

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Heather Woodley CertEd BEd (Hons) MSc ACLIP

BURSAR

Graham Wallington

Equal Opportunities Policy

The College operates an equal opportunities policy for both staff and students, while maintaining high professional standards and in no way diminishing academic or practical entry requirements. The same academic requirements are applied equally to all applicants.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified people who have special needs. If you have any kind of learning problem, physical challenge or sensory impairment, you are advised to make contact with the Course Office Manager to discuss your individual needs when applying for the course.

SECTION 2

HISTORY

As long ago as 400 BC, Hippocrates recognised the importance of the spine in relation to health. The father of medicine advised: "Acquire knowledge of the spine, for this is requisite to understanding many diseases."

It was not until 1895 that Daniel D. Palmer of Davenport, Iowa, founded what was to develop into the Chiropractic movement that is spreading throughout the world today. The basis remains that no cell or organ can function correctly without its full supply of nerve impulses. The slightest displacement of joints can interfere with this supply and result in many kinds of 'dis-ease' - literally lack of ease.

Daniel D. Palmer introduced the term 'chiropractic' to mean adjustments of the bones made by the hands alone, from the Greek words 'kheir' meaning 'hand' and 'praktikos' meaning 'done by'. He founded the first school of chiropractic, Palmer College in Iowa, and was succeeded by his son B. J. Palmer. It was one of his early students, Dr. Mary Walker DC, who taught chiropractic to John McTimoney in the 1950s.

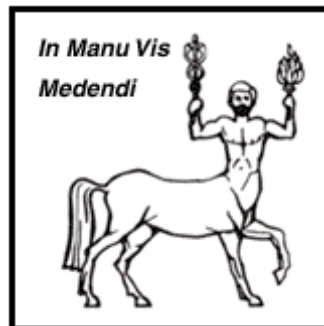
John McTimoney was to further develop the techniques he was taught and extended their use to animals. The swiftness of the adjustments he devised requires great sensitivity and skill, and once mastered the McTimoney method has proved to be extremely effective. Chiropractic is a drugless and non-surgical approach to healthcare, and with the McTimoney philosophical approach and reliance on the hand, it has not deviated from the original ideals of chiropractic. The McTimoney College of Chiropractic was founded in 1972, and was the second chiropractic college to be started in the UK. It was formed to teach the Palmer principles of chiropractic, together with the McTimoney-developed method of chiropractic care.

The McTimoney method of chiropractic is holistic and concerned with the welfare of the whole body. This emphasis on causes rather than symptoms has growing public appeal. At the same time the medical profession increasingly recognises chiropractic as an effective way to manage a wide range of musculo-skeletal conditions. Such widespread acceptance was marked by the Chiropractors Act 1994, and the setting up of the General Chiropractic Council (GCC), which is now the Statutory body regulating chiropractic in this country.

The GCC has the remit to protect the public, promote the profession and set standards.

This has resulted in the accreditation of chiropractic colleges, leading to the award of recognised qualifications for the purpose of gaining entry to the official Register of Chiropractors. Only those registered with the GCC may practice as chiropractors in the UK.

The Logo Explained



The College logo depicts Cheiron, who was the wisest of the Greek centaurs. A teacher and a healer, Cheiron was tutor to both Achilles and Jason. Apart from his obvious connection with teaching and healing, Cheiron admirably illustrates the dual application of the McTimoney technique to both humans and animals. In his hands he carries the caduceus of healing and the flame of knowledge, and the Latin motto, *In Manu Vis Medendi*, means 'in the hands is healing'. By correctly training the hands as an instrument of our innate intelligence, healing can be encouraged to take place by the detection and correction of bony subluxations (slight displacements). Cheiron and the motto form the emblem of McTimoney-style practitioners, and may be displayed only by qualified practitioners who have successfully completed their training at the McTimoney College.

SECTION 3

ABOUT CHIROPRACTIC

What is Chiropractic?

Chiropractic is a drugless and non-surgical form of health care that aims to treat causes rather than symptoms. The term 'chiropractic' literally translated means 'done by hand' and chiropractic restores health by adjustments of the spine and other joints of the body using the hand. The basic principle of chiropractic is that disturbances of the nervous system, resulting from subluxation of the bones of the spine and other parts of the body, are a primary or contributory factor in the pathological process of many common human and animal ailments.

There are many chiropractic approaches and techniques used around the world, often named after their originator. The McTimoney method of chiropractic is typified by a whole body assessment and swift, light force adjustments, which makes it a gentle treatment to receive. The subtlety of the adjustment therefore demands great sensitivity and mechanical skill, and once mastered the technique is extremely effective.

Chiropractors consider that the body benefits from having periodic chiropractic treatments on a preventative basis so that incipient problems may be avoided.

How Chiropractic Works

The nervous system is responsible for all body functions. The correct alignment of vertebrae in the spinal column is vital to maintain nerve pathways. Subluxations, or misalignments, in the body can occur at any time. They may be related to accidents, sporting activities, household tasks, emotional and physical stress, even a bad mattress. Some causes are so subtle that changes can occur without the patient's knowledge as symptoms can take years to arise. Chiropractors believe that much ill health in adult life may be related to accidents in childhood.

When subluxations occur, a person can experience pain - of any description, of any duration, anywhere down the course of the nerve. This may lead to malfunction in either the muscles or internal organs. For example, tingling fingers can often be caused by subluxation of the neck vertebrae.

A chiropractor will examine by hand (palpate) the bones and joints of the body to check for imbalance, however slight. Any problems found are corrected with various adjustments, which are effective and safe. The bones are never forced into place, but by adjusting with a very rapid thrust and immediate release, the bone 'toggles' towards its correct position.

Chiropractic aims to restore nerve function in order to promote natural health. This involves re-educating the patient's muscle and bones into better alignment. It is also a preventative treatment and can greatly improve overall health and well-being. Regular check ups are recommended to ensure that the body maintains a healthy balance.

For Animals

For more than 30 years, those trained in McTimoney animal techniques have been helping horses, dogs, cats and farm animals - the range of animals treated has even widened to include some 'exotic' species. Again, the whole body is assessed and treated to eliminate the cause, not just to deal with the symptoms. Treatment requires the approval of the owner's veterinary surgeon and a growing number of vets now refer cases to a McTimoney trained animal practitioner.

SECTION 4

FOUNDATION / ACCESS COURSES

Access Programme to BSc (Hons) Chiropractic

This course is designed for those applicants who do not meet the normal entry requirements for the Chiropractic course run by the College, or who feel that their basic science background requires updating.

It aims to expose students to:

- scientific principles both in terms of language and basic concepts in the context of Human Chemistry, Physiology and Anatomy
- the academic rigour required to study at degree level
- clinical thinking in the context of the Chiropractic Clinic
- a means by which the student is able to judge his/her ability to succeed on the BSc course

In addition to the McTimoney College certificate, which guarantees an interview for the BSc (Hons) programme, students will gain a professional ITEC (International Therapies Examination Council) certificate. This is a holistic massage qualification, which provides a hands-on skill for immediate use.

The course design is based on individual learning with an emphasis on the development of the requisite foundational concepts for the Chiropractic degree programme. Teaching and learning is formally undertaken through lectures, small group assignments and home study.

The Access course has two “intake dates” to accommodate late entrants. We are also able to offer dates for a second intake to this course for those who are unable to attend the first few weekends. The last intake of each year takes place in September, for those who are able to undertake an intensive course of study.

The standard course runs from April to November and consists of 8 full weekends and a 7-day residential week at the College mid year.

There are no set entry requirements for acceptance onto the Access course, and prospective students may apply at any time.

SECTION 5

The BSc (Hons) Chiropractic

The five-year BSc (Hons) Chiropractic programme delivered by the McTimoney College of Chiropractic is recognised by the General Chiropractic Council as a pathway for acceptance onto the Register of Chiropractors [this programme is currently in the final stages of recognition as an MChiro award].

Students should note that courses are subject to change, based on any recommendation or directive of the General Chiropractic Council.

Structure

The course begins in January each year and lasts for five years of modular learning study. The course is semestered, with a week-long residential school in each semester.

In years 1-4 students attend weekend tutorial sessions in each semester, which take place in Abingdon. These cover the academic aspects of the course and also the practical skills necessary for chiropractic practise.

The weekend sessions are intensive and involve lectures and practical training. All practical training is delivered by practising chiropractors, with scientific and medical knowledge being delivered by specialists in these areas who may also be chiropractors. An important part of the course is the philosophy of chiropractic, especially the holistic and vitalistic response to patient care. Residential schools take place either in Cardiff or at the College in Abingdon, and involve academic, practical and clinical components.

The first two years of the course introduce the student to a wide range of practical and academic learning. Students are invited to contribute to the philosophic discussions implicit in chiropractic, to gain academic knowledge enabling them to understand the systems and working of the human body, and the practical skills in assessment and diagnosis of patient presentation.

Years three and four extend the student's knowledge and abilities academically and in practical and professional terms. Extensive modules in clinical medicine, diagnosis and research methods, as well as extensive practical and clinical hours, prepare the students for their clinical assessments which take place at the end of year four. They are also introduced to the business and professional commitments of professional registrants of a statutory body.

Throughout the four years, students follow a course of personal and professional development that aims to introduce concepts of professionalism and to enable them to cope with the demands of growth initiated by the course.

Clinic training in Year 5 is delivered through clinics currently operating seven days a week in Abingdon. Student involvement in the College's training clinics starts in Year 1 and is fully developed in Year 5. In this final year, students will need to manage their own list of patients to fulfil specific patient contact requirements. Attendance at the College's training clinic on a frequent basis will therefore be necessary, and students living some distance away should bear this requirement in mind when applying to join the course.

The clinics are regularly audited to ensure the continuity of training and student support. As many are mid-week clinics, students must make the time available and meet their own costs.

Dates

The course dates for 2009 are given in Section 6.

Course Progression

Modules	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Anatomy					
Physiology					
Biochemistry					
Biomechanics					
Neuroscience					
Pharmacology					
Pathology					
Musculoskeletal Medicine					
Behavioural Science					
Clinical Neurology					
Differential Diagnosis					
Imaging & Referral					
General Medicine					
Patient Assessment					
Philosophy					
Chiropractic Studies					
Research					
Clinic Studies					

After Graduation

In common with all chiropractic courses, students entering the course from now on may need to complete a Provisional Period of Registration (PPR) of one year before being admitted to the Full Register of the GCC. The details of this year are still under discussion with the GCC, and will be made available when known. At present, graduates undertake a similar scheme run by the McTimoney Chiropractic Association / College of Chiropractors.

Postgraduate and Associate Studies

All chiropractors are required to undergo Continuing Professional Development each year and the College is heavily involved in the delivery of postgraduate studies.

Student Intake and Entry Qualifications

The courses are aimed at students who already have some work and life experience. Students therefore tend to be older than the average Higher Education entrant and are frequently undergoing a career or life change. A wide range of backgrounds and academic experience is represented in any student group; for example in a recent intake, one third of the students held first degrees or their equivalent and two thirds had some previous training in complementary therapy or medical professions. A commitment to the profession is seen as of equal value as the ability to work at an academic level, though all students will be required to submit work at degree level.

Students who do not meet the academic requirement through formal education are urged to submit an application for consideration; advice will always be given to enable students to gain the necessary qualification they may lack. A Foundation/Access course is available that may be appropriate for some candidates (See section 4).

Courses begin in January of each year. The minimum age of entry is 18 years and candidates should normally possess passes in five GCSE subjects including English and a mathematics subject. They should also hold three 'A' level passes each at Grade C or above, two of which should normally be in science subjects, particularly biological science, or a relevant higher qualification. Candidates may be accepted under special provision if they fail to meet the specified entry requirements provided that they have

suitable alternative science based qualifications. Other qualifications will also be taken into consideration under the APEL (Accreditation of Prior Experience and Learning) system. In addition to having some knowledge of basic science, candidates should have experienced a chiropractic treatment. The College reserves the right to request candidates to sit an entrance examination.

Applications may be submitted at any time (application forms are available from the College), and interviews are normally held between June and December. Candidates called for interview are assessed by a panel for their sense of vocation, motivation and qualities of determination and aspiration. Once accepted, they will be given a recommended reading list and in some cases a suggested course of study prior to taking up their place. A non-returnable fee is requested on acceptance of a place.

All students are expected to have the facility and the ability to study at home and will be required to purchase certain equipment and textbooks throughout the duration of the course. Access to a PC and the Internet is compulsory, as it becomes progressively an essential tool to facilitate learning.

Qualification and Registration as a Chiropractor

On completion of study and a satisfactory assessment of the student's capabilities, a BSc (Hons) Chiropractic is awarded by the University of Wales.

Under the terms of the GCC legislation, individuals will not be able to practise as a Chiropractor unless they are registered with the General Chiropractic Council. All colleges and institutions offering chiropractic training have now been assessed by the GCC on whether their qualification provides evidence that the student has obtained the necessary skills, knowledge and experience for the safe and competent practice of chiropractic. Qualifications that do provide evidence of such training are formally 'recognised' by the GCC, and practitioners holding such qualifications will be eligible to apply for registration as a chiropractor. The College's 5-year programme has been recommended for Recognition by the General Chiropractic Council until March 2011 [an MChiro is in the final stages of recognition].

Applicants should be aware that possession of a recognised qualification is not the only requirement for registration. Evidence of good health, both mental and physical, and good character are also assessed by the Registrar. Applicants should therefore declare any health problems and any criminal convictions at interview, so that they may be reviewed by the College staff and appropriate advice given.

Methods of Assessment

Students are assessed by a variety of means appropriate to the course module and the stage of development. These may include written examination, projects, oral presentation and practical assessment. The aim is to build students' knowledge and confidence so that they may progress through the course and be ready for final assessment. The demands are both academic and practical and frequently involve the students in considered reflection upon their own experience and development. The first year of the course is set at above 'A' level standard but the course progresses quickly to undergraduate level work.

The tutorial and administrative staff closely monitor student progress. Any difficulties encountered by the student are dealt with sensitively and remedial work is undertaken to bring the student up to the required standard. If necessary, a mentor may be appointed to guide students throughout their course.

All modules are summatively assessed and constitute an essential part of the course. Attendance criteria must be met. Satisfactory reports from tutors are also considered by the Examining Board who oversee progression from one year to the next.

Students are kept fully informed of their progress. Most module assessments can be retaken and an appeals procedure exists for students who wish to make the Examining Board aware of any relevant extenuating circumstances. Special regulations apply to students who fail summative examinations and cost will be incurred if retakes are required. All final results are published and referred to the validating university for confirmation.

Assessment methods are constantly being evaluated and the examining and academic boards review the current methods on a regular basis.

SECTION 6

2008 COURSE DATES AND FEES

Access Course

(Leading to entry on the BSc (Hons) Chiropractic Programme in January 2009)

Second Intake

Monday 30th June – Thursday 3rd July
Saturday 19th – Sunday 20th July
Friday 1st – Saturday 2nd August
Saturday 6th – Sunday 7th September
Saturday 25th – Sunday 26th October
Saturday 8th – Sunday 9th November
Saturday 22nd – Sunday 23rd November
Saturday 6th – Monday 8th December

BSc (Hons) Chiropractic Year 1 Course dates for 2009 (Provisional dates)

Friday 16 January
Saturday 17 January
Sunday 18 January

Saturday 31 January
Sunday 1 February

Saturday 21 February
Sunday 22 February

Summer School

Saturday 7 March
Sunday 8 March
Monday 9 March
Tuesday 10 March
Wednesday 11 March
Thursday 12 March
Friday 13 March

Saturday 11 April
Sunday 12 April
Monday 13 April

Saturday 25 April
Sunday 26 April

Friday 15 May
Saturday 16 May
Sunday 17 May

Friday 22 June
Saturday 23 June
Sunday 24 June

Saturday 11 July
Sunday 12 July

Saturday 25 July
Sunday 26 July

Spring School

Saturday 15 August
Sunday 16 August
Monday 17 August
Tuesday 18 August
Wednesday 19 August
Thursday 20 August
Friday 21 August

Saturday 12 September
Sunday 13 September

Saturday 19 October
Sunday 20 October

Saturday 3 October
Sunday 4 October

FEES AND FINANCE

BSc (Hons) Chiropractic Course Fees

BSc Chiropractic Course - First Year (2009)

	£
Fees	£5,300
Registration fee to the University Of Wales (once only)	585
Registration fee to the McTimoney College of Chiropractic (once only)	120
Student levy	10
McTimoney Chiropractic Association student membership	50
Criminal Records Bureau Check	31

The entire year's fees are due on commencement, but, subject to satisfactory references, the following method of payment will apply:

The first three month's fees, plus the Registration fee, student levy and MCA fees are payable at the Induction day in January. After that, fees may be paid monthly in advance by bankers' standing order (subject to good standing).

Access/Foundation Course for BSc (Hons) Chiropractic 2008

(Leading to entry on the BSc (Hons) Chiropractic Programme in January 2009)

	£
Payable as a lump sum before the commencement of the course	£1,495
Registration fee to the McTimoney College of Chiropractic (once only)	50

[Payable as a lump sum prior to commencement of the course]

GRANTS AND LOANS

No grants are awarded by the College itself but a loan scheme has been arranged with the National Westminster Bank. This allows suitable students with a guarantor to be loaned fees which are repaid out of income after qualification. Such students are expected to find a portion of the fees for themselves.

Students may be eligible for a government sponsored Career Development loan.

For advice and further information on any of the above, please contact:

Paula Greenaway at the College, or email finance@mctimoney-college.ac.uk