

Academic Lecturer Stories

Meet Ashli

Why did you decide to become a lecturer? As a clinician, I thoroughly enjoyed being involved with students on clinical placements, guiding their development, and sharing my knowledge. This experience sparked my interest in education motivating me to take on a more formal academic role. I value the variety that academia offers, allowing me to combine my interests in teaching, research, and clinical practice. The opportunity to engage in clinical and education research, continue with my own professional development and support the development of undergraduate Orthoptists made academia the perfect fit for me.



Ashli Warburton

Senior lecturer in
Orthoptics
University of Liverpool

What is a typical day like in your current role?

One of the aspects I enjoy most about my academic role is the variety it offers — no two days are ever the same. My responsibilities span across teaching, student support, leadership, and widening participation. When teaching, I might deliver a lecture, tutorial, clinical skills session or participate in simulated teaching activities. I also spend time supporting individual students, whether that's through academic guidance, pastoral support, or supervision of research projects.

As the recruitment lead for the MSc programme, part of my day is often dedicated to reviewing applications, responding to prospective students, and working on strategies to attract and retain students. Additionally, in my role as widening participation lead for the School of Allied Health and Nursing, I focus on initiatives to encourage students from diverse backgrounds to pursue careers in healthcare, collaborating with colleagues and external partners.

What are your aspirations in your career? My career aspirations are to continue to develop in my academic role and make a positive impact in healthcare education. Through my doctorate in education, I aim to deepen my knowledge and further contribute to educational research.



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What is the most challenging part of your role?

Managing the balance between my teaching and the additional roles I hold. Juggling the demands of being the recruitment lead for the MSc programme, widening participation lead, and providing valuable support to students can be challenging at times. Recruitment is particularly challenging due to the lack of knowledge surrounding the profession, which can make it difficult to attract candidates.

What skills do you find essential for your job?

Essential skills for my role include good communication, time management, and leadership abilities, as I need to effectively engage with students, colleagues, and external stakeholders while balancing multiple responsibilities. Problem-solving skills are crucial for addressing challenges like recruitment difficulties. Additionally, adaptability and relationship-building are crucial for driving recruitment and widening participation efforts.

Any advice for people considering becoming a lecturer in orthoptics? Go for it! If you're passionate about teaching and sharing knowledge, and you're seeking a rewarding yet challenging career with plenty of opportunities for growth, academia could be a great path to explore.



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