



Orthoptic Student Case Study

Meet Elizabeth

Elizabeth found her path to orthoptics while working as a healthcare assistant in a hospital ophthalmology department. She knew she wanted a healthcare career but wasn't sure which route to take until she saw orthoptists working independently with patients, supported by a multidisciplinary team.

What is a typical day like? You spend a lot of time with your coursemates as you are all in the same lectures. I spend time in between lectures studying with coursemates.

Three words to describe the course? Busy, vigorous, rewarding

What is the best part of your course? It's incredibly rewarding working directly with patients on placements. Also, as the course trains you for a very specific role, you have a clear sense of direction for life after university.

What is the most challenging part? Not having regular university terms and holidays. I feel like I miss out on time with non-orthoptic friends and university society events when I'm on placement.

What skills/experiences have helped you? Communication skills, being confident talking to and connecting with people from a range of backgrounds, ages, language barriers, or disability.

Advice for prospective students? Be open to experiencing new towns and cities on placement. Some of my favourite placements and departments have come from unexpected places I might not have otherwise considered visiting.

What are you looking forward to in your orthoptic career? Having patients leaving my clinic knowing I've made a real change to their life.

Elizabeth

Orthoptic Student
University of Sheffield

