



Orthoptic Student Case Study

Meet Emily

Emily chose orthoptics after being waitlisted for dental school because she wanted a career within the NHS where she could make a meaningful impact in a medical environment, and hasn't looked back!

What is a typical day like on your course? A typical day is very varied, from lectures to practical sessions. In third year, there is more time for independent study and the chance to practice clinical skills such as using the slit lamp following Ophthalmology lectures.

Define your course in 3 words Interesting, hard work, rewarding

Emily

Orthoptic student
University of Sheffield

What is the best part of your course? The practical element of having sessions within university and on placement in various locations helps to gain a view of how varied Orthoptics is from one department to another.

What is the most challenging part? Trying to balance weekend work while doing my degree, especially in second year when there are a lot of deadlines in a short time. It can also be challenging planning accommodation and travel for placements, as we are expected to organise these ourselves.

What skills/experiences have helped you? Background knowledge of Biology is important. I think A level Biology should be mandatory for applying, as first year is highly anatomy and physiology based. Social skills are also key; having a weekend job helped me talk to patients more confidently.

Advice for prospective students? Know your basic eye anatomy, it's always helpful. Try everything and don't be scared to ask questions. We are students and expected to make mistakes, especially on placement. Good communication skills will make placement less daunting when meeting patients for the first time.

What are you looking forward to in your orthoptic career? I am excited to graduate and get a job where I can put my skills to good use helping patients from all walks of life with their eye health and conditions.

