BIOS BRITISH AND IRISH ORTHOPTIC SOCIETY

Contact careers@orthoptics.org.uk
www.orthoptics.org.uk

Orthoptic Careers Case Study

Meet Sam

Why did you choose orthoptics?

I attended Liverpool University as a mature student to study Orthoptics after I had married and had a family. All of my children had attended an Orthoptist so I was aware of the profession and felt I had the necessary skills to be a good Orthoptist and felt the career would fit in with family life.

What is a typical day like in your current role?

On Monday Tuesday and Wednesday I work at my local hospital assessing Orthoptic patients from 0yrs to over 100yrs. I enjoy the diversity my role brings and I love interacting with the public. In my clinical role I am also responsible for the overseeing of undergraduate student placements and new graduate preceptorship. This aspect of my role allows me to pass on my passion for Orthoptics and develop new budding careers. On a Thursday and Friday I am seconded into my role of General secretary of the BOSTU. I am responsible for upholding the employment rights of over 1000 members of BOSTU. This is very different to my clinical role but just as rewarding.

Define your role in 3 words?

- Challenging
- Fulfilling
- Diverse

What do you love the most about your role?

The best part of my role is helping others. This may be patients, students or members but I like to think that I make a difference in their lives.

What is the most challenging part of your role?

The most challenging part of my role is the huge responsibility I have for the members of BOSTU. I always want to make sure they are receiving the best service that we can provide and this sometimes means going above and beyond to achieve this.

> ***Orthoptics is a vocation and not just a job so make sure you are passionate about the subject before choosing to study orthoptics. The job has enormous variety there are numerous extended roles you can branch into after graduation no one day is the same as the next so you never end up bored of the job.***

What skills do you find essential for your job?

Excellent Communication skills. A passion for the profession. Being able to adapt to different situations. A calm demeanour. Strong leadership skills, as well as a teamplayer.

What do you look forward to in your orthoptic career?

I look forward to keep on serving the members of the Orthoptic community with trade union support and promoting our profession to todays youth who may be considering Orthoptics as a career.

Any advice you'd like to give?

Orthoptics is a vocation and not just a job so make sure you are passionate about the subject before choosing to study orthoptics. The job has enormous variety there are numerous extended roles you can branch into after graduation no one day is the same as the next so you never end up bored of the job. On the course you attend many placements this is your time to immerse yourself fully into the world of orthoptics make every day count.

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