

[www.rcpod.org.uk/careers](http://www.rcpod.org.uk/careers)



ROYAL COLLEGE  
of PODIATRY



# CAREERS IN PODIATRY

SPECIALISING IN FOOT, ANKLE AND LEG HEALTHCARE

# ROYAL COLLEGE OF PODIATRY

## ABOUT US

The Royal College of Podiatry is the professional body and trade union for podiatrists in the UK. We represent over 10,000 podiatrists working in the NHS, independent practice and other sectors. When you qualify as a podiatrist, you register with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Once you are HCPC registered, you can join a professional body for all the things you need to have, like insurance cover to practise, trade union support, legal advice and access to continuing professional development (CPD).

## CAREERS FAIRS 2024

<b>Wolverhampton</b>	<b>05 September</b>
<b>Northampton</b>	<b>06 September</b>
<b>Ulster (Belfast)</b>	<b>06 September</b>
<b>Salford (Manchester)</b>	<b>13 September</b>
<b>Cardiff</b>	<b>20 September</b>
<b>Newcastle</b>	<b>25 September</b>
<b>Durham</b>	<b>26 September</b>
<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>02 October</b>
<b>Glasgow</b>	<b>04 October</b>
<b>Plymouth</b>	<b>10 October</b>
<b>Huddersfield</b>	<b>23 October</b>
<b>Bournemouth</b>	<b>25 October</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>15 November</b>

# CONTENTS

What is podiatry?	1
Pathways	2
School leaver	2
Second career	2
Professional sports	2
Ex forces	2
What you will earn when you qualify?	3
Funding	4
England	4
Scotland	5
Wales	5
Northern Ireland	5
Republic of Ireland	5
Where to study and how	6
School leaver	7
Undergraduate degree	9
Degree apprenticeship	11
Postgraduate pre-registration	13
Support workforce	14
How can support workers become qualified podiatrists?	15
Admission tips	15
Second career	17
Pro sports	19
Ex forces	20

# WHAT IS PODIATRY?

## PODIATRIST

Podiatrists specialise in foot, ankle and leg healthcare. They improve people's mobility, independence and quality of life. Imagine how amazing it would feel to have a career helping people to live pain-free lives.

They work in many sectors, with the majority found in the NHS and independent (private) practice. Podiatrists can be found in all kinds of places: legendary rock band Deep Purple even had a podiatrist as part of their global tour team!

Most professional sports clubs will have a team podiatrist, and elite events like Wimbledon and the Olympics rely on podiatrists as a key part of the medical team. Podiatrists are autonomous, which means they are able to assess, diagnose and treat a patient by themselves but they will also often work with teams of other clinicians, like doctors, nurses and physiotherapists to ensure the best outcomes for their patients.



## WHAT MAKES PODIATRY DIFFERENT FROM OTHER HEALTH CAREERS?

Podiatry offers so many career pathways. A newly graduated podiatrist will already have the ability to carry out complex assessments, minor surgery, administer local anaesthetic and issue antibiotics. From there they can take their career wherever they wish, both at home and abroad.

There is a great amount of flexibility to the career and podiatrists will tell you its one of the best things about their job.

They can fit their working week around their family and their passions to get the right work/life balance for them. And best of all, no nightshifts! Some podiatrists will work with their patients for a short time to help their issues, while others may treat the same patients for many years and through multiple life stages.

Read more about the amazing opportunities in our case studies throughout this guide.

# PATHWAYS

PODIATRISTS ARE IN HIGH DEMAND IN THE UK WITH 90-100% OF GRADUATES GAINING EMPLOYMENT WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF GRADUATING

THERE ARE MANY PATHS WHICH LEAD TO A PODIATRY CAREER WHICH WE WILL EXPLORE FURTHER

## SCHOOL LEAVER

### Thinking of your next steps after school?

Find out more about what subjects you should be studying to start your podiatry journey.

**Go to page 7**

## SECOND CAREER

Your current career skills may count towards your podiatry studies. Read more about the ways your experience adds up when it comes to training as a podiatrist.

**Go to page 17**

## PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

Your sports career has already taught you so much about how the body functions. Put your knowledge to use as you plan the next phase of your life.

**Go to page 19**

## EX FORCES

Healthcare careers are a popular move when exiting HM armed forces. Find out about the opportunities that await as well as funding opportunities as you move on.

**Go to page 20**



£30-50K  
PER YEAR

## WHAT YOU WILL EARN WHEN YOU QUALIFY?

This will increase with extra training and if you work in the private or specialist sporting sectors. Podiatrists are in high demand in the UK. Employment rates after qualifying are extremely high. All universities report:

### 90-100% EMPLOYMENT RATE WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF QUALIFYING.

The UK training allows you to work all over the world too, including Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Spain, Malta, the UAE, Dubai, Singapore and many more. It is important to remember that everyone's journey will vary. Podiatry has a wealth of opportunities that allows you to carve out your own path and lets you adapt your work as your life changes throughout the course of your career.

## START YOUR CAREER IN PODIATRY

**You've got options!** Undergraduate degrees, apprenticeships and post graduate fast track routes. There are lots of ways to study, many of which come with significant funding support. Find out more about the routes on **page 6**

**Getting into university is not all about exam grades** - your existing skills are valued. The admissions tutors that work for each university can advise you if you are ready to start a course straight away or what access course you can take to get you there.

**With 15 places to study podiatry** across the UK and Ireland, find the option that is right for you. The Royal College of Podiatry has worked with Life After Professional Sport (LAPS) to help athletes find new careers that build upon their skills.

**You can find out more about LAPS** at [laps.careers](https://laps.careers) or listen to athletes who have retrained as podiatrists on our website at: **[rcpod.org.uk/careers/sports](https://rcpod.org.uk/careers/sports)**

# FUNDING

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PODIATRY STUDENTS

The cost of attending university can hold many back from reaching their full potential. As podiatry is an essential part of the healthcare infrastructure, undergraduate podiatry students from the UK will generally receive financial assistance to study.

Funding for postgraduate qualification routes varies. Please check with your chosen university for more information. Those studying for an apprenticeship will also be funded differently. Visit our apprenticeship page, or check with your university of choice for more information.

Funding support for undergraduate podiatry degrees will vary depending on factors such as which part of the UK you study in and where you lived before to starting your degree.

**STUDENT LOANS AND BURSARIES ARE AVAILABLE DEPENDING ON YOUR COUNTRY AND SITUATION. YOUR CHOSEN UNIVERSITIES CAN ADVISE YOU ON YOUR INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

### ENGLAND

Most UK students studying in England will be eligible for the NHS Learning Support Fund (NHS LSF) which will provide eligible students with:

- **£6,000 per academic year** training grant
- **Parental support of £2,000** if you have at least one dependent child under 15 years, or under 17 years if registered with special educational needs
- **Practice placement support** Money back for excess travel and temporary accommodation costs

(travel and dual accommodation expenses) while you're on your practice placement

- **Students experiencing financial hardship** (Exceptional Support Fund).

Where you choose to study via an apprenticeship route, additional funding towards your training is available via the government apprenticeship programmes. Find out more on our apprenticeship page.



Funding guidance is for guidance purposes only and may be subject to change.

## SCOTLAND

- **The Student Award Agency for Scotland (SAAS)** will provide you with information relevant to your personal circumstances
- **Tuition fees** are usually free for Scottish residents studying at a Scottish University
- **Additional bursaries** are also available depending on your age and personal circumstances.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Funding for students studying healthcare courses differs from the arrangements for other courses in Northern Ireland. Funding to cover tuition fees is available in many cases, as are bursaries and special loans.

**Find out more at NI Direct.**

## UNIVERSITY

Universities look at your academic and work history as well as your transferable skills when applying for their courses. Visit our universities page to learn more directly from the universities themselves and find your ideal fit. Universities will be able to provide advice on the course structures, flexibility of study and how your studies can fit around your existing life commitments. You may also be eligible for one of the condensed pre-registration Masters

## WALES

- **NHS Wales bursary programme**  
Podiatry training programmes are eligible for the NHS Wales bursary. It covers tuition and some other costs, where a student commits to work in NHS Wales for a period of time.  
**Find out more on the Cardiff Metropolitan University bursary page** or the **NHS Wales Student Awards Services page**.

## REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Funding is available for healthcare students under the Free Fees initiative.

**Find out more on the HEA website.**

degrees which allow you to qualify in a shorter time than the traditional degree. Read more on **page 13**.

Interested in the PREPARE Programme in Scotland? Many health boards across Scotland now offer employment in these roles. Check with your local NHS Scotland podiatry department if they are involved.

**15 Podiatry Schools have been accredited by the Royal College of Podiatry and HCPC, studies will also come with financial support.**

Funding guidance is for guidance purposes only and may be subject to change.



# WHERE TO STUDY AND HOW

Studying podiatry has never been more accessible. The traditional undergraduate degree has now been complemented with a fast-track Masters programme, building on skills from previous qualifications; and the increasingly popular study programmes allowing you to earn a salary while you learn with the degree apprenticeship in England and the PREPARE study programme in Scotland. All of these routes will get you to the same destination, a pre-registration qualification in podiatry. From there you can apply for registration with the regulator, the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and within weeks of your graduation, saving limbs and lives as a podiatrist at one of the many independent practices or NHS departments across the UK.

## 15 ACCREDITED SCHOOLS OF PODIATRY BY RCPOD AND THE HCPC

University	Undergraduate degree	Degree apprenticeship	Postgraduate pre-registration
Health Sciences University, Bournemouth (formerly AECC University College)			●
University of Brighton	●		
Cardiff Metropolitan University	●		
New College Durham	●		
University of East London	●	●	
Queen Margaret University Edinburgh	●		●
University of Galway	●		●
Glasgow Caledonian University	●		
University of Huddersfield	●		●
University of Northampton	●		
University of Plymouth	●	●	●
University of Salford	●	●	●
University of Southampton	●		
University of Wolverhampton	●		
University of Ulster	●		

# SCHOOL LEAVER

## PATHWAYS

If you are leaving school soon, now is the perfect time to start thinking about a career in podiatry. Podiatrists are in high demand in the UK and the profession offers almost certain employment. You will be taken on a fascinating learning journey as you help to keep the population pain free.

ARE YOU  
AGED  
16-18 YEARS  
OLD?

## A GOOD PODIATRIST IS NOT JUST ABOUT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- Good listening skills
- A caring nature
- Effective communication skills
- An ability to solve problems
- Creativity
- Being a team player
- Having an analytical mind.

## HOW DO I BECOME A PODIATRIST



Whilst GCSEs, A Levels and Highers are the route most people will take before university, there are many other accepted qualifications.

Find the university and course of your choice to learn more about how your skills and qualifications fit into the application process.

You can find the full list on **page 6**.

**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL HELP TOWARDS YOUR PODIATRY STUDIES? FIND OUT MORE ON PAGE 4**

# SUBJECTS

## STUDY SUBJECTS TO ACCESS A PODIATRY DEGREE

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- MATHS
- BIOLOGY

## LEARN MORE ABOUT REAL LIFE PODIATRISTS

### KASER NAZIR

Kaser Nazir is a Consultant Podiatric Surgeon balancing NHS duties and private practice on Harley Street. He began his studies at University College London and the London Foot Hospital in 1997, working as a Podiatric House Officer before joining Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation Trust in 2002.

Completing his surgical training by 2010, he was appointed Consultant Podiatric Surgeon. Podiatry offers independent practice and significant clinical scope, allowing profound impacts on patients' lives. A notable case involved reconstructive surgery for a patient from Africa with talipes. Kaser advises aspiring podiatrists to embrace hard work and consistency for professional growth.

### MARION YAU

Marion Yau featured on the TV programme *The Bad Foot Clinic* on *Really* in Spring 2024. She is a principal podiatrist in private practice. She graduated from the University of East London in 2008 and advanced her expertise at Whipps Cross Hospital and in NHS diabetes care.

Marion pursued Masters degrees in podiatry and health science, and is currently working on a professional doctorate at the University of Bath focusing on nail disorders. Her career spans NHS clinics, prison services, global education, and advanced treatments. Marion values alleviating pain and learning from patients, advising those interested in podiatry to embrace its unique blend of science and hands-on care.

# UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

## QUALIFY AS A PODIATRIST

One of the ways to qualify as a podiatrist in the UK is by completing an HCPC - approved undergraduate degree, typically lasting three to four years. These courses provide the essential knowledge and practical skills needed for the profession. You can find a list of universities offering accredited courses throughout this guide.



QUALIFY  
IN  
3-4 YEARS

## LEARN MORE ABOUT REAL LIFE PODIATRISTS

### FRAN CAMPBELL

Fran Campbell, Lead in Podiatry and Biomechanics at Accelerate CIC, advises: “Embrace opportunities to shadow others and work in interdisciplinary teams, and be confident in your skills and value.” Graduating from UEL in 2009, Fran’s career began in an NHS Band 5 role where she gained MSK experience. She progressed to Band 6 and following mentoring then progressed to Band 7, overseeing MSK and Podopaediatric services. Her MSc in Clinical Biomechanics and experience in private practice enhanced her gait analysis skills. Fran now treats NHS patients with chronic conditions at Accelerate CIC.

### DANIEL BROADLEY

Daniel began his career as a locum before securing a Band 6 position, where he provided a wide range of services including MSK, diabetes, nail surgeries, and routine care. His interest in MSK led him to focus on this area, developing skills in biomechanical clinics and eventually transitioning to a hybrid role as both a staff and MSK podiatrist.

In his staff podiatrist role, Daniel handles initial surgical assessments, post-operative care, and assists in theatre. His MSK role involves advanced techniques like mobilization, acupuncture, and ultrasound-guided injections.

**DID YOU KNOW?  
THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PODIATRY SUPPORTS YOUR  
LIFELONG LEARNING AFTER GRADUATION**

# STEP BY STEP GUIDE

## 1 Research and choose a university

Look into universities offering accredited podiatry degrees. Evaluate the reputation, faculty expertise, facilities, and location before making your choice.

## 2 Consider funding

Explore funding options for your studies on our funding page.

## 3 Meet the entry requirements

Universities have varying entry requirements, often needing A-levels or equivalent qualifications in subjects like biology and chemistry. Some may accept alternative qualifications or relevant experience.

## 4 Apply through UCAS

Identify your preferred universities and courses, then apply via the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Ensure you meet application deadlines and submit all required documents, including personal statements and reference letters.

**5 Start your course** Once accepted, begin your studies, covering subjects like anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, pharmacology, and clinical skills. Gain practical experience through clinical placements where you

assess and treat patients under supervision.

## 6 Clinical placements and practical experience

These are critical for applying your theoretical knowledge in real-world settings.

## 7 HCPC registration

After completing your degree, register with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) to practice as a podiatrist in the UK. This ensures you meet professional standards and codes of conduct.

## 8 Continuous professional development (CPD)

Stay updated with advancements in research, technology, and clinical practices through CPD activities such as courses, webinars, and conferences.

**TOP TIP: SECURE REFERENCE LETTERS EARLY FROM TEACHERS OR AUTHORITATIVE FIGURES WHO KNOW YOU WELL**

# DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

## EQUIVALENT TO A FULL-TIME DEGREE

The Podiatry Degree Apprenticeship is the sole apprenticeship pathway in podiatry, offering a comprehensive and practical route into the profession. This apprenticeship, equivalent to a full-time degree, spans three years or can be extended to four and a half years part-time. One of the main benefits is the “earn while you learn” structure, where you:

**SPEND 40% OF YOUR TIME WORKING AND 60% STUDYING AT A UNIVERSITY, WITH NO TUITION FEES AS THEY ARE COVERED BY YOUR EMPLOYER AND THE GOVERNMENT**

**ADDITIONALLY, YOU GAIN VALUABLE CLINICAL EXPERIENCE, WORK WITH DIVERSE PATIENTS, AND ENJOY A UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE.**

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS

To embark on a podiatry apprenticeship, you'll generally need three good A-Levels and GCSEs in Maths and English, with equivalent qualifications accepted in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Upon completion, you will earn a BSc degree in Podiatry. Making you eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), the regulatory body for the profession.

**THE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTES UP TO £24,000 TOWARDS YOUR TRAINING, ENSURING SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGHOUT YOUR APPRENTICESHIP**



# APPLICATION PROCESS

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To apply for a podiatry apprenticeship, you must first secure employment with an organisation willing to sponsor your apprenticeship, typically within the NHS or private podiatry practices. Universities offering this apprenticeship include the:

- UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON
- UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON
- UNIVERSITY OF HUDDERSFIELD

Many more are expected to join. For more information and current vacancies, visit the government's national apprenticeship website or the RCPod's jobs board. Remember, as a paid employee, you won't qualify for a student loan, so budgeting your salary is essential.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT APPRENTICESHIP

### PHOEBE EDWARDS

A third-year apprentice with the South Bedfordshire Community Podiatry Service at East London NHS Foundation Trust, Phoebe works across clinics in Luton, Houghton Regis, Leighton Buzzard, and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, as well as on home visits for wound care.

Her role includes providing foot care, supporting the team, managing her own clinics under supervision, and organising Diabetic Foot Training for other healthcare professionals. Phoebe chose an apprenticeship in podiatry after discovering the field through her work with a community diabetes service, finding it rewarding and impactful.

Her advice for future apprentices includes effective time management, asking questions, and maintaining enthusiasm.



# POSTGRADUATE PRE-REGISTRATION

For individuals who already hold a degree and are interested in pursuing a career in podiatry, a Masters-level course offers a streamlined and intensive path into the profession. This route is particularly suited to those who have a background in a related field, such as health sciences, biology, or sports science, although graduates from other disciplines are also welcome.



## COURSE DURATION AND STRUCTURE

This Masters course typically spans approximately two years, combining both theoretical and practical components to provide comprehensive training in podiatry.

The curriculum is designed to cover key areas such as lower limb anatomy, biomechanics, clinical skills, and the

diagnosis and management of foot and lower limb conditions.

The program includes clinical placements, allowing students to gain hands-on experience in real healthcare settings under the supervision of experienced podiatrists.

## UNIVERSITIES OFFERING THE COURSE

Currently, four universities in the UK offer this specialised Masters in Podiatry:

- HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY, BOURNEMOUTH
- UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON
- UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY
- UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH
- QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY, EDINBURGH
- UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

**THIS ROUTE IS PARTICULARLY SUITED TO THOSE WHO HAVE A BACKGROUND IN A RELATED FIELD, SUCH AS HEALTH SCIENCES, BIOLOGY, OR SPORTS SCIENCE**



# SUPPORT WORKFORCE

## WHAT IS A PODIATRY SUPPORT WORKER?

Podiatry support workers are healthcare professionals who assist podiatrists in providing care for patients with foot and lower limb issues. While they are not fully qualified podiatrists and typically lack a BSc in podiatry and HCPC registration, they play a vital role in ensuring the smooth operation of podiatry services.

## RESPONSIBILITIES AS A SUPPORT WORKER

- Administrative tasks, such as scheduling appointments and maintaining patient records
- Clinical duties like preparing patients for treatment, sterilising equipment, and assisting during procedures
- Some types of support workers will be able to work without supervision.

## WHERE DO PODIATRY SUPPORT WORKERS WORK?



Podiatry support workers are found in various healthcare settings, predominantly within the NHS or in independent practices.

They may be referred to by different titles, such as Podiatry Assistants or Foot Care Assistants. Additionally, Foot Health Practitioners, who have similar training levels and are likewise unregulated by the HCPC, are part of this support workforce.

They can be employed in both the NHS and the private sector.

# HOW CAN SUPPORT WORKERS BECOME QUALIFIED PODIATRISTS?

Support workers aspiring to become qualified podiatrists have several pathways available.

- They can pursue a podiatry degree apprenticeship in England while continuing their work
- They can also consult with podiatry schools to determine if their current training can be credited towards a degree programme, potentially reducing the time needed to qualify
- If they already hold a degree in another subject, they can enrol in a pre-registration Masters programme, which allows them to become qualified podiatrists after two years of full-time study.

## ADMISSION TIPS

- **Find the nearest podiatry school** to where you are by visiting <https://rcpod.org.uk/careers/podiatry-schools>. Get in touch with their admissions team to find out if they open their podiatry clinic to the public. Some universities may allow for work experience before starting your studies. If you can't get work experience in podiatry, other health disciplines are useful and often transferrable
- **Contact the admissions tutors**  
The admissions criteria will often have some built in flexibility. Get in touch with them to discuss your life story and your experience so far – it may help
- **Be mindful** of the overall health landscape when preparing for interviews; for example, understand the 6 Cs in health and social care
- **Find out** if your local podiatry school offers the chance for you to shadow existing podiatry students or take part in a day of shadowing in the on-site podiatry clinic
- **School leavers and undergraduate degree** attend university open days, Websites: UCAS. Browse websites such as: Royal College of Podiatry, UniStat. Log on to [thestudentroom.co.uk](http://thestudentroom.co.uk) and ask questions there. Look at the National Student Survey (NSS). Research University League

tables. Listen to Podiatry Podcasts. Search Instagram/Tik Tok. Email University admission tutors. Shadow at university clinic or try private practice or NHS clinics for some experience. Read university guides

- **Podiatry as a second career**

Consider the location of universities and where you live – remembering you will have some travel. Go to university open days and talk to existing mature students about time commitments and support (universities will always put you in touch with students if they are not there on the day). If you haven't been in a classroom for a long time or you don't have a science background, consider an online level 3 Anatomy and Physiology course which will help your understanding, consider salaries: research income in the NHS v. private practice

- **Life after professional sport and Life after HM armed forces** There are various specialised courses at post grad level that would support sport and exercise, choose

placements with sports specialists – this could be abroad. Dissertation topics are broad and could look at specific areas of interest- around sports, exercise, foot health in armed services. If you haven't been in a classroom for a long time or you don't have a science background, consider an online level 3 Anatomy and Physiology which will help your understanding, consider salaries: research income in the NHS v. Private Practice

- **Pre-registration Master's degree**

If your first degree is not science-based then consider an online level 3 Anatomy and Physiology course which will help your understanding

- **Degree Apprenticeship**

You need to be in a job where the employer who will support the programme. You must have access to a diverse range of placements and patients and An understanding of the commitment involved with completing a degree alongside working.

**PODIATRY HAS A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES WAITING FOR YOU. YOU JUST NEED TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP TO CHANGING YOUR LIFE, AND THE LIVES OF YOUR FUTURE PATIENTS.**

# SECOND CAREER

## PATHWAYS

Thinking about a change of career? Would you like to move away from a desk job and into a role that places interacting with people at the heart of it? Are you currently working in healthcare, but hanker after a stable, nine to five job with decent work/life balance? A career in podiatry can offer you all that and more.



## BENEFITS TO CHOOSING PODIATRY AS A SECOND CAREER

- **Almost certain employment**  
It's a healthcare profession with a growing demand due to the ageing population and increased prevalence of chronic conditions like diabetes
- **Great work/life balance** Working anti-social hours is rare in podiatry; the profession is particularly appealing for those seeking a career change to spend more time with family or pursue other interests
- **Work in different settings**  
Podiatrists can work in various settings, including private practices, hospitals, clinics, or even in research and academia; your career path is flexible!
- **Autonomy** You will have a certain amount of autonomy in your practice, especially if you own a private practice
- **Money** With good starting salaries in the NHS, a career in the health service offers you plenty of scope to rise up the ranks and earn more as you take on more responsibility; owning a private practice, or specialising in sought-after clinical areas can increase your earning potential even more
- **Working with people** You have the chance to build real and meaningful clinical relationships with your patients, providing them with care and watching their quality of life improve because of you
- **Fulfilment** For some, it is about the meaning they derive from helping people; for others it is a single-minded mission to alleviate pain, prevent complications and improve mobility.

DID YOU KNOW THERE IS SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL HELP FOR STUDYING? FIND OUT MORE ON PAGE 4

## USEFUL TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

A podiatry career draws on the skills that you have amassed in your life so far. Those with previous experience in healthcare, professional sport and the armed forces are particularly drawn to the autonomy and flexibility that podiatry has to offer. People from any professional background can join the foot health workforce. Key skills that a podiatrist needs are:

- Good listening skills
- A caring nature
- Effective communication skills
- An ability to solve problems
- Creativity
- Being a team player
- Having an analytical mind.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT REAL LIFE PODIATRISTS

### JAYNE ROBBIE

Jane, a Senior Lecturer in Diabetes Care at Birmingham City University and Specialist Podiatrist at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust, also serves as a Diabetes UK Clinical Champion and Advance HE Senior Fellow. After qualifying in 1987, she quickly earned a Bachelor's, Master's, and a post-graduate certificate, advancing to NHS Chief 4. In 2003, she shifted to support her ex-husband's business, leaving the NHS but maintained her CPD through part-time private work. By 2010, she sought a full-time return to podiatry. During a career break, Jane engaged in part-time practice.

### SALLYANNE LIGHTBOWN

As a generalist podiatrist in private practice, Sallyanne values her role within the local community, appreciating the variety in cases that keep her skills diverse. She avoids routine by exploring new areas in podiatry and connecting with other podiatrists and AHPs to prevent isolation. Despite dyslexia, Sallyanne manages her learning differences with assistive technology like Dragon Naturally Speaking for writing and note-taking, and benefits from accessible webinar formats. Her experience highlights the importance of inclusive practices in podiatry.



# PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

## PATHWAYS

Use your skills in teamwork, communication, discipline, and leadership and give them a new focus. Your career has given you a great understanding of anatomy and body movement. Learn more at [rcpod.org.uk/careers/sports](https://rcpod.org.uk/careers/sports).

ARE YOU  
A GAME  
CHANGER?

## LEARN MORE ABOUT REAL LIFE PODIATRISTS

### JOLIE BEATTIE

Jolie Beattie, an early-career podiatrist, shares insights into her impactful role. Since graduating in July 2020, Jolie has worked in care and residential homes, focusing on improving foot health for those with limited access to clinics and NHS care.

She runs a weekly clinic for nail surgery and Swift verruca treatments and is passionate about diabetic foot care and education. Jolie's week includes care home visits, home visits, clinic work, and NHS Band 5 duties. She supports her career development through Facebook groups, RCPod events, and the New Enterprise Allowance.

Jolie finds her work deeply rewarding, especially when making significant differences in her patients' lives.

### NICK KNIGHT

Nick says that research in podiatric practice has always fascinated him. Working across the NHS and private sector, he's faced challenges in integrating research due to time and resource constraints.

His interest lies in using evidence to provide contemporary care and improve patient outcomes. His journey began with an MSc, where he transitioned from quantitative to qualitative research. Building his practice, he developed tools for patient feedback and partnered with researchers. This led to over 350 patient journeys and strong ties with the University of Southampton. He advocates for blending clinical practice with research, emphasising the value of data and collaboration.

# EX FORCES

## PATHWAYS

As you transition out of life in the armed forces, healthcare careers offer opportunities that draw on your existing skills. A podiatry career offers autonomy and flexibility.

Your organisational, communication and decision-making skills are a strong foundation to becoming an excellent clinician. The NHS was recognised as one of the top 50 employers of veterans in 2024, further demonstrating the key skills that armed forces personnel have to offer the healthcare workforce.

## KEY SKILLS THAT A PODIATRIST NEEDS ARE

- GOOD LISTENING SKILLS
- A CARING NATURE
- GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- PROBLEM SOLVING AND CREATIVITY
- A TEAM PLAYER

## WHAT MAKES PODIATRY DIFFERENT FROM OTHER HEALTH CAREERS?

Training as a podiatrist is more accessible than ever before with both degree apprenticeships and postgraduate routes to qualifications now available. Universities look beyond the qualifications you may have gained at school and also consider life experience and qualifications from previous careers.

Degree apprenticeships offer a way to study whilst earning a salary and are available throughout England in both the NHS and independent sectors.

All four nations also offer generous financial support towards undergraduate fees when studying podiatry, helping to take some of the stress out of your search for a new career. Once you have qualified, a wealth of opportunity awaits.

Graduates are in high demand in the workforce and have a wide selection of roles and locations to choose from upon graduation offering you the ability to settle anywhere in the UK. The qualification is also recognised worldwide should you wish to travel.

## Further information:

The Royal College of Podiatry  
Quartz House  
207 Providence Square  
Mill Street  
London  
SE1 2EW  
Tel: 020 7234 8620  
Email: [contact@rcpod.org.uk](mailto:contact@rcpod.org.uk)  
Web: [www.rcpod.org.uk](http://www.rcpod.org.uk)



 @RoyColPod

 @RoyColPod

 RoyColPod

 Royal College of Podiatry