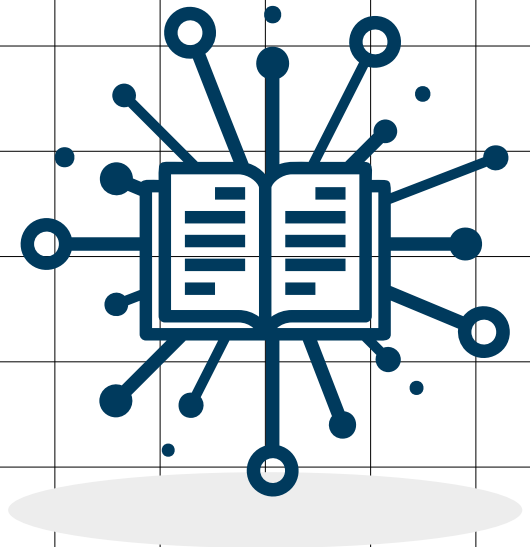


GCC Registrant Resources

Graduate Information

FAQS



Congratulations on completing your academic studies.

With about 4,000 chiropractors working in the UK, you will be joining a relatively small but growing profession and a valuable part of our nation's health and social care provision.

To help you transition into what may be your lifelong career, the General Chiropractic Council (commonly known as the GCC) has created this graduate information pack to explain your responsibilities as a healthcare professional within a regulated profession.

Designed around the most frequently asked questions, it provides the answers and signposting needed to help you as a chiropractor in the first few months of your career.

Finally, we recommend that you visit the websites of the chiropractic professional associations and the Royal College of Chiropractors, all of which provide valuable graduate resources.

1. What is the GCC?

The GCC is one of ten healthcare regulators in the UK. Created by the Chiropractors Act in 1994, its purpose is to ensure the health and safety of the public are protected when being treated by a chiropractor. It undertakes this role by:

- 1 Maintaining the register of chiropractors in the UK, Isle of Man and Gibraltar. It is a legal requirement for anyone calling themselves a chiropractor to be registered with the GCC.
- 2 Setting and monitoring the education standards of all chiropractic courses in the UK.
- 3 Conducting the Test of Competence for all international chiropractors or those who have non-UK qualifications and wish to join the register of chiropractors.
- 4 Ensuring all chiropractors on the register of chiropractors (called registrants) continue to update their skills and knowledge through Continuing Professional Development.
- 5 Investigating and acting when a chiropractor does not meet our standards.

The GCC operates almost identically to all other healthcare regulators, except we also have a statutory duty to develop the profession.

General Medical Council: Doctors and Psychiatrists

General Pharmaceutical Council: Pharmacists

Social Work England: Social Workers

General Optical Council: Opticians and Optometrists

General Dental Council: Dentists, Dental Nurses and Dental Hygienists

Nursing and Midwifery Council: Nurses and Midwives

Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland: Pharmacists

General Osteopathic Council: Osteopaths

Health and Care Professions Council: Over 20 professions, including Chiropodists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists

2. Is the GCC a membership organisation?

No

The GCC is not a membership organisation. Our primary responsibility is to protect the health and safety of the public when being treated by a chiropractor.

Membership associations support their members and help promote the profession. The level of activities varies depending on the sector, type of organisation, number of members and founding charters.

The chiropractic profession has several associations: (in alphabetical order):

British Chiropractic Association - www.chiropractic-uk.co.uk

McTimoney Chiropractic Association - www.mca-chiropractic.org

Scottish Chiropractic Association - www.sca-chiropractic.org

United Chiropractic Association - www.unitedchiropractic.org

In addition, the **Royal College of Chiropractors (www.rcc-uk.org)** is a professional membership body which promotes and supports high standards of education, practice and research, enabling chiropractors to provide and be recognised for delivering high-quality care for patients.

The Royal College also operates a **Post Registration Training** programme (commonly known as PRT) for recently qualified chiropractors. This programme helps to ensure a smooth transition from the undergraduate setting to independent professional practice in the clinical setting.

We would advise all graduates and chiropractors to become members of a professional body. As well as a range of membership benefits on offer, it is an excellent opportunity to network with fellow chiropractors and help promote and develop the profession.



3. Do I need to register with the GCC?

Yes

If you wish to call yourself a chiropractor and practise in the UK, you must be on the register of chiropractors. This registration is a legal requirement under the Chiropractors Act 1994.

As you join the register of chiropractors, you are a registrant of the GCC and not a member.

4. Who and what is the Registrar?

The Registrar is the person who is responsible for maintaining the GCC register of chiropractors and evaluating registrant credentials. The GCC Registrar has the dual title of Chief Executive and Registrar (commonly known as CER).

The current GCC Chief Executive and Registrar is **Nick Jones**.

5. Can I call myself a chiropractor?

You can only call or refer to yourself as a chiropractor once registered with the GCC. If not, you are breaking the law.

If you discover anyone calling themselves a chiropractor or inferring chiropractic treatments, and they are not on the register of chiropractors, report them to the Registrar. By doing so, you protect the public, patients, and the profession's integrity.

You can find the entire list of registrants on our **Find a Chiropractor** search engine.

www.gcc-uk.org/find-a-chiropractor

6. How do I join the register of chiropractors?

For graduates of a chiropractic course from a UK education provider, ie. your university or college:

- 1** Your education provider will send a list directly to the GCC of all students who have completed and passed their chiropractic course. Please ensure the college or university has your correct full name and email address, as the GCC will use this to contact you.
- 2** Once the GCC receives the list, we will email and invite all graduates to apply to join the register of chiropractors. The application to join the register of chiropractors is completed online.
- 3** You will need a medical report which states that you are in good health. You can typically obtain this from your General Practitioner. Visit our [website](http://www.gcc-uk.org/medical) (www.gcc-uk.org/medical) for requirements and our medical and consent forms.
- 4** You will need a character reference from a person of professional standing who you have known for four or more years. They cannot be your employee, a patient or a family member. The reference can be completed online as part of your application to join the register of chiropractors.
- 5** You will need to pay the registration fee.



7. I'm an international graduate with a UK chiropractic qualification. Can I join the register of chiropractors?

Yes

The application process is the same as a UK-national graduate. However, you must ensure that your UK study/residency and/or work visa allows you to remain and work in the UK.

8. I am a university graduate outside of the UK. Can I join the register of chiropractors?

Yes

However, you will be required to take the GCC Test of Competence.

To pass, candidates must demonstrate to a panel of chiropractors that they meet the standards set out in our **Code** to assure us that they can practise safely in the UK.

Visit our **website** for more information on the Test of Competence and how to apply.

www.gcc-uk.org/toc

9. What is the Code?

The Code outlines the standards of conduct, performance and ethics expected of chiropractors in the UK. All chiropractors must agree and abide by the Code to join and remain on the register of chiropractors.

Containing a series of Principles, each with its own set of Standards, the Code:

- 1 Ensures chiropractors uphold the highest standards of care and conduct.
- 2 Clarifies the quality and care that patients should reasonably expect from a chiropractor.

We advise all graduates to read the **Code** to understand what is expected.

10. What is Continuing Professional Development (CPD)?

Although you have completed your core academic studies, you are expected to maintain your knowledge and skills throughout your career. This requirement is a common expectation for all healthcare professionals.

The GCC mandates all registrants to undertake a minimum of 30 hours of Continuing Professional Development (commonly known as CPD) each year. Of those 30 hours, 15 must be learning which is undertaken with others, eg. attending seminars, reviewing notes with colleagues, etc.

As part of your CPD submission, the GCC will also include directed CPD, which requires you to reflect on a subject area chosen by the Registrar, eg. Candour.

Additional CPD requirements for new graduates

In addition to directed CPD for all registrants, the GCC requires recent graduates to include a focus on clinical governance within their directed CPD. This additional directed CPD requirement is for those who have qualified within the last two years and registered with the GCC for the first time from 1 July of any year.

All directed CPD requirements are contained within the 30-hour CPD quota.

The GCC CPD year runs from 1 September to 31 August. You must submit your CPD summary online before the deadline, which will be shortly after the end of the CPD year, and will be publicised in the portal.

Finally, we recommend that registrants collect their CPD learning throughout the year, update their summary as they go along, and not wait until the deadline.

Visit our [website](#) for more information on CPD, directed CPD and additional graduate CPD requirements.

www.gcc-uk.org/cpd

11. Can I do more than 30 hours of CPD?

Yes

You can do more than 30 hours if you choose, and it all counts towards you developing your skills as a healthcare professional. However, you cannot bank extra hours from one year and use them in the next. CPD learning can only be attributed to the year in which it was undertaken.

12. What is Fitness to Practise?

Fitness to Practise is where the GCC investigates a concern or complaint against a chiropractor. The concern or complaint can come from a patient, the public, a fellow chiropractor or even a self-referral.

If we establish that a chiropractor has fallen below the expected standards, their ability to practise may be prohibited or restricted. In serious cases, the GCC has the legal power to remove a chiropractor from the register of chiropractors altogether, which means they can no longer legally practise.

Thankfully, most registrants will never be subject to a Fitness to Practise investigation. However it can be a timely and costly process, and you may wish to buy Medical Defence Insurance as well as your statutory Public Liability Insurance.

Visit our **website** for more information on Fitness to Practise.

www.gcc-uk.org/ftp

13. I wish to register as a limited company; is this possible?

Yes

Some chiropractors choose to register as a limited company. However, if you use the words or titles of chiropractor, chiropractic, chiropractitioner, chiropractic practitioner or chiropractic physician in a limited company name, Companies House will ask you to provide a letter of authorisation from the GCC.

To obtain a letter of authorisation, visit the GCC website and complete our **online application**.

www.gcc-uk.org/companies-house

14. Where can I find more information about the GCC and registration?

Your first stop should be the GCC **website** (www.gcc-uk.org). All registrants also receive a monthly e-newsletter which we recommend you review for essential registration, CPD or guidance updates from the Registrar.

Useful GCC website links:

Registration with the GCC - www.gcc-uk.org/registration

Test of Competence for graduates with a non-UK chiropractic qualification - www.gcc-uk.org/toc

Registrant Resource Centre for guidance, toolkits, and how to register as a limited company - www.gcc-uk.org/registant-resource-centre

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) - www.gcc-uk.org/cpd

The **GCC Code** - www.gcc-uk.org/the-code

Newsletter archive - www.gcc-uk.org/newsletters

Latest **news** - www.gcc-uk.org/news

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