**FOOT HEALTH PRACTICE**

**LEVEL 3 TO LEVEL 4**

**CONVERSION COURSE**

**PROSPECTUS**

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**THE COLLEGE OF FOOT HEALTH PRACTITIONERS**

**INTRODUCTION**

**Level 3 is equivalent to an A level qualification. It is barely adequate for foot health practice, which is why so many that qualify at that level find it dissatisfying, non-rewarding, and restrictive. Foot Health Practice is a medical occupation and most of our clients are compromised by structural conditions or systemic ill health in some degree.**

**Level 4 is about deeper understanding. That includes anatomy and physiology which cannot be skimped because it is fundamental to our decision-making. Autonomous practitioners need to apply structured thought to the many pathologies that they will encounter, must recognise what needs to be done, and decide upon the most appropriate management or course of action. This can be complex, with many factors that need to weighed and balanced: (Hickam’s dictum – *‘a patient can have as many diseases as they damn well please’).***

**The College of Foot Health Practitioners has always asserted that training at Level 4 is the right level for autonomous practice. That level 4 is level 4 is assured by ncfe. Those standards have been applied to eligibility for listing on the Alliance’s Accredited Register of Foot Health Practitioners and membership of the Alliance. The standards taught at the College accord with the *Standards for the Foot Health Workforce* published 2021 by Health Education England (HEE) and have been cross-referenced to those standards.**

***‘In order to facilitate a greater skill mix within the NHS footcare workforce, Health Education England (HEE) has commissioned the development of threshold clinical and education standards that all newly qualified foot health practitioners (FHPs), foot care assistants (FCAs) and assistant practitioners in podiatry (APs) should meet’.***

**Report on the Feedback Received from NHS Managers on the Publication of the Standards for the Foot Health Workforce**

***‘The Standards for the Foot Health Workforce set out, for each role and each level of educational attainment, the threshold knowledge, understanding, and skills required for safe and effective practice. …… They do not have any statutory status but are designed to support the skills mix and development of the workforce which provides foot health treatment to NHS patients.’***

[***Report template (hee.nhs.uk)***](https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/Report%20on%20the%20Feedback%20Received%20from%20NHS%20Managers%20on%20the%20Publication%20of%20the%20Standards%20for%20the%20Foot%20Health%20Workforce.pdf) ***Durrant. 2022***

**-so, the NHS has finally acknowledged the existence of Foot Health Practitioners and is preparing to engage with them if they are trained to a level they can recognise.**

**In summary, practice at Level 4 is:**

* **more appropriate to the occupation and a practitioner’s responsibilities**
* **allows listing on the Professional Standards Authority accredited occupational public register**
* **leads to greater satisfaction, confidence, and competence in the pursuit of practice**
* **will find favour with the NHS if such employment is sought**
* **introduces the first level of academic rigor that is universally used in Higher Education**
* **gains a respected level 4 award from a reputable college**
* **leads to greater satisfaction in practice**

# **What qualification levels mean**

**Level 3**

Level 3 qualifications are:

* A level
* access to higher education diploma
* advanced apprenticeship
* applied general
* AS level
* international Baccalaureate diploma
* level 3 award
* level 3 certificate
* level 3 diploma
* level 3 ESOL
* level 3 national certificate
* level 3 national diploma
* level 3 NVQ
* music grades 6, 7 and 8
* T Level
* tech level

**Level 4**

Level 4 qualifications are:

* certificate of higher education (CertHE)
* higher apprenticeship
* higher national certificate (HNC)
* level 4 award
* level 4 certificate
* level 4 diploma
* level 4 NVQ

[What qualification levels mean: England, Wales and Northern Ireland - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels)

-accessed July 2023

**WHAT’S IN THE COURSE?**

**Introduction and justification/Why Level 4? The difference and why it is important. How this course achieves the elevation to Level 4/1st level of academic rigor and what this means/DipCFHP/eligibility for public register and work with the NHS. Essays and word counts.**

1. **The plantar aponeurosis and windlass mechanism/bipedal gait/plantar fasciitis /HAV/aetiology/recognition/treatment options/first ray function/limitus/rigidus and management.**
2. **Peripheral vascular disease/effects/consequences/loss of skin barrier tissue viability**

**Neuropathy/effects/consequences/homeostasis/nutrition/respiration/excretion/wound healing.**

1. **Dermatology disorders encountered in practice and recognition/pathology of ageing/gerontology/ageing process.**

Completion permits access to the Alliance of Private Sector Practitioners membership and listing on the Professional Standards Authority accredited public register – the only register for this occupation accredited by the Professional Standards Authority under the provisions of the Health & Social Care Act, 2012.

Essay-style answers are required to explore and express higher aspects of practice.

**Assignments are sent to the College of Foot Health Practitioners for appraisal**. Feedback will be given. This is a conducted development course. Tutorial and mentoring support is available throughout.

The course pursues the themes of professional discretion and expanded options for treatment. Five days of clinical practice and relevant lectures lead to DipCFHP, a recognised award from a long-established and respected college.

***3 modules, 4 lecture sessions, 5 clinical practice sessions***

* **You will be treating real patients in clinic under tutorial supervision and will be covered by the College’s insurance as you do so.**
* **There will be lectures on four of those days, and you will be presented with your Level 4 DipCFHP Diploma on the afternoon of the 5th day on successful completion.**
* **A white tunic is provided in the course fee - we will need to ask your size.**
* **Limited accommodation is available in our College House at £30 or £40 per night.**
* **Your only other expenses are your food and travel costs.**

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