

Career opportunities in prosthetics and orthotics

The infographic below demonstrates the career pathways available in prosthetics and orthotics.*



*The above diagram does not include all titles within the prosthetic and orthotic workforce but provides examples of career opportunities

Career highlights

Trailblazers, educators, researchers, innovators, clinical specialists, and influential leaders across prosthetics and orthotics have made significant contributions to the field. The following examples highlight the career paths that some of our professionals have taken throughout their prosthetic and orthotic career journey. We hope these examples inspire you and introduce you to the possibilities offered by a career in prosthetics and orthotics.

Nikki Munro

Clinical lead and service manager for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

"I chose P&O after identifying at school I wanted a job that combined caring for people in a profession related to medicine and engineering. After graduating I worked with for a private orthotic contractor gaining a wider range of experience as an orthotist."

"I took the opportunity to improve my project management skills gaining a lean bronze qualification."

"I realise my true passion was in leadership and management rather than a clinical consultant path."

"I am an active member of the wider AHP community in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. I also chair the Scottish Clinical Orthotic Leads group."

"I enjoy raising the profile of Prosthetics and Orthotics positively and enjoy seeing us getting the same exposure and opportunities as the other bigger AHP professions."

"I represent my professional body at AHP Federation Scotland."

"I joined NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde as a senior orthotist and I was given opportunities in project management. I went on to work with NHS Quality Improvement in Scotland and chaired the NHS quality Improvement Scotland Prosthetics and orthotics practice development network."

"During my career, I have gained advanced practice skills in diabetes and neurological conditions and have become a Principal Investigator for research projects."

"I went on to lead multi-professional AHP projects and became an NES Scottish Improvement Leader."



"I am clinical lead and service manager for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde orthotic service which is the biggest health board in Scotland and is the biggest in-house Orthotic team in the UK."

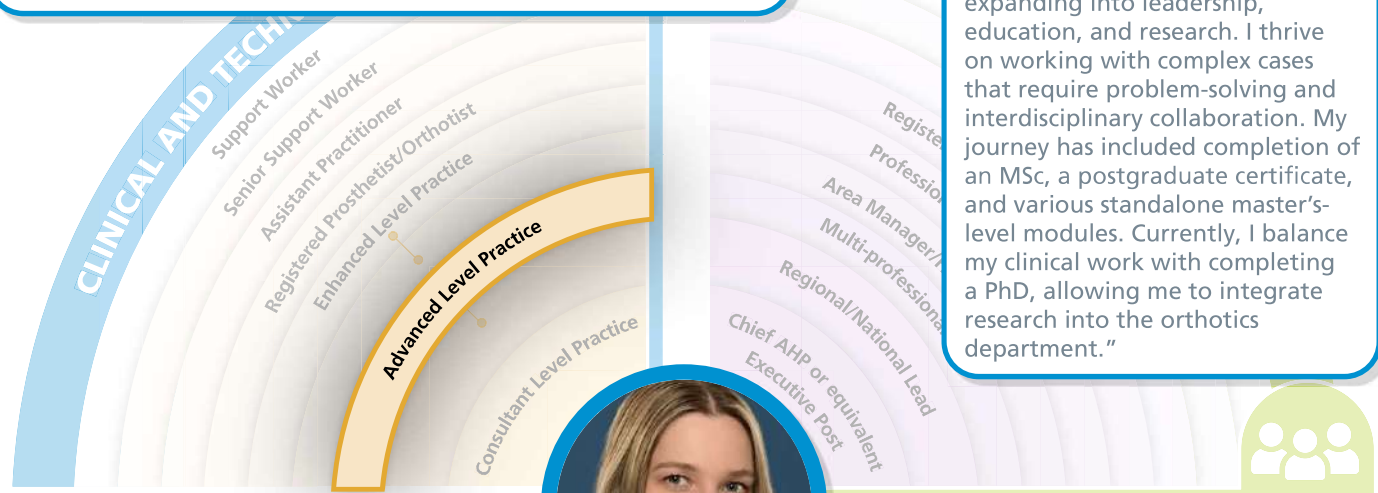
"Our service works across 8 different hospital sites and I lead a team of 21 Orthotists, 6 healthcare support worker staff - 3 Orthotic Clinical assistants and 3 Orthotic Technicians and 9 orthotic administrative staff. I am also professional lead for all Orthotists working in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde."

Laura Barr

Advanced Orthotic Practitioner

"I graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Prosthetics and Orthotics from the University of Strathclyde in 2007 and began working as an orthotist in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GGC). My early years in general orthotics helped me discover a passion for musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions and orthopaedics, leading me to pursue further clinical experience and postgraduate education. This groundwork enabled me to step into an Extended Scope Practitioner role, later formalised as an Advanced Practice position in 2020."

"I chose Advanced Practice because it allows me to maintain a hands-on clinical role while expanding into leadership, education, and research. I thrive on working with complex cases that require problem-solving and interdisciplinary collaboration. My journey has included completion of an MSc, a postgraduate certificate, and various standalone master's-level modules. Currently, I balance my clinical work with completing a PhD, allowing me to integrate research into the orthotics department."



"Advanced Practice offers a dynamic and flexible career path, allowing me to shape my role around my interests, continuously evolve, and contribute to the profession beyond direct patient care."

"I work across both the Orthopaedics and Orthotics services in NHS GGC, covering the four pillars of practice:
Clinical: I assess, diagnose, and manage patients in the Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle service and lead escalation clinics for complex orthotic cases. These clinics also serve as training opportunities for colleagues and external healthcare providers.
Education: I oversee MSK education within the NHS GGC Orthotic department, developing training programs and a Professional Development Framework. I also contribute to university teaching, act as an external examiner, and train clinicians nationally through BAPO courses.
Research: As an NRS Research Fellow, I lead research initiatives to integrate evidence-based practice into the Orthotic service. I co-manage the MSK foot and ankle pathway and lead the national Orthotics Evidence Portal project for BAPO.
Leadership: I serve as the MSK specialist team lead in NHS GGC and the national MSK Lead for orthotics in Scotland. This dual role allows me to combine patient care with strategic service development, education, and research—keeping my career both rewarding and impactful."

Steve Seccombe

Group Chief Clinical Officer for Blatchford

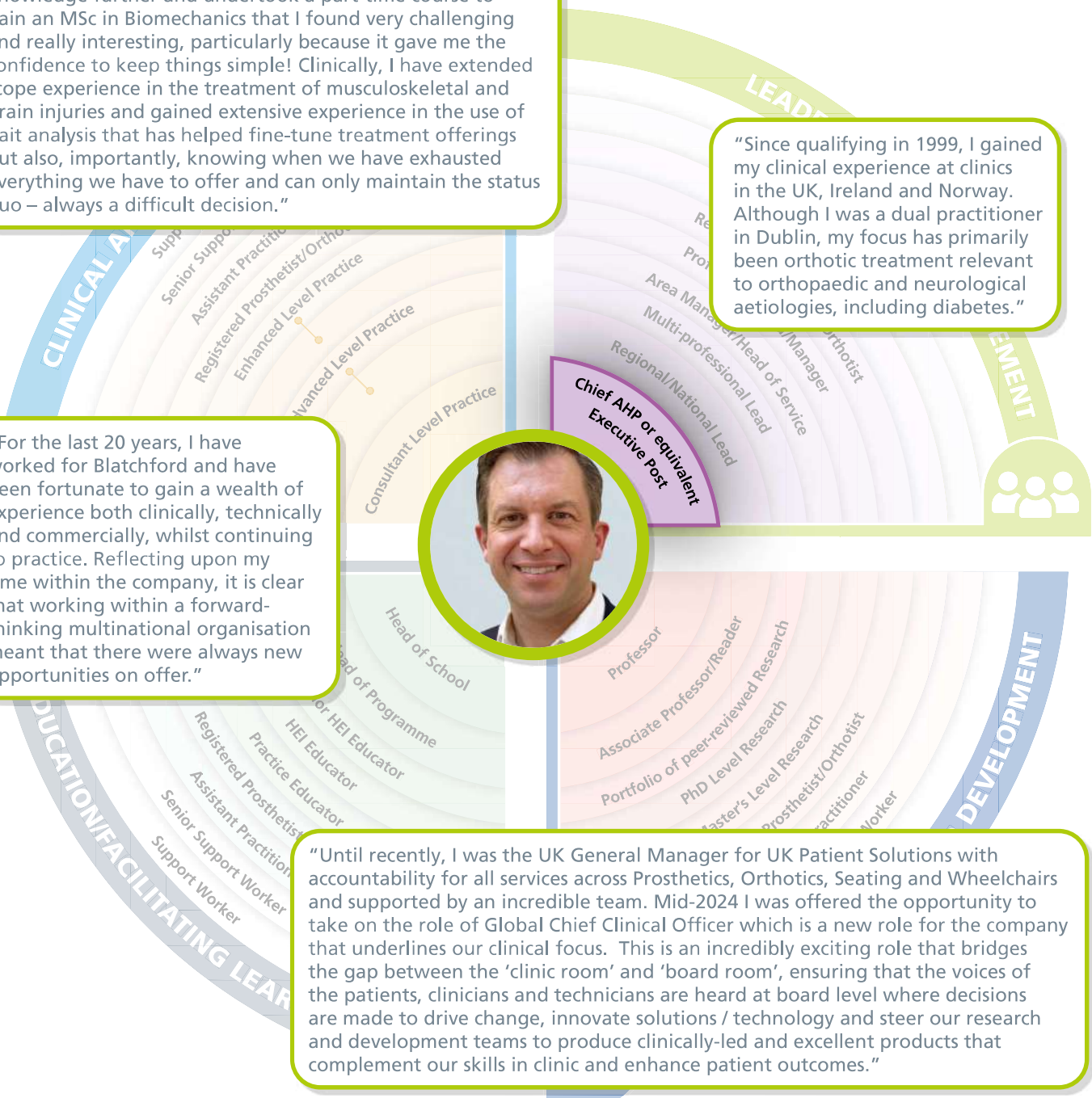
"After 10 years of practice, I felt ready to deepen by knowledge further and undertook a part-time course to gain an MSc in Biomechanics that I found very challenging and really interesting, particularly because it gave me the confidence to keep things simple! Clinically, I have extended scope experience in the treatment of musculoskeletal and brain injuries and gained extensive experience in the use of gait analysis that has helped fine-tune treatment offerings but also, importantly, knowing when we have exhausted everything we have to offer and can only maintain the status quo – always a difficult decision."

"Since qualifying in 1999, I gained my clinical experience at clinics in the UK, Ireland and Norway. Although I was a dual practitioner in Dublin, my focus has primarily been orthotic treatment relevant to orthopaedic and neurological aetiologies, including diabetes."

"For the last 20 years, I have worked for Blatchford and have been fortunate to gain a wealth of experience both clinically, technically and commercially, whilst continuing to practice. Reflecting upon my time within the company, it is clear that working within a forward-thinking multinational organisation meant that there were always new opportunities on offer."



"Until recently, I was the UK General Manager for UK Patient Solutions with accountability for all services across Prosthetics, Orthotics, Seating and Wheelchairs and supported by an incredible team. Mid-2024 I was offered the opportunity to take on the role of Global Chief Clinical Officer which is a new role for the company that underlines our clinical focus. This is an incredibly exciting role that bridges the gap between the 'clinic room' and 'board room', ensuring that the voices of the patients, clinicians and technicians are heard at board level where decisions are made to drive change, innovate solutions / technology and steer our research and development teams to produce clinically-led and excellent products that complement our skills in clinic and enhance patient outcomes."

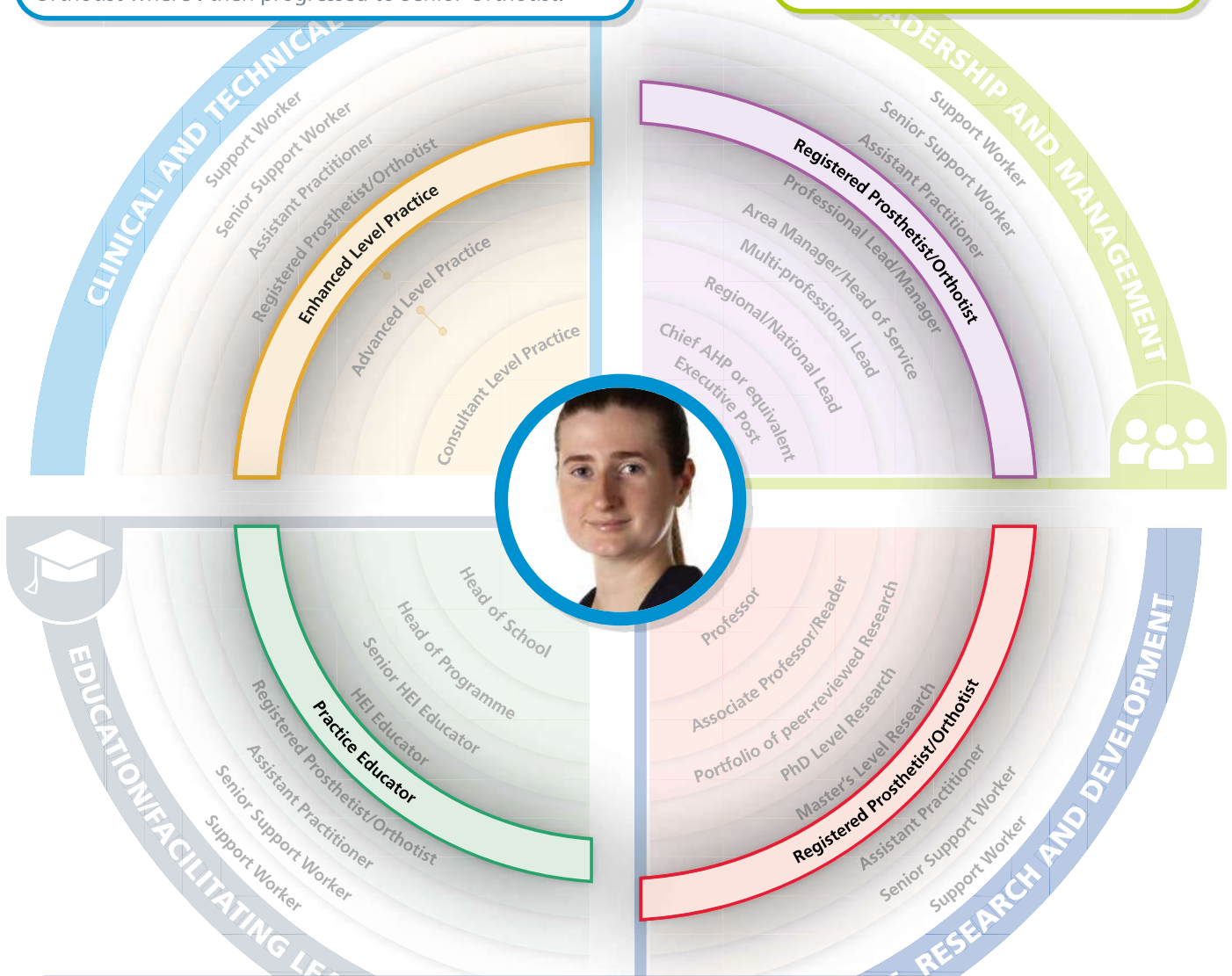


Alice Dudley

Senior Orthotist

"My first job was a graduate orthotist position at a small GP practice and Broadgreen/Aintree Hospital which led me to a role at a wider scoped practice in Leicester. From here I moved to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust as an Orthotist where I then progressed to Senior Orthotist."

"I have catered my early education to suite the requirements for a P+O degree. My A-Levels were Maths, Psychology and BTEC Science. I went to Salford University for 3 years and completed placements at Haywood hospital (prosthetics), Medway hospital (prosthetics) and The Royal Blackburn Hospital (orthotics)."



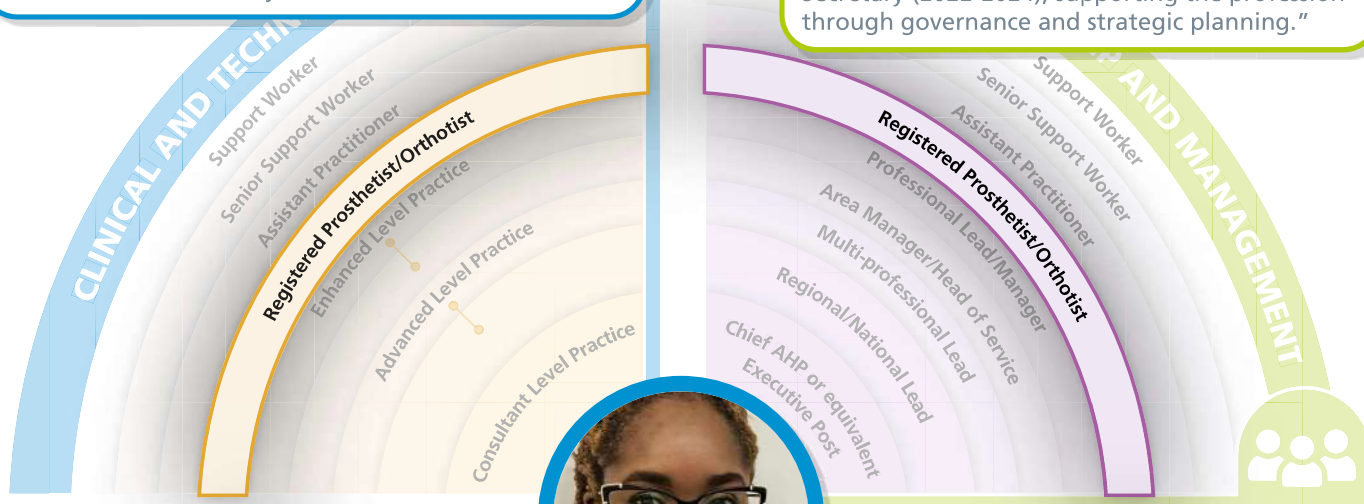
"In my current role I have the responsibility of managing the band 6 team and ensuring administrative things such as standard operating procedures and policies are up to date. I am also required to manage queries and complaints. In the absence of the orthotic service manager a senior orthotist is expected to pick up any management tasks within their scope."

Christabelle Asoluka

Band 6 Orthotist, South Tees NHS Trust

"I earned a B.Tech in Prosthetics and Orthotics in 2017 in Nigeria, building a strong foundation in biomechanics, material science, and clinical applications. My journey led me to the UK for a master's in Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Technology, opening doors to diverse career paths. Now, as a Band 6 Orthotist at South Tees NHS Trust, I run general adult and insole clinics, focusing on biomechanical instabilities and mobility enhancement."

"In the eight years since graduating, I have held multiple leadership roles across different sectors. As a marketing lead in a P&O manufacturing company, I developed strategic communication skills, bridging the gap between clinicians and industry. I later expanded into the tech sector, working as a content lead at a 3D-printing orthotic software company, where I contributed to marketing strategies and product development. I have also served as BAPO Secretary (2022-2024), supporting the profession through governance and strategic planning."



"As an Assistant Education, Practice, and Development Officer at BAPO, I play an active role in shaping CPD initiatives, helping develop and plan training programs to support the growth of professionals in P&O."

"My passion for innovation has driven me to explore digital health and AI adoption in P&O. I am currently researching how technology enhances CPD, clinical decision-making, and professional learning. Additionally, I have contributed to workforce reform projects, particularly in preceptorship development and pre-registration curriculum design to strengthen professional training pathways."

"My career has not followed a traditional ladder - rather, I've embraced opportunities to explore the full scope of P&O. From clinical practice to education, leadership, and digital innovation, I continue to find new ways to contribute to and expand the field."