

# CHOOSING YOUR FIRST CHIROPRACTIC JOB?

## THESE ARE THE 4 ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF...

### 1. What's around?

You know your first job will influence the rest of your career, so take your time and **see what's on offer**. You can always change of course. But if you find a place you love working at, and if you want to learn how to run a successful practice, then expect to be there for up to 4-5 years. See what's out there!

### 2. Do I want a room or an apprenticeship?

Some places will offer you a percentage, a room and a bench, and let you 'get on with it'. That could be what you want.

But you may feel you want to develop your skills, work as a team, learn how to build a loyal patient base, and eventually be able to run your own practice. If that's the case then an apprenticeship is likely to get you there much quicker.

**Graduating from university is like passing your driving test.** You're road legal but you're not a good driver yet! Experience, support and mentoring not only accelerate your progress, but help avoid the disillusionment that happens to a lot of graduates after a few years of 'muddling along'. A good apprenticeship will align your journey with your personal goals and values.

### 3. Where do I want to live?

Are you a city or a country mouse? Would you rather live in a bustling town, a quiet village, by the sea or near the mountains (well, hills in the UK!). **Think about the lifestyle you want** as well as the job. Different places lend themselves to certain sports or hobbies, as well as groups or teams you might want to get involved with.

### 4. Are Technique or Vibe important to me?

Certain practices are centres of excellence for a specific technique, which might be what drives you. Most are a mix of diversified and other systems, great if you want to try a broad range of techniques. You'll probably discover though, that it's usually not the technique that makes a successful chiropractor, but **communication skills**. Does the practice owner have something you'd like to emulate?

*Vibe* is the distinctive feel of the place, and can attract you more than the details on paper. Be warned though, not every practice has one! There are bland clinics, scruffy clinics, uber-slick clinics and quaint clinics. Notice how you feel when you walk through the door... **is it 'you'?**

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