

Programme Specification

Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice

<i>School:</i>	Science, Technology and Health
<i>Subject area:</i>	Health
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2020/21
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September or January
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Not applicable
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Not applicable
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Postgraduate periods of study ¹ part-time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

The PG Certificate in Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice has been designed for musculoskeletal practitioners working at, or aspiring to work at, the leading edge of practice. Typically, you will work in a musculoskeletal setting and have already gained a significant amount of experience. This new and exciting programme has arisen from collaborative working with our community partners and will inspire learning that is both creative and innovative. The programme consists of a single 60 credit module, a unique design that no other institutions are offering currently.

The approach to teaching and learning enables you to become advanced practitioners of your discipline through a process of active learning. Classroom-based sessions complement the practical implementation in your clinical setting, providing a forum to teach and discuss the underpinning theory. The classroom sessions utilise a range of techniques, from presenting an interpretation of complex clinical ideas, through interactive discussions, demonstrations of practice, and problem-solving methodologies.

You will be provided with and required to engage in preparatory material made available throughout the module. This enables tutors to use the classroom time to enable you to explore concepts in more depth through a range of interactive constructivist approaches, including discussion with staff and your peers, exploration of actual case studies (with due regard for confidentiality), and individual problem solving.

¹ For a January start the approximate module attendance period is early January until the end of October

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [postgraduate](#) study. In addition, you must have:

- 3 years current postgraduate experience within an MSK clinical setting.
- Completed portfolio of clinical experience.
- Managers letter of support.
- Appropriate clinical mentor letters of support (An appropriate designated person from within an MSK speciality).
- Proof of appropriate and up to date professional registration (e.g. HCPC, GMC).

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

The programme aims to develop and enhance current clinical practice and recognise the high level skills that clinicians achieve through the synthesis of academic learning and clinical practice. The NHS Multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England identified 4 core pillars (Clinical Practice, Leadership and Management, Education and Research) in 2017, and it is these pillars that will help inform the content of this programme.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 Demonstrate advanced levels of clinical decision making.
- 7.2 Critically evaluate and apply current evidence on the management of complex patient care strategies.
- 7.3 Develop high levels of effective communication and written skills to professionally document their own practice.
- 7.4 Demonstrate comprehensive leadership skills to support and encourage development of others.
- 7.5 Evidence advanced clinical skills through documented mentorship pathway.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Terms	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensatable (NC) or compensatable (X)
PHC7017M	7	3 Terms	Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice	60	C	NC

(terms above are indicative)

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensatable. A non-compensatable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 50 in order to progress).

Learning, teaching and assessment

You will attend a series of 4 full days across the duration of your study, amounting to 30 hours in total. Time in sessions will be spent in a variety of modes of learning, ranging from theoretical to critical discussion and including formative assessment to help you develop the necessary skills for the summative assessments. In addition to this will be considerable mentored clinical time engaged in advanced musculoskeletal practice and you will be expected to engage in relevant self-directed study.

Summative assessments, which you are required to pass in order to gain the PGCert, are three in total: i) a 2000-word synopsis of a chosen intervention, evaluating the clinical reasoning process with supporting evidence; ii) a portfolio utilising evidence to critically reflect on a number of case studies encountered within the clinical setting; iii) successful application of skills documented within hospital setting by mentors. Suitably qualified members of staff who could be, Consultants, GPs, AHPs, Advanced Clinical Practitioners etc., will sign off clinical competencies. Assessment approaches within the clinical setting will align to the specific requirements of the trust, and all mentors will have had previous experiences of supervising clinical colleagues.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for](#) postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: