

## Programme Specification

### MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration)

<i>School:</i>	Science, Technology and Health
<i>Subject area:</i>	Physiotherapy
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2025-26
<i>in the month(s) of:</i>	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>	Accredited by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Approval by the Health and Care Professions Council
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate Applied Health Sciences Postgraduate Diploma Applied Health Sciences MSc Applied Health Sciences
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	FHEQ Level 7 Descriptor Benchmark
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Non-standard period of study as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full-time for 2 years and 2 months</li><li>• Part-time for 4 years and 2 months</li></ul>
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with foundation year:</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	No

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### Introduction and special features

The Programme has been designed to enable the successful students to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy to practice under the title of 'Chartered Physiotherapist'.

The MSc Physiotherapy Pre-Registration programme will bring your skills forward from your undergraduate degree at an early stage. As you will commence the programme with sophisticated, independent critical thinking and reflection you will be able to apply original knowledge into advanced academic and clinical contexts. Evidence based practice and criticality are embedded in the programme throughout and as you will be entering the physiotherapy profession at an advanced level, you will be able to contribute to the organisation, the community and the profession. In accordance with the requirements articulated in the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Proficiency - Physiotherapy (2013) and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) Quality Assurance Standards (2012) the curriculum will encourage students to be able to adapt to the changing needs of service users and local communities within a modern health service that is constantly evolving new models of service delivery and innovative practice.

This Programme intends to facilitate your development into an autonomous physiotherapy practitioner, underpinned by scientific knowledge, with the ability to contribute to the challenges in public health, and

who has a significant role in the management of long-term conditions and health promotion practices in a wide range of health settings within a diverse population. Furthermore, through your knowledge of research methods and being equipped with leadership skills, you will be able to contribute to innovation and change in health care, and the developing body of knowledge within the profession at both national and international levels.

The Programme will offer you a range of inspirational learning opportunities to support you in reaching your fullest potential as a physiotherapist of the future. The curriculum is constructed around the Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Proficiency - Physiotherapy (2013) and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Quality Assurance Standards (2012) and is also informed by the CSP Code of Members' Professional Values and Behaviour (2011) and the HCPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (2016) in order to ensure clinical currency within the programme. The staff team have extensive clinical expertise in a wide variety of settings. Some staff are clinically active so bring contemporary insight into programme delivery to ensure you graduate fit for purpose in today's ever-changing healthcare environment. Staff are also research active and enable a research informed curriculum, and the team is complimented by visiting lecturers and service users throughout the Programme to embed service user engagement within teaching and learning across all three levels of the Programme

The Programme is underpinned by a strong theoretical approach and will feature both university based and practice-based modules. The programme incorporates the provision of at least 1000 hours in a variety of clinically based settings under the supervision of clinical educators both within the UK and internationally. The Programme enables students to consider international placements, supervised by qualified physiotherapists and you will have the opportunity to contemplate an international placement in year 2. In addition to this, unique collaborative working between the University and local clinical partners normally enables an innovative teaching and learning experience for the students in a clinically simulated laboratory in year 2 which is unique to York St John.

There is a strong emphasis on inter-professional and inter-agency learning throughout the programme. You are encouraged to consider the role of different professions and how they work alongside Physiotherapists, this takes the form of case scenarios, case discussion and visiting speakers from a variety of different clinical environments. Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy students are co-taught for all face to face elements of generic skills for practice / mandatory training. These include: Moving and handling, basic life support, breakaway training, fire safety and infection control. You are encouraged to problem solve and discuss case scenarios together as this follows current best practices within health and social care settings. Other opportunities for inter-professional learning are offered throughout the 1000 professional practice placement hours. You will be required to work alongside other professions and are actively encouraged to shadow other health professionals to explore how services and professions work together to meet the needs of service users.

## **Admissions criteria**

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

- First or upper second-class BSc honours degree in a human biology/behavioural science/sports science/health-related profession plus experience of undergraduate level research skills and a project/dissertation.
- Applicants presenting with a lower second-class degree in a relatable subject or a BA honours degree may be considered if you are able to evidence significant academic or professional experience which is judged to be acceptable by York St John University.
- Insight into the physiotherapy profession and work shadowing experience with physiotherapists is required (this could be in any setting a physiotherapist works or in other healthcare environments, such as care homes to enable an insight into healthcare practice. Insight into the depth and breadth of physiotherapy is required, and as such, there is not a stipulated amount of work experience that is required, and could be in conjunction with online research where work shadowing experience is difficult to obtain) as is evidence of study within the last three years.

Applicants whose first language is not English should have IELTS grade 7 with no component lower than 6.5 or another acceptable English language qualification (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 [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Offers are conditional not only on academic results but also on:

- A satisfactory Medical Health Questionnaire
- A satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- Performance to a satisfactory standard in physiotherapy selection tasks, demonstrating that your individual values and behaviours align with NHS Constitution
- Satisfactory reference(s)

### **Programme aim(s)**

The aim of the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration) programme is to facilitate the development of those students with a previous degree in a relatable subject to achieve the status of physiotherapist in an accelerated manner and graduate with a Master's degree. The programme will produce graduates who are able to excel within the context of the evolving 21<sup>st</sup> century health care system. In accordance with the requirements articulated in the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Proficiency - Physiotherapy (2013) and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) Quality Assurance Standards (2012) the curriculum will encourage you to be able to adapt to the changing needs of service users and local communities within a modern health service that is constantly evolving new models of service delivery and innovative practice.

The Programme is designed to provide you with an outstanding education and training which, if successful, will enable you to apply for registration with the HCPC to practice as physiotherapist, and apply for membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy granting you the protected title of Chartered Physiotherapist on graduation.

### **Programme learning outcomes**

Programmes learning outcomes are considered in the following three categories:

- Cognitive
- Disciplinary/Professional Skills
- Transferable skills

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

#### **Level 7**

##### **Cognitive - the student will demonstrate:**

- 7.1 Comprehensive understanding of the structure and function of the human body in relation to dysfunction and pathology
- 7.2 An in-depth evidence-based knowledge and understanding of the principles of physiotherapy rehabilitation which includes their application to practice and service delivery
- 7.3 Critical thinking in relation to the evidence, policy and legal frameworks and an ability to discuss the impact on health and social care settings, considering and tackling inequalities in health
- 7.4 Research and enquiry techniques to collect, analyse, interpret and apply relevant information to physiotherapy both in theory and in practice at Master's level
- 7.5 Leadership, teamwork and initiative in a professional context of clinical governance and quality issues

**Disciplinary/Professional Skills - the student will demonstrate:**

- 7.6 Critical thinking in evaluating evidence-based interventions with a variety of service users in a variety of clinical settings
- 7.7 In a range of complex clinical settings, formulate and apply patient centred interventions incorporating evidence-based physiotherapeutic treatment strategies and measurements of effectiveness based on complex clinical reasoning and problem-solving skills
- 7.8 Critical application of wider concepts of injury prevention, health promotion and self- management
- 7.9 Safely and competently practice physiotherapy within the current Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and Health and Care Professions Council Standards

**Transferable Skills - the student will demonstrate:**

- 7.10 Management of personal learning and development through critical reflection
- 7.11 Effective learning using a wide range of academic skills and evaluation of personal learning strategies
- 7.12 Effective communication and presentation skills in expressing ideas and opinions, with confidence and clarity, to a variety of audiences for a variety of purposes using appropriate language; presentation to different audiences using a variety of media
- 7.13 Effective team working and delegation, using initiative and leading others

**Programme structure**

The programme will run on a full-time basis over 2 years and 2 months (a part time route is available over 4 years). Any individual student's period of learning must not exceed the length of the accredited programme plus two years and not exceeding six years. In exceptional circumstances an extension of no more than six months beyond this maximum period may be requested. In such cases the approval of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy must be sought prior to any further study or professional practice experience being permitted.

Code	Level	Year	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take <b>C or O</b>	non-compensatable or compensatable <b>NC or X</b>
PHY7001M	7	1	Physiotherapy Practice 1	60	C	NC
PHY7002M	7	1	Research in Practice 1	20	C	NC
PHY7003P	7	1	Professional Practice Placement 1 (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC
PHY7004P	7	1	Professional Practice Placement 2 (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC
PHY7005M	7	2	Physiotherapy Practice 2	40	C	NC
PHY7006M	7	2	Research in Practice 2	40	C	NC
PHY7007P	7	2	Professional Practice Placement 3 (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC
PHY7008P	7	2	Professional Practice Placement 4 (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC
PHY7009M	7	2	Leadership, Service Development and Employability	20	C	NC
PHY7010P	7	3	Professional Practice Placement 5 (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC

## **Learning, teaching and assessment**

The Programme has been designed to develop relevant knowledge, skills and professional behaviours and values required to achieve entry level professional competencies as required by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and the Health and Care Professions Council.

### **Educational philosophy**

The programme is delivered using a blended-learning approach, in which there is a mixture of face-to-face and virtual or on-line learning, self-directed study and experiential learning. The blended-learning approach offers flexibility of learning opportunities and is particularly inclusive for students with different learning needs, caring roles and responsibilities, students with part-time jobs and for students travelling long distances from home to university.

Learning is scaffolded across the 2 years of the Programme in a way which develops appropriate professional competencies required to become independent learners, evidenced-based practitioners and skills to continue lifelong learning during your professional careers.

### **Teaching strategy**

The programme utilises a range of relevant, contemporary real world learning opportunities/resources which will prepare you for the challenges of working in a changing environment of health and social care and innovative models of service delivery. Future proofing an emerging workforce will require you to develop skills in; enquiry, problem setting and problem solving, research, critical thinking, analysis, evaluation, collaboration, reflection, self-assessment, peer assessment, giving and receiving feedback, creativity, innovation, coaching skills, leadership, entrepreneurial and management skills, teamwork, independent learning, self-reliance and autonomy.

You will be supported to develop a professional online profile and gain an understanding of the benefits of social media as a tool to promote your work and the profession as well as providing a resource for seeking information. In addition to this you will learn to utilise a range of digital tools that will enable you to become digitally fluent, and prepared to embrace the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution (artificial intelligence, robotics, cybernetics and nanotechnology) and how this could impact on physiotherapy practice for the benefit of the patients.

Face-to-face learning and teaching may include:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Individual and group tutorials
- Interactive workshops
- Visits and field trips
- Guest speakers and visiting lecturers from service users, clinicians, service providers

Experiential learning may include:

- Practical anatomy and skills based sessions
- Research
- Professional practice placements

Online activities may include:

- Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)
  - Forums, discussion groups, screen-cast lectures (flipped classroom), e-portfolios, module teaching resources
- Online platforms/applications
  - Social media (e.g. Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest)
  - Blogging

- Library electronic resources
  - Databases
  - Specialist software
  - Digital repositories

### **Assessment strategy**

The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (QAA 2014) state that Master's degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- A systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice
- A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship
- Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline
- Conceptual understanding that enables the student:
  - To evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline
  - To evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses

As such the assessment strategy has been designed to encourage criticality and creativity and inspire you to develop new concepts and thoughts on contemporary physiotherapy practice. The assessments allow flexibility in what you choose to consider and evaluate, generating originality and new ideas.

By using active, collaborative, reflective and dialogic approaches to teaching, learning and assessment, you will develop into an independent and lifelong learner. The programme deliberately utilises a wide range of assessment techniques designed specifically to reflect what graduates will do in employment, for example the ability to problem solve, clinically reason, utilise evidence to formulate treatment plans appropriate to an individual's specific needs, presentations, and written reports.

Assessment strategies involve written assignments to challenge your theoretical knowledge within the context of clinical scenarios and evidence-based practice but also oral presentations, involving analysis and critique of information and production of dialogic assessments involving poster production. Practical assessments are designed to bring together 'real life' situations, mimicking what is expected in clinical practice by the demonstration of problem solving ability and skills application (and also the 'softer' skills of professionalism), and the production of a research proposal and subsequently a research article, which you will be encouraged to publish and disseminate, fosters an insight into data collection and analysis and an interest in developing the evidence base for the profession as a whole. A viva will examine your ability to reflect on your learning throughout the physiotherapy programme and your suitability for employment as a graduate physiotherapist.

Throughout each module you will engage in a range of regular formative assessment activities which will prepare you for your summative assessment submission.

For each summative assessment, you will receive formal feedback. For each formative assessment activity, you will also receive a range of formal and informal (verbal, written), peer and/or tutor feedback and self-assessment with reflection.

Throughout the programme you will be allocated to an academic tutor to support your academic development and encourage reflection on your own performance, practice, and identify action plans for continued academic and professional development.

Information and guidance regarding all assessment requirements will be available to you via the university virtual learning environment (Moodle) module sites. You will be offered assignment tutorials (group and/or individual) to support the preparation for assessments. The University also provides a range of central guidance and learning resources through the Information and Learning Services directorate. These resources include online tutorial, factsheets, study skills workshops and individual appointments with specialist staff e.g. writing support, librarian.

### Professional Practice Placement

Professional practice placement learning will be integral to you achieving the programme learning outcomes and an essential component of professional development. It is the purpose of professional practice to provide opportunities for you to demonstrate the ability to use knowledge, skills and information and show progress in applying it through your participation. Professional practice facilitates the transition from student to competent therapist by providing scope for reasoning and reflection in the practice environment that complements and extends your academic studies.

### 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.

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:

Students will be eligible for the award of the **MSc Physiotherapy** when they have:

- a) Passed all modules specified for the programme of study in the programme specification
- b) Passed all professional practice placements
  - Students will only be able to fail and redeem one practice placement. Subsequent failure of another practice placement will result in termination of the student's enrolment on the programme
  - Students will only be offered one resit opportunity for failed University based modules, failure of a resit will result in termination of the student's enrolment on the programme

MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration)	Successful completion of all modules gaining a total of 180 module credits including a pass for all practice placements. <b>Only this award carries eligibility for registration with the HCPC.</b>
MSc in Applied Health Sciences	Students will be eligible for the award of the MSc in Applied Health Sciences in the event of gaining 180 credits but failure to pass a placement component. This will <b>not</b> enable eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and consequently to practise as a physiotherapist.
Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Health Sciences Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Health Sciences	Additional interim awards are available with 120 credits a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Health Sciences and 60 credits for a Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Health Sciences. These will <b>not</b> enable eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and consequently to practise as a physiotherapist.
Aegrotat awards	If a student is offered an aegrotat award as per University regulations, this does <b>not</b> confer eligibility to apply for admission to the Health and Care Professions Council Register.

## Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- Standards of Proficiency - Physiotherapy (HCPC 2013)
- Quality Assurance Standards (CSP 2012)
- Physiotherapy Framework: putting physiotherapy behaviours, values, knowledge & skills into practice (CSP 2013)
- Code of Members' Professional Values and Behaviour (CSP 2011)
- Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (HCPC 2016)
- Standards of Education and Training guidance (HCPC 2017)
- Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (QAA 2014)
- Knowledge & Skills Framework NHS Band 5 (DoH 2004)
- NHS 10 year Plan (2019)

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*Programme originally approved: 08/05/19*