

Programme Specification

MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice

PG Dip Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice

PG Cert Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice

<i>School:</i>	Science, Technology and Health
<i>Subject area:</i>	Health
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	October
<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>	N/A
<i>Exit awards:</i>	PG Dip Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice PG Cert Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	N/A
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	N/A
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies. QAA 2014
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Part time PGCert – 1 academic year PGDip – 2 years MSc – 3 years
<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

You will be a qualified professional working in UK health and/or social care (e.g. physiotherapist, occupational therapist). You will be engaged in, or seeking to develop, advanced practice in your own specific clinical area. You wish to study at master's level, but you may not necessarily wish to gain a full MSc. This programme will help you achieve your aim by enabling you to study for either a PG Cert, PG Dip or full MSc, depending on your own requirements.

This is a unique model of continued professional development for allied health professionals (in the broadest sense). You will learn from experts in the field in relatively small postgraduate groups, alongside fellow professionals. You will gain a master's level award, be it PG Cert, PG Dip or full MSc, in your chosen area of advanced clinical practice.

York St John University offer related undergraduate and pre-registration master's qualifications in occupational therapy and physiotherapy, and have delivered a successful CPD portfolio of master's level study for many years, most recently offering the MSc Professional Health and Social Care and the MSc Leadership in Health and Social Care awards. These awards have helped professionals like you advance their career, and now elements of those programmes have been embedded in this new, clinically oriented suite of postgraduate awards.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. In addition, you must have:

1. Entry to the PGCert, PGDip and MSc in MSK, 5 years current postgraduate experience with 3 years in an appropriate MSK clinical setting.
2. Line manager's letter of support.
3. Clinical mentor's letter of support (an appropriate person from within the speciality service).
4. Proof of appropriate and up to date professional registration (e.g. HCPC, GMC).
5. Completed portfolio of clinical experience.

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.yorks.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.

Programme aim(s)

The aim of the programme is to enable qualified healthcare professionals to advance, transform and research their practice.

Programme learning outcomes

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

Level 7:

PG Cert Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice

- 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.

PG Dip Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice (in addition to above)

- 7.6 Demonstrate advanced levels of critical appraisal of evidence.
- 7.7 Critically evaluate and apply relevant evidence on health coaching, health literacy, leadership and change management.
- 7.8 Develop high levels of effective communication appropriate to patients in health coaching and health literacy, and to key stakeholders in leadership and change management.
- 7.9 Demonstrate comprehensive leadership skills to support and encourage service development.
- 7.10 Evidence outcomes of transforming practice through critical reflection on practice and/or outcome measures.

MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice (in addition to above)

- 7.11 Develop a research question or aim within the context of the extant literature.
- 7.12 Select, justify and implement a methodology appropriate to the research question or aim.
- 7.13 Follow research ethics principles to conduct the research ethically.
- 7.14 Employ appropriate analytical and/or interpretative methods.
- 7.15 Critically evaluate the research findings in the context of the extant literature.
- 7.16 Present research findings in a recognised journal format for manuscript submission.

Programme structure

PG Cert Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice

Code	Year	Level	Terms	Title	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
PHC7018M	1	7	1 + 2 + 3	Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice	60	C	NC

PG Dip Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice

Code	Year	Level	Terms	Title	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
PHC7018M	1	7	1 + 2 + 3	Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice	60	C	NC
PHC7021M	2	7	1 + 2 + 3	Transforming Practice	60	C	NC

MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice

Code	Year	Level	Terms	Title	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
PHC7018M	1	7	1 + 2 + 3	Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice	60	C	NC
PHC7021M	2	7	1 + 2 + 3	Transforming Practice	60	C	NC
PHC7022M	3	7	1 + 2 + 3	Researching Practice	60	C	NC

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable 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 6 - 7 days for each 60 credit module, amounting to 36 - 42 hours in total. The notional learning time for each 60 credit module is 600 hours, so you should expect to also engage in appropriate subject reading, online activities (which may include accessing online materials, directed online reading, watching video material, formative assessment and participation in a forum), work-related learning and tutor support and research supervision.

You can expect to engage as an adult, independent learner suited to your professional status. On attendance days you will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of modes of learning, ranging from theoretical to critical discussion, consideration of case studies to explore authentic scenarios, critical appraisal of evidence, self-reflection and formative assessment to help you develop the necessary skills for the summative assessments.

We will use approaches to learning that mirror and enhance the practice in which you work, one characterised by 'a high degree of autonomy and complex decision making', (which) enables deep reflection and learning through the 'analysis and synthesis of complex problems (...) enabling innovative solutions to enhance people's experience and improve outcomes' (Health Education England, 2017).

We use a range of formative and summative assessments to support and inspire you in your development, promote deep and complex learning, motivate you towards success in summative assessments and to evaluate your achievement. We make our assessments as authentic as possible.

For example, your formative assessments for the Transforming Practice module include opportunities to share with your peers and tutors your critique of a research paper, a plan for transformational service change, self-reflection on your experience of implementing a health coaching approach with a patient/user of service, and your provisional evaluation of communications used with patients/users of service. These activities all closely resemble your summative assessments for this module but are enacted in a safe and supportive peer group context, enabling you to further develop your ideas for each summative assessment.

Your formative assessment for the Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice module will be to make a presentation to your peers and tutor, on which you will receive feedback.

Your first formative assessment for the Researching Practice module is to present a draft research proposal for comment and critique by your peers and tutors; this will enable you to develop a more refined full proposal for the first part of your summative assessment for this module. The second part of your summative assessment for this module is to produce a manuscript suitable for possible publication; your supervisor will help you prepare for this through formative assessment of a section of your manuscript.

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-compensable.

Late result modules

This programme follows the postgraduate pattern of October start and presentation of results to the late postgraduate School Assessment Panel.

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](#)
- NHS 10 year plan (2019): <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>
- Health Education England Advanced Practice Frameworks: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/advanced-clinical-practice>
- Health Education England Programme Accreditation: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/advanced-clinical-practice/programme-accreditation>
- Health Education England Multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Multi-professional%20framework%20for%20advanced%20clinical%20practice%20in%20England.pdf>

Date written / revised: 08/01/2021

Programme originally approved: 05/03/2021