

Programme Specification

Award and title: MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration)

<i>School:</i>	School of Science, Technology and Health
<i>Subject area:</i>	Physiotherapy
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<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>	Approval by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Accredited by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP)
<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>	Not applicable
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full time for 2 years Part time for 4 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
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	Yes. The programme incorporates 30 weeks of professional Practice Based Learning

Introduction and special features

The programme has been designed to enable 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.

You will undertake a programme of study which balances theoretical knowledge with significant practical experience. You will work within our specialist physiotherapy laboratory spaces in small groups with academic staff who have considerable real life clinical experience across a wide range of medical specialties. This will be supported through clinical simulation in our state-of-the-art healthcare environments, including ward spaces, consulting suites, operating theatre/critical care and a community flat.

We want to develop autonomous physiotherapy practitioners who are ready for and can adapt to the delivery of modern healthcare and have experience and understanding of how health technology will shape future service delivery. Throughout the programme we will integrate health technologies, such as wearable devices, medical imaging, virtual reality and telehealth. This will help you to master the skills, knowledge and professional behaviours you need to work as a physiotherapist with diverse populations in a broad range of settings.

The physiotherapy staff team are active researchers and involved in wide ranging projects at a national and international level, contributing to the professions evidence base through research article publications and conference presentations. This activity is supported by the University's Institute for Health and Social Care and a variety of interdisciplinary research groups. This research will be integrated into our programme to show you how contemporary evidence can be embedded into practice.

As an integral part of the physiotherapy programme you will undertake 30 weeks of placement activity through Practice Based Learning modules which are situated across the 2 years of the programme as 5 x 6 weeks duration. There is also the opportunity to undertake an international placement as one of the Practice Based Learning modules with one of our partners abroad. This experiential learning is key to you embedding the taught knowledge and skills in a wide range of practice settings and ensuring at the end of the programme you are ideally placed to embark on your physiotherapy career.

There is a strong emphasis on inter-professional learning throughout the programme. You are encouraged to consider the role of different health 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 students are co-taught with students from a range of other health programmes delivered at York St John University such as Occupational Therapists, Paramedics and Nurses for all elements of generic skills for practice / mandatory training. These include Moving and handling, basic life support, breakaway training, fire safety and infection control.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage. 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.
- Whilst we recognise it can be difficult to obtain work experience/shadowing in physiotherapy, this type of experience is desirable. However, understanding of the breadth of the Physiotherapy role in healthcare is required along with insight into current topics in health, which is to be demonstrated in a personal statement on application.

- 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.

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/>).

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 interview tasks, demonstrating that your individual values and behaviours align with the NHS Constitution
- Satisfactory reference(s).

Programme aim(s)

The aim of the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) programme is to produce graduates who are able to excel within the context of the evolving 21st 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 with 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 a physiotherapist, and apply for membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy granting you the protected title of Chartered Physiotherapist on graduation.

Programme learning outcomes

Level 7

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

Knowledge and understanding; the student will demonstrate:

- 7.1 Comprehensive understanding of the structure and key functions of relevant human body systems and how this may be assessed.
- 7.2 Critical understanding of the impact of pathological changes in relevant body systems on normal function and the impact on wellbeing.
- 7.3 Research and enquiry techniques to collect, analyse, interpret and apply relevant information to physiotherapy both in theory and in practice at Master's level.
- 7.4 Apply understanding of the political, cultural, social, economic, institutional and professional issues that influence professional practice and evaluate their appropriateness.

Professional skills and abilities; the student will demonstrate:

- 7.5 Autonomous practice to 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, taking account of the psychosocial influences on health.
- 7.6 Critical thinking in evaluating evidence-based interventions with a variety of service users across a variety of clinical settings, recognising the need to promote inclusivity and equality.
- 7.7 The application of knowledge and understanding within the 4 pillars of physiotherapy practice – clinical/education/research/leadership, in a professional context of governance and quality.
- 7.8 Successful achievement of all domains within the national PSRB Common Placement Assessment Form.

Personal attributes and transferable skills; the student will demonstrate:

- 7.9 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.
- 7.10 Effective learning and critical reflection using a wide range of academic skills and evaluation of personal learning strategies.
- 7.11 Application of information technology and digital skills in personal development and healthcare practice.
- 7.12 Effective decision-making skills, encompassing patient centred care and interprofessional collaboration

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Year	Title	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable(X)
PHY7011M	7	2	1	Applied Anatomy Physiology and Pathology	30	C	NC
PHY7012M	7	2	1	Physiotherapy Skills	30	C	NC
PHY7013M	7	2	1	Professional Development	30	C	NC
PHY7014P	7	3	1	Practice Based Learning 1 (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC
PHY7015P	7	1	1	Practice Based Learning 2 (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC
PHY7016M	7	1+ 2	1+ 2	Advanced Physiotherapy Skills	30	C	NC
PHY7017M	7	1+ 2+ 1	1+ 2	Dissertation	40	C	NC
PHY7018P	7	2	2	Practice Based Learning 3 (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC
PHY7020P	7	3	2	Practice Based Learning 4 (Pass/Fail)	0	C	NC
PHY7019M	7	1	2	Leadership, Health Coaching and Employability	20	C	NC
PHY7021P	7	1	2	Practice Based Learning 5 (Pass/Fail)	0	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

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.

Learning and Teaching

Learning is scaffolded across 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.

The programme utilises a range of relevant, contemporary real-world learning opportunities/resources which will prepare you for the challenges of working in the fast paced and changing environment of health and social care. You will develop a wide range of skills in areas such as problem solving, clinical reasoning,

decision making, research, reflection, collaboration, creativity, innovation, leadership and teamwork. You will become an autonomous healthcare practitioner with the resilience to navigate the challenges you may face in practice.

You will utilise a range of digital tools and technologies to prepare you for future advances in digital healthcare and the impact of factors such as Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality and Robotics on physiotherapy practice and patient care.

The vast majority of the physiotherapy programme is delivered through face-to-face teaching and learning and this will include lectures, seminars and workshops, supported by individual and group tutorials and visiting lecturers from clinicians and service users.

Experiential learning is key and will include practical anatomy and skill-based sessions and your Practice Based Learning placements.

Learning and teaching is supported through our Virtual Learning Environment and Library electronic resources (databases, e-journals, specialist software and digital repositories).

Assessment

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.

A variety of assessment methods such as written assignments, practical clinical skills, exams and research will develop your academic, critical and research thinking skills. Assessment on the programme has been designed to ensure that it supports your learning, in addition to monitoring your skills and understanding. This means that formative assessments are integral to all modules and are designed to engage you with meaningful feedback and develop an ability to self-evaluate, prior to submission of the summative work. As you progress through your degree, the assessments change and become more challenging to reflect the increase in your knowledge and abilities.

Assessment strategies involve written assignments to challenge your theoretical knowledge within the context of clinical scenarios and evidence-based practice. 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 report fosters an insight into data collection and analysis and an interest in developing the evidence base for the profession as a whole. A viva linked to your dissertation will examine your ability to reflect on your research development and findings and how this could support future physiotherapy practice.

Throughout each module you will engage in a range of regular formative assessment activities which will prepare you for your summative assessment submission. Formative assessments will include working with case studies that are examples of summative assessments and completing short pieces of written work and receiving academic feedback to develop MSc writing skills.

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. These resources include online tutorials, factsheets, study skills workshops and individual appointments with specialist staff e.g. writing support, librarian.

Progression and graduation requirements

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

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 Based Learning modules.
- Students will only be able to fail and redeem one Practice Based Learning module. Practice Based Learning modules must be successfully completed in sequential order. Subsequent failure of another practice module will result in enforced withdrawal 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 enforced withdrawal of the student's enrolment on the programme.

Students will be eligible for the award of the MSc Applied Health Sciences in the event of gaining 180 credits but failure to pass PHY7021P Practice Based Learning 5.

NB: The award of MSc in Applied Health Sciences does not carry eligibility for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council *and consequently to practise as a physiotherapist*

If a student is offered an aegrotat award as per university regulations, this does not confer eligibility to apply for admission to the Health and Care Professions Council Register.

Awards

MSc Physiotherapy	Successful completion of all modules gaining a total of 180 module credits including a pass for all Practice Based Learning modules. <i>Only this award carries eligibility for registration with the HCPC.</i>
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Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [CSP \(2020\) Learning and Development Principles for CSP Accreditation of Qualifying Programmes in Physiotherapy](#)
- [Standards of Proficiency - Physiotherapy \(HCPC 2023\)](#)

Date written / revised: February 2025

Programme originally approved: 26 March 2025