

Programme Specification

BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

<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>	September
<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>	Certificate of Higher Education Applied Health Sciences Diploma of Higher Education Applied Health Sciences BSc (Ord) Applied Health Sciences
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	B160
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	No
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Health care programmes: Physiotherapy FHEQ Level 6 Academic and Practitioner Standards in Physiotherapy, (QAA 2001)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Undergraduate periods of study ¹ for full-time / part-time
<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

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'.

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

¹ The standard period of study will apply unless otherwise stated

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 also 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 semester 2 of Level 5. 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 Level 5 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 [undergraduate](#)/ study. In addition, you must have:

- Five GCSE passes (grades A*-C including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject or dual science).
- Specific guidance on the entry criteria can be found here <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/health-sciences/physiotherapy-bhsc-hons/#section-entry-requirements>
- Please note where work shadowing experience is detailed, 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.

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.

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 BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy 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

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

Level 4

- 4.1 Recognise professional issues and their impact on practice in accordance with the current Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and Health and Care Professions Council Standards
- 4.2 Discuss the structure and function of the human body in relation to dysfunction and pathology
- 4.3 Summarise and apply the theoretical principles of physiotherapy
- 4.4 Search and analyse the evidence base for physiotherapy theory and practice
- 4.5 Discuss and apply simple patient centred interventions incorporating evidence-based physiotherapeutic treatment strategies and measurements of effectiveness based on supported clinical reasoning and problem solving skills
- 4.6 Recognise a patient centred approach to patient care respecting cultural, social and psychological diversities
- 4.7 Explain the concepts of injury prevention, health promotion and self- management
- 4.8 Demonstrate skills required for group and team working
- 4.9 Apply the reflective process

Level 5

- 5.1 Safely and competently practice physiotherapy within the current Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and Health and Care Professions Council Standards
- 5.2 Evaluate and engage with the evidence base for physiotherapy theory and practice
- 5.3 In a range of clinical settings, formulate and apply patient centred interventions incorporating evidence-based physiotherapeutic treatment strategies and measurements of effectiveness based on clinical reasoning and problem solving skills
- 5.4 Provide a patient centred approach to patient care respecting cultural, social and psychological diversities
- 5.5 Interact effectively as a member of a range of clinical teams in order to deliver appropriate care to the service user
- 5.6 Explore wider concepts of injury prevention, health promotion and self- management
- 5.7 Engage in reflective practice

Level 6

- 6.1 Safely and competently practice and evaluate physiotherapy within the current Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and Health and Care Professions Council Standards
- 6.2 Contribute to the evidence base for physiotherapy theory and practice
- 6.3 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
- 6.4 Provide a patient centred approach to complex patient care respecting cultural, social and psychological diversities
- 6.5 Critically evaluate Health and social care policy and service delivery issues affecting health care
- 6.6 Demonstrate leadership, teamwork and initiative in a professional context of clinical governance, quality issues and employability
- 6.7 Engage critically in reflective practice

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
PHY4001M	4	1 & 2	Foundations of Physiotherapy Practice	60	C	NC
PHY4002M	4	1 & 2	Professional Development	20	C	NC
PHY4003M	4	1 & 2	Exercise, Rehabilitation and Health Promotion	20	C	NC
PHY4004P	4	2 & 3	Professional Practice Placement 1 (Pass/Fail)	20	C	NC
PHY5001M	5	1	Specialisms of Physiotherapy	40	C	NC
PHY5002M	5	1	Research Methods	20	C	NC
PHY5003P	5	2	Professional Practice Placement 2 (Pass/Fail)	20	C	NC
PHY5004P	5	2	Professional Practice Placement 3 (Pass/Fail)	20	C	NC
PHY5005P	5	2	Professional Practice Placement 4 (Pass/Fail)	20	C	NC
PHY6001M	6	1 & 2	Dissertation	20	C	NC
PHY6002M	6	1	Employability and Service Development	20	C	NC
PHY6003M	6	1 & 2	Advancing Practice	40	C	NC
PHY6004P	6	1 & 2	Professional Practice Placements 5 and 6	40	C	NC

The programme will run on a full-time basis over 3 years (a part-time route is available over 6 years).

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 three levels 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

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 individuals' 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 the culmination of your learning throughout the physiotherapy programme and its application to clinical placement experiences.

Throughout each level you will engage in a range of regular formative assessment activities within the modules 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 and 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 undergraduate 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.

This programme does not permit the option to study part time to redeem progression failure in level 4 and 5 due to a PSRB requirement.

This programme does not have the option for an automatic programme restart to redeem progression failure in level 4.

Students will be eligible for the award of the **BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy** when they have:

- Passed all modules specified for the programme of study in the programme specification
- Passed all professional practice placements

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

- Students must pass all level 4 modules before progressing to level 5 study
- Students must pass all level 5 modules before progressing to level 6 study
- Students must pass all level 6 modules before progressing to the Award of BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy
- Students must successfully complete and pass a minimum of 1000 hours of professional practice placement
- Students who fail a level 4 placement **MUST** redeem this before progressing to level 5 of the programme
- Students who fail a level 5 placement **MUST** redeem this before progressing to level 6 of the programme
- 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
- Students who have Semester 1 resits following the Progress and Award Board and are then on placement are permitted to have the option to take their resits in the Semester 2 resit period.

BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy	Successful completion of all three levels gaining a total of 360 module credits including a pass for all practice placements. <i>Only this award carries eligibility for registration with the HCPC.</i>
BSc (Ord) in Applied Health Sciences	For those who have not met the credit requirements for the BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy but have achieved the regulatory credit requirements for the award of a degree of BSc (Ord) Applied Health Sciences will be given. This will not 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 not 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)

Date written / revised: 01/02/2019

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