

## Programme Specification

### Award and title: BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

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| <i>School:</i>                                                                                                                               | Health Sciences                                                                                                                                     |
| <i>Subject area:</i>                                                                                                                         | Physiotherapy                                                                                                                                       |
| <i>Entry from academic year:</i>                                                                                                             | 2027-28                                                                                                                                             |
| <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)<br>Accredited by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP)                            |
| <i>Exit awards:</i>                                                                                                                          | Certificate of Higher Education Applied Health Sciences<br>Diploma of Higher Education Applied Health Sciences<br>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>                                                                                                   | Not applicable                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Mode/s of study:</i>                                                                                                                      | Full time for 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                                                                                                                                                  |
| <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                                                                    |

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## 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 (CSP) to practice under the title of 'Chartered Physiotherapist'.

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. We utilise this research in our teaching across the programme, allowing you firsthand experience of how new research findings are embedded in practice.

As an integral part of the physiotherapy programme you will undertake 30 weeks of placement activity through Practice Based Learning modules which begin in level 4 of the course and continue through level 5 and level 6. There is also the opportunity to undertake an international Practice Based Learning module in level 5 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:

- 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 BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy programme is to 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 (2023) and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) Quality Assurance Standards (2022) 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 Demonstrate knowledge of the normal functioning of human body systems and the impact of pathology.
- 4.2 Demonstrate and justify clinically reasoned, safe and effective interventions appropriate to simple clinical presentations, taking account of the psychosocial influences on health.
- 4.3 Demonstrate awareness and understanding of health inequalities and inclusive practice.
- 4.4 Demonstrate the ability to reflect to promote independent learning.
- 4.5 Demonstrate understanding and awareness of technology in health.
- 4.6 Understand professional identity and the values and behaviours required to underpin effective practice.
- 4.7 Source and understand research and evidence to inform evidence-based practice.
- 4.8 Demonstrate successful achievement of all domains within the national PSRB Common Placement Assessment Form at level 4.

### **Level 5**

- 5.1 Clinically reason and demonstrate safe and effective evidence based, person centred interventions appropriate to clinical presentations in a range of settings, taking account of the psychosocial influences on health.
- 5.2 Consider and address health care inequalities to promote inclusive practice.
- 5.3 Apply the reflective process to enhance clinical practice utilising evidence.
- 5.4 Apply organisational skills to help promote effective prioritisation to enhance completion of activities and disseminate current knowledge.
- 5.5 Apply communication proficiency through critical analysis, catering to diverse individuals with complex needs, employing a broad spectrum of skills and modifying communication styles, integrating technology for information sharing and reception.
- 5.6 Appraise and apply research and evidence to inform evidence-based practice.
- 5.7 Demonstrate successful achievement of all domains within the national PSRB Common Placement Assessment Form at level 5.

### **Level 6**

- 6.1 Clinically reason and demonstrate safe and effective, evidence based, person centred interventions appropriate to complex clinical presentations, taking account of the psychosocial influences on health.

- 6.2 Critically analyse current practice and challenge health inequalities.
- 6.3 Critically evaluate the evidence base to identify relevant and well justified research or quality improvement projects.
- 6.4 Critically engage with literature to evaluate theory in relation to leadership, communication, and professional development within physiotherapy practice
- 6.5 Skilfully apply and evaluate a diverse range of communication modalities, while strategically adapting styles and embedding technologies to navigate and address the complexities of health-related information exchange.
- 6.6 Evaluate and synthesise research and evidence to inform and reflect on the application of evidence-based practice.
- 6.7 Explain and justify rigorous research approaches and methods that are ethical and achievable.
- 6.8 Demonstrate successful achievement of all domains within the national PSRB Common Placement Assessment Form at level 6.

## Programme structure

| Code     | Level | Semester | Title                                             | Credits | Module status                  |                                         |
|----------|-------|----------|---------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|          |       |          |                                                   |         | Compulsory (C) or optional (O) | non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X) |
| PHY4005M | 4     | 1        | Foundations of Anatomy and Pathophysiology 1      | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY4006M | 4     | 1        | Personal and Professional Skills                  | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY4007M | 4     | 1        | Foundations of Practice 1                         | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY4008P | 4     | 2        | Practice Based Learning 1 (Placement) (Pass/Fail) | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY4009M | 4     | 2        | Foundations of Anatomy and Pathophysiology 2      | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY4010M | 4     | 2        | Foundations of Practice 2                         | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
|          |       |          |                                                   |         |                                |                                         |
| PHY5006M | 5     | 1        | Developing Practice 1                             | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY5007M | 5     | 1        | Population Health                                 | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY5008P | 5     | 1        | Practice Based Learning 2 (Placement) (Pass/Fail) | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY5009M | 5     | 2        | Developing Practice 2                             | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY5010M | 5     | 2        | Research Methods                                  | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY5011P | 5     | 2        | Practice Based Learning 3 (Placement) (Pass/Fail) | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
|          |       |          |                                                   |         |                                |                                         |
| PHY6005M | 6     | 1+2      | Dissertation                                      | 40      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY6006M | 6     | 1        | Employability and Leadership                      | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY6007P | 6     | 1        | Practice Based Learning 4 (Placement) (Pass/Fail) | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY6008M | 6     | 2        | Managing Complexity                               | 20      | C                              | NC                                      |
| PHY6009P | 6     | 2        | Practice Based Learning 5 (Placement) (Pass/Fail) | 20      | 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 40) 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 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.

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

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.

All these assessments have been carefully scheduled to ensure they are progressive and well-spaced throughout the programme. The use of formal and informal feedback throughout the modules will develop your ability to evaluate your progress and build confidence. The programme design allows you to develop many skills that can be applied to new tasks and situations and helps you to engage with the curriculum. Professional skills will be assessed via a range of assessment types including written and oral communication and practical clinical skills.

### Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [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.

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

- a) Passed all modules specified for the programme of study in the programme specification.
- b) 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 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.

NB: The award of BSc (Ord) in Applied Health Sciences does not carry eligibility for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council

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.

### **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 \(HCPC 2023\)](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Code of Practice](#)
- [The University's Approach to Dignity and Respect](#)

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*Date written / revised: February 2025*

*Programme originally approved: 26 March 2025*