Programme Specification

Award and title: BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Therapy

School: Science, Technology and Health

Subject area: Sport

Entry from academic year: 2026-27

in the month(s) of September

Awarding institution: York St John University
Teaching institution: York St John University
Delivery location: York St John University

Programme/s accredited by: Society of Sports Therapists

Exit awards: BSc (Hons) Sports Injury Studies

BSc (Ord) Sports Injury Studies Dip HE Sports Injury Studies Cert HE Sports Injury Studies

UCAS code / GTTR / other: C6C3
Joint Honours combinations: None

QAA subject benchmark Com

statement(s):

Combined from the Events, Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism (2019) together with the Society of Sports Therapist competency

document (2013).

Mode/s of study: Full time for 3 years

Part time for 6 years

Undergraduate periods of study 1

Language of study: English
Paired with Foundation Year Yes
Study abroad opportunities: No

Opt-in YSJU Placement Year

opportunity:

Yes (only available for fulltime students)

Introduction and special features

Sports and exercise therapy is an aspect of healthcare that applies sport and exercise science and medical principles to prevent injury and rehabilitate the patient back to optimum levels of functional, occupational and sports specific fitness, regardless of age and ability level.

In sport and exercise populations the burden of injury is high. At the same time, an athlete or patient's outcomes following injury are often poor. To address this problem, there is a need for practitioners to be able to reduce the risk of injury and when athletes and patient do get injured work with them so that they can return to their pre-injury sport. The BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Therapy has been designed with the Society of Sports Therapists (SST) and external partners to equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills to effectively work in sport and exercise injury settings. This programme is accredited by the Society of Sports Therapists and has been designed to enable successful students to apply for membership of the Society of Sports Therapists and practice under the title of 'Graduate Sports Therapist'. As a Graduate Sports Therapist you will have the underpinning knowledge, skills, and abilities to:

- optimise performance and preparation and prevent injury
- provide immediate care of injuries and illness
- assess, treat, rehabilitate, and refer when necessary

- provide soft tissue interventions to non-injured and injured tissue
- plan, deliver and evaluate rehabilitation, reconditioning and return to sport programmes.

This programme intends to facilitate your development into an autonomous sports therapist who abides by high standards of performance and is person-centred, attempts to solve injury problems using an evidence-informed and interdisciplinary approach, makes well-informed clinical decisions and can work effectively with other practitioners as part of a multidisciplinary team. The modules are categorised into four distinct themes, that you will complete across the duration of your programme:

- 1. specialist sport and exercise therapy modules
- 2. sport and exercise science modules
- 3. research modules
- 4. placement and practice modules.

Successful completion of this well-rounded suite of modules (19 in total) will ensure that you develop the academic, professional, and practical skills to enable you to feel competent and confident to enter the workplace as an effective Sports Therapist.

To successfully complete the BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Therapy and become a member of the Society of Sports Therapist you must gain between 200 and 250 hours of supervised sport and exercise therapy practice. The mandatory hours will be completed throughout Level 5 and Level 6 of your programme in the Sport and Exercise Placement and Practice modules. While on placement you will put your skills in to practice and will have the opportunity to learn from other practitioners (e.g., sports therapists, performance coaches, sports medicine doctors), work with different athlete and patient groups (e.g., old, young, disabled, professional), and work across different settings (e.g., clinics, sports teams). You will be encouraged to reflect on what worked, what didn't and what to change to drive your continual development as a sports therapist.

The teaching and learning on the BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Therapy will be informed by our staff teams' research and the research of others. A strength of the programme is that you will learn about and be exposed to world class research. You will be taught by research active staff who author journal articles, books, and are often invited to present at major international conferences. The research of our staff team underpins this degree programme and means that you will be taught by experts in their discipline and that the curriculum you study will remain up to date, cutting edge and distinctive. Additionally, the staff team have extensive applied experience in a wide variety of clinical and sport and exercise settings so that they can share their experience and bring contemporary insight into the programme delivery to ensure you graduate fit for purpose and ready to meet the challenges of working with sport and exercise injury settings.

As a student on this programme, you will learn and practice your skills in the multi-million-pound sport facilities that the University opened in October 2016. These facilities include a £4m sport centre which has a dedicated sports therapy room, sports science laboratory, sport barn, strength and conditioning gym, and outdoor pitches and running track. This excellent facility is a learning space and is also used by several professional and elite sports teams.

Distinctive features:

- The programme is accredited by the Society of Sports Therapists meaning you qualify to practice as a Graduate Sport Therapist
- We use a biopsychosocial and athlete/patient-centred approach to teaching sport and exercise therapy
- Feel a strong sense of community between staff and students. We pride ourselves on the quality of support provided by our staff team.
- Be inspired by the values and ethos of York St John university around social justice and embracing diversity
- Opportunities to gain experience working with our external partners
- Opportunities to engage in our continuing professional development (CPD) programme
- Guest lectures from esteemed professionals working in relevant fields and from athletes/patients
- High fidelity and authentic assessments that are always supported by formative feedback opportunities

Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage.

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/).

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. *

*Due to the requirement to complete a non-credit bearing placement module at level 5, students will not be permitted to RPL into level 6 of the programme.

Programme aim(s)

In line with the benchmarking statements, Society of Sports Therapists competency document, and York St John University graduate attributes this programme aims to:

- 1. Develop knowledge, understanding, and professional and practical skills to be a competent and confident sports therapist that can work effectively in different settings
- 2. Develop evidence-informed, interdisciplinary problem-solvers and decision-makers that adapt to the demands of contemporary practice
- 3. Foster self-awareness and curiosity as a basis for ongoing professional development

Programme learning outcomes

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

Level 4

- 4.1 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts, principles, and techniques associated with sport and exercise therapy practice*
- 4.2 Demonstrate an ability to present, evaluate and interpret basic data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts in sport and exercise therapy practice*
- 4.3 Demonstrate knowledge of different approaches to solving problems related to sport and exercise therapy practice*
- 4.4 Communicate information accurately and reliably as part of structured and coherent arguments when studying sport and exercise therapy practice*.
- 4.5 Act with a degree of independence when completing academic and professional activities when studying sport and exercise therapy practice*.
- 4.6 Identify and undertake appropriate academic and professional development activities when studying sport and exercise therapy practice* in a supported manner.
- 4.7 Demonstrate safe and competent practical application of basic clinical skills associated with sport and exercise therapy practice*
- 4.8 Demonstrate an understanding of a value-led and athlete-centred approach to the study of sport and exercise therapy practice*

Level 5

- 5.1 Demonstrate detailed knowledge of concepts, principles, and techniques associated with sport and exercise therapy practice*
- 5.2 Demonstrate knowledge of how key concepts, theories, and techniques in sport and exercise therapy practice* can be applied sport and exercise therapy contexts.
- 5.3 Apply knowledge of the research method, its various methodologies, and their strengths and weaknesses in the generation and application of knowledge in sport and exercise therapy practice*.
- 5.4 Apply common methods of data collection, analyse and interpret data, and propose conclusions/solutions based on this analysis in sport and exercise therapy practice*.

- 5.5 Effectively communicate information, ideas, and arguments from sport and exercise therapy practice* to different audiences and in different formats.
- 5.6 Act independently and interdependently when completing academic and professional activities in sport and exercise therapy practice*.
- 5.7 Identify, undertake, and reflect upon appropriate academic and professional development activities in sport and exercise therapy practice* in a largely independent manner.
- 5.8 Demonstrate safe and competent practical application of clinical and contextual skills associated with effective sport and exercise therapy practice*
- 5.9 Demonstrate an applied understanding of how different values are implicit in the study of sport and exercise therapy practice* and how these values influence the study of sport and exercise therapy and delegitimise, exclude, and privilege different topics, individuals, and groups in society.

Level 6

- 6.1 Demonstrate systematic knowledge of key issues in the study of sport and exercise therapy practice* and the research that informs these issues.
- 6.2 Proficiently and accurately use established techniques and methods in sport and exercise therapy practice* to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems
- 6.3 Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge and use of theories, techniques and research methodologies to address complex and/or novel problems in sport and exercise therapy practice*, including a critical understanding of the boundaries/limitations of the approaches adopted.
- 6.4 Demonstrate a critical understanding of current debates and controversies in / sport and exercise therapy practice*.
- 6.5 Evaluate and synthesise from research to inform professional practice in sport and exercise therapy and limits of sport and exercise therapy knowledge.
- 6.6 Plan, undertake, and evaluate projects that involve complex techniques and data collection to address complex and/or novel problems in sport and exercise therapy practice*.
- 6.7 Communicate complex problems and solutions in sport and exercise therapy practice* to different audiences and in different formats.
- 6.8 Plan and initiate appropriate future academic and professional development activities in the context of sport and exercise therapy practice* with view to employment or future study in an independent manner.
- 6.9 Demonstrate safe and competent practical application of complex clinical and contextual skills associated with effective sport and exercise therapy practice*
- 6.10 Demonstrate a critical understanding of a value-led and athlete-centred approach to the study of sport and exercise therapy practice* and how these values influence the study of sport and exercise therapy and delegitimise, exclude, and privilege different topics, individuals and groups in society

^{*}Sport and exercise therapy practice refers to: (i) prevention; (ii) recognition and evaluation; (iii) management, treatment, and referral; (iv) rehabilitation and return to sport; and (v) ongoing education and professional issues.

Programme structure - BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Therapy

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					Module status	
Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non- compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
SPO4010M	4	1	Anatomy and Physiology for Sport and Exercise	20	С	Х
SPO4011M	4	1	Introduction to Sport and Exercise Therapy	20	С	NC
SPO4014M	4	1	Clinical Musculoskeletal Anatomy	20	С	NC
SPO4012M	4	2	Kinesiology and the Biomechanical Principles of Human Movement	20	С	Х
SPO4013M	4	2	Introduction to Research Methods in Sport	20	С	X
SPO4015M	4	2	Introduction to Strength and Conditioning for Sport and Exercise Therapy	20	С	NC
SPO5014M	5	1	Management of Sport and Exercise Trauma and Illness	20	С	NC
SPO5015M	5	1	Principles of Exercise and Physical Activity for Health	20	С	Х
SPO5016M	5	1	Assessment of Sport and Exercise Injuries	20	С	NC
SPO5012M	5	2	Rehabilitation, Reconditioning and Return to Sport	20	С	NC
SPO5013M	5	2	Peripheral Joint Treatment and Management	20	С	NC
SPO5017M	5	2	Research Design and Analysis in Sport and Exercise	20	С	X
SPO5018P	5	1&2	Sport and Exercise Therapy Placement and Practice 1	0 (NCB)	С	NC
SPO6012M	6	1	Sports Injury Prevention	20	С	NC
SPO6013M	6	1	Vertebral Joint Assessment, Treatment and Management	20	С	NC
SPO6014M	6	2	Kinesiology and Return to Sport	20	С	NC
SPO6015M	6	2	Contemporary Sport and Exercise Therapy Practice	20	С	NC
SPO6016M	6	1&2	Research Paper	40	С	NC
SPO6017P	6	1&2	Sport and Exercise Therapy Placement and Practice 2	0 (NCB)	С	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. It is a Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) that all modules which facilitate professional practical skills and have a practical assessment component are non-compensable.

NCB = non-credit bearing. These modules are marked as Pass/Fail. You will need to pass these modules to be awarded the BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Therapy, but the marks do not contribute to your overall degree classification. (see Progression and graduation requirements section)

See Appendix 1 for the programme structure for BSc (Hons) Sports Injury Studies

Learning, teaching and assessment

In designing this programme, we were aware from the outset that how you will learn and be assessed is very important to you.

Our Educational Philosophy

To develop you into an effective sports therapist we use a blended approach to learning. This means you will engage in a mixture of face-to-face, on-line, self-directed, and experiential learning opportunities throughout the degree. The blended approach to learning offers flexibility of learning opportunities and is particularly inclusive and accessible for students. This also allows us to reinforce, stretch and challenge your learning. Modern learning can take place in different environments, at different times, uses different modes, and in different ways. Throughout your programme we embrace this notion.

Learning is scaffolded across the three levels of the programme in a way which builds appropriate academic, and professional and practical skills required to become independent learners, evidenced-informed problem-solving practitioner and develop skills to continue lifelong learning throughout your professional career.

See Appendix 2 for a schematic diagram of how the modules build on each other in an integrative and progressive way.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The programme uses a wide range of relevant and high-fidelity learning opportunities and resources to prepare you for the challenges of working in different sport and exercise injury environments. To be effective in a sport and exercise injury environment you will: require academic and progression skills in problem-solving and reasoning; use evidence/research to inform clinical and performance-based decisions; build therapeutic relationships; be able to reflect and adapt; have leadership and coaching skills; provide and receive feedback; have the ability to work in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teams. We will help you develop these skills so that you are successful on the programme and can be an effective practitioner.

As a student on the BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Therapy programme you will encounter a range of teaching and learning experiences including face-to-face, on-line, self-directed, and experiential opportunities. As you progress through the programme you will be increasingly expected to make significant contributions to your own learning and become more independent and self-directed (i.e., you take more of the initiative over your learning).

Face-to-face learning includes:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Practical sessions
- Laboratory session

On-line learning includes:

- Engaging with our virtual learning environment (VLE)
- E-portfolios
- Live or pre-recorded lectures
- On-line courses
- Online reading lists
- Social media
- Podcasts
- Blogs and vlogs

Self-directed learning includes:

- · Further research and reading
- Additional practice

Experiential learning includes:

- Sport and exercise therapy placement and practice
- Engaging in case study work in sessions

Assessment Strategy

Our assessment strategy is authentic (i.e., mirrors what you will be required to do in employment) and will drive your continual academic and professional development. You will be continually assessed throughout the programme to evaluate your learning. You will encounter a variety of assessment types including written reports, practical exams, oral presentations, e-portfolios, on-line exams, and viva voces. As you develop and learn more the assessments will change in nature, becoming more diverse and challenging over the course of the programme. At Level 4 assessments confirm your knowledge, understanding and competency. Whereas, at Level 5 and 6 assessments present additional opportunities to demonstrate skills of analysis, synthesis, clinical reasoning, critical thinking, and problem solving. By Level 6, you will find yourself taking more control of your learning and will engage in your own research. The research paper module involves you undertaking an independent research project (supervised by a tutor) on a relevant topic of your choice, demonstrating self-reliance and project management skills.

Attendance and engagement are key to your overall experience on the programme and being successful at becoming a confident and competent Sports Therapist. Having excellent attendance is a cornerstone of you developing high standards of professional practice. As such, in programme specific modules where there is a practical assessment you must have attended at least 80% of all practical sessions to be allowed to complete the assessment. This means you can only be absent for a maximum of 2 practical sessions in an 11-week module. Please be aware that acceptable lateness to practical sessions is up to 15 mins and you will be marked as absent after that. If your attendance in practical sessions is below 80%, you may not be sufficiently competent and could be unsafe. This refers to modules: SPO4011M; SPO4014M; SPO4015M; SPO5012M; SPO5013M; SPO5014M; SPO5016M; SPO6012M; and SPO6013M. In these modules having an attendance of 80% plus in practical sessions is a pass/fail assessment component that is not eligible to re-sit. In other words, if your attendance is below 80% you will fail the module and through the standards review process be counselled to either restart the academic year, voluntarily withdraw or be terminated from the programme. Attending 80% plus of all practical session is a PSRB requirement to safeguard that you are competent and confident to meet the demands of the workplace.

A practical session is defined as a mandatory timetabled face-to-face session where you develop important professional sport and exercise therapy practical skills aligned to the SST required competencies that all Graduate Sports Therapists must have. The 80% plus requirement is not applicable to lectures or seminars where normal university regulations regarding attendance will be applicable.

To improve the quality of your learning experiences, the programme will use formative assessment. Each summative assessment will have at least one formative assessment opportunity where you will complete an activity aligned to the assessment and receive feedback for you to act on. Engaging in formative assessment means you are aware of what you did well and what to do better so that the quality of your summative assessment improves.

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.

Placement and practice

Engaging in supervised sport and exercise therapy placement and practice learning is important to you achieving the programme learning outcomes and is an essential component to your ongoing professional development. It is the purpose of Sport and Exercise Therapy Placement and Practice modules to provide opportunities for you to demonstrate the ability to use knowledge, skills and information, receive feedback, and show progress in applying this appropriately. Professional practice facilitates the transition from student to competent Sports Therapist by providing scope for reasoning and reflection in the practice environment that complements and extends your academic studies.

The Sport and Exercise Therapy Placement and Practice modules are compulsory non-credit bearing modules. This means that to achieve the BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Therapy and be able to become a member of the Society of Sports Therapists you must pass these, but the marks do not contribute to your overall degree classification. Altogether, you will need to evidence engaging in a minimum of 200 hours of placement and practice supervised by a suitably qualified and insured practitioner (e.g., SST, Chartered Society of Physiotherapists (CSP), British Association of Sport Rehabilitators and Trainers (BASRaT), UK Strength and Conditioning Association (UKSCA) or British Association of Sport Exercise Science (BASES) accredited member). At Level 5 you will complete a minimum of 75 hours and at level 6 a minimum of 125 hours. Level 5 placement hours will be predominantly observational with opportunity for you to apply basic therapeutic skills covered on the programme, with a greater focus on active practice and autonomous working at Level 6. At Level 6, on successful completion of all specific sport and exercise therapy modules you will be eligible for the Society of Sports Therapists student insurance which covers you up to 250 hours of supervised practice. Placements will be allocated in conjunction with academic staff and include a mixture of internal clinics and placements with local external community partners across various sports and settings. You will be free to discuss any placement opportunity that you are allocated or any existing links you may already have. On these modules you will be assessed using an online portfolio. A portfolio is a collection of evidence that demonstrates your engagement in professional practice and may include log of hours, skills action plan, professional documents (e.g., risk assessments, medical emergency action plan, DBS), witness testimonies, interactive resources, and/or reflections.

Tutorials

To monitor and support you with teaching, learning and assessment we operate a tutorial system. You will be allocated an Academic Tutor who will monitor your engagement and progress on the degree, and you be given the opportunity to routinely meet with them. Additionally, you can freely book appointments with the teaching staff team when you perceive the need (e.g., to clarify module content or ask questions about specific assessments).

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-compensable.

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

Students will be eligible for the award of the **BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Therapy** (and will be eligible to apply for membership of the Society of Sports Therapists and practice as a Graduate Sports Therapist) when they have:

- Passed all credit bearing modules specified for the programme of study in the programme specification
- Passed the non- credit bearing modules:
 - SPO5018P Sport and Exercise Therapy Placement and Practice 1
 - SPO6017P Sport and Exercise Therapy Placement and Practice 2
 - Successfully completed and passed a minimum of 200 hours of sports and exercise therapy placement and practice. These will be completed in modules SPO5018P and SPO6017P.

Attendance requirements

The following modules require students to have attended at least 80% of all practical sessions to be allowed to complete the module assessment:

- SPO4011M
- SPO4014M
- SPO4015M
- SPO5012M
- SPO5013M

- SPO5014M
- SPO5016M
- SPO6013M

A resit attempt is not available for the Pass/Fail 80%+ attendance in practical sessions component of assessment on these modules. Providing attendance in practical sessions is 80%+, all other components of assessment on these modules are eligible for a resit attempt. The consequences of failing these modules include restart of the academic year, voluntary withdrawal from the programme or termination of studies.

Failure of non-credit bearing modules

Students that fail SPO5018P Sport and Exercise Therapy Placement and Practice 1 (after a resit opportunity) but successfully pass 120 credits at level 5 will be transferred to **BSc (Hons) Sports Injury Studies**. They will <u>not</u> be eligible to apply for membership of the Society of Sport Therapists and practice as a Graduate Sports Therapist.

They will study the following modules at level 6 (the module status will remain as indicated in the programme structure table):

- SPO6012M
- SPO6013M
- SPO6014M
- SPO6015M

Students that fail SPO6017P Sport and Exercise Therapy Placement and Practice 2 (after a resit opportunity) but successfully pass 120 credits at level 6 will be eligible for the award of BSc (Hons) Sports Injury Studies. They will <u>not</u> be eligible to apply for membership of the Society of Sport Therapists and practice as a Graduate Sports Therapist.

Summary of Awards and eligibility for membership of the Society of Sports Therapists and practice as a graduate sports therapist.

Award titles	Explanation
BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Therapy	Successful completion of 360 credits including a pass for both sport and exercise therapy placements and practice modules (SPO5018P and SPO6017P).
	This will enable eligibility for membership of the Society of Sports Therapists and practice as a graduate sports therapist.
BSc (Hons) Sports Injury Studies	For those who have successfully completed 360 credits but have failed to complete one or both of the sport and exercise therapy placements and practice modules (SPO5018P and SPO6017P). This will not enable eligibility to apply for
	membership of the Society of Sport Therapists and practice as a graduate sports therapist.
BSc (Ord) Sports Injury Studies	For those who have not met the credit requirements for the BSc (Hons) in Sports Injury Studies but have achieved the regulatory credit requirements for the award of a degree of BSc (Ord) in Sports Injury Studies will be given.
	This will not enable eligibility to apply for membership of the Society of Sport Therapists and practice as a graduate sports therapist.

Appendix 1

Programme structure - BSc (Hons) Sports Injury Studies

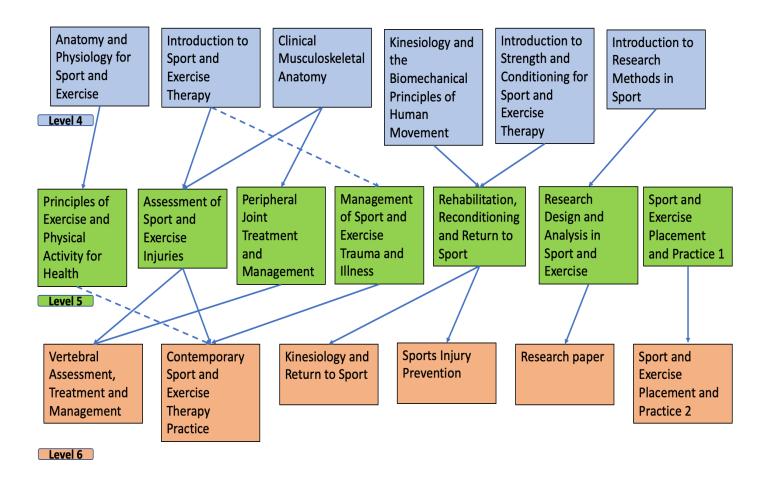
If you are transferred to the BSc (Hons) Sports Injury Studies programme you will take the following modules at levels 5 and 6:

					Module status		
Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non- compensable (NC) or compensable (X)	
SPO5014M	5	1	Management of Sports and Exercise Trauma and Illness	20	С	NC	
SPO5015M	5	1	Principles of Exercise and Physical Activity for Health	20	С	Х	
SPO5016M	5	1	Assessment of Sport and Exercise Injuries	20	С	NC	
SPO5012M	5	2	Rehabilitation, Reconditioning and Return to Sport	20	С	NC	
SPO5013M	5	2	Peripheral Joint Treatment and Management	20	С	NC	
SPO5017M	5	2	Research Design and Analysis in Sport and Exercise	20	С	X	
SPO6012M	6	1	Sports Injury Prevention	20	С	NC	
SPO6013M	6	1	Vertebral Joint Assessment, Treatment and Management	20	С	NC	
SPO6014M	6	2	Kinesiology and Return to Sport	20	С	NC	
SPO6015M	6	2	Contemporary Sport and Exercise Therapy Practice	20	С	NC	
SPO6016M	6	1&2	Research Paper	40	С	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.

Appendix 2

Schematic diagram of the BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Therapy



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
- Society of Sport Therapists

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: