



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

MSc PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, EXERCISE AND HEALTH

**Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration**

March 2018

Copyright

The contents of this document are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, such as electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	<i>MSc Physical Activity, Exercise & Health</i>
Final Award	<i>MSc</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, DipHE.</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C2677</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full time, part time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>12 months (FT), 24 months (PT)</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>September 2019 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Science & Health</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Sport, Health and Exercise Science</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<i>http://www.port.ac.uk/department-of-sport-and-exercise-science/</i>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<i>http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/sports-science/msc-physical-activity-exercise-and-health-/</i>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>None</i>
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	<i>Level 7</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Module Web Search](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

The [Course Specification Guidance Notes](#) include advice on what to include in this section.

- To provide an interdisciplinary applied approach to enhancing health-related fitness
- To provide a challenging and stimulating study environment
- To provide a framework allowing students to follow a coherent programme of study
- To develop technical and vocational skills underpinned by academic learning
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise career opportunities within the field of clinical exercise

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Physical activity and health from an applied and interdisciplinary perspective.	<p>Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group work.</p> <p>These learning and teaching methods will enable students to develop a critical and reflective knowledge of applied human physiology and psychology by working independently and as a group.</p> <p>These teaching methods will enhance students' ability to be proactive in recognising and addressing personal development needs, and be able to make informed career decisions.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to be intellectually curious, embrace challenges and seize opportunities for development by locating and accessing information, using current and emerging digital technologies contributing to the development of a range of employability skills.</p>	<p>Essay, report, presentation, portfolio, case study, practical.</p> <p>Assessments consist of both formative and summative elements.</p> <p>This programme is designed to provide practical, hands-on expertise in sports, exercise and clinical exercise methodologies. Assessments therefore require a mixture of problem based learning, practical skills, and literature research and evaluation skills thereby encouraging students' to be critical and apply fundamental theories.</p>
A2	Applied theoretical research-based	<p>Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group work.</p> <p>These learning and teaching</p>	<p>Essay, report, presentation, portfolio, case study, practical.</p> <p>Assessments consist of both</p>

	<p>knowledge across health-related fitness sub-disciplines.</p>	<p>methods will enable students to develop a critical and reflective knowledge of applied human physiology and psychology by working independently and as a group.</p> <p>These teaching methods will enhance students' ability to be proactive in recognising and addressing personal development needs, and be able to make informed career decisions.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to be intellectually curious, embrace challenges and seize opportunities for development by locating and accessing information, using current and emerging digital technologies contributing to the development of a range of employability skills.</p>	<p>formative and summative elements.</p> <p>This programme is designed to provide practical, hands-on expertise in sports, exercise and clinical exercise methodologies. Assessments therefore require a mixture of problem based learning, practical skills, and literature research and evaluation skills thereby encouraging students' to be critical and apply fundamental theories.</p>
A3	<p>Ethical implications within health-related fitness research and support.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical work.</p> <p>Although relevant to all modules containing a practical component, attention to ethical considerations and health and safety issues are promoted specifically in the Applied Research Methods and Project modules. Students will be encouraged to be proactive in identifying ethical considerations and to develop their problem solving skills via the design of their research protocol thereby contributing to the development of relevant employability skills.</p>	<p>Report, presentation.</p> <p>Formative assessment of a research proposal and ethical application will be facilitated primarily via individual tutorials leading to the eventual summative assessment of the research project.</p>
A4	<p>Problem solving approaches to formulate solutions to variety of problems in the health-related fitness context.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group work, simulation, tutorials.</p> <p>As well as promoting independent study skills, group/practical work will aid students' ability to work proactively with others. Simulation may also be used to present students with clinical scenarios thereby requiring students' to adopt a problem based learning approach. The latter approach will be supported via the research specific element of the course and will contribute to the development of problem solving specific employability skills.</p>	<p>Essay, presentation, portfolio, report, case study.</p> <p>Assessments consist of both formative and summative elements. This course is designed to provide practical, hands-on expertise in sports, exercise and clinical exercise methodologies. Assessments therefore require a mixture of problem based learning, practical skills, and literature research and evaluation skills thereby encouraging students' to be critical and</p>

			apply fundamental theories.
A5	Comprehensive techniques/methodologies applicable to individual projects that are theory or research based.	<p>Lectures, tutorials, laboratory work, group work, practical work.</p> <p>These learning and teaching methods will enable students to develop critical and reflective knowledge of comprehensive techniques and methodologies that can be applied to human physiology and psychology by working independently and proactively as a group.</p> <p>Students will be encouraged to be intellectually curious, embrace challenges and seize opportunities for development by locating and accessing information, using current and emerging digital technologies contributing to the development of a range of employability skills. Additionally, these teaching methods will enhance students' ability to be proactive in recognising and addressing personal development needs, and be able to make informed career decisions.</p>	<p>Report, presentation, practical, portfolio.</p> <p>Formative and summative assessment of the research proposal and related ethical considerations, research project, portfolio and practical assessment skills will encourage students' to apply relevant knowledge to practical and theoretical situations.</p>

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Recognise and critically analyse existing methodologies used within physical activity and health.	<p>Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group work, tutorials.</p> <p>Cognitive elements are integral components of each of the modules within the programme and these each require specific methodological research and analysis strategies unique to the domain involved. At the same time, they also encourage students to synthesise the available methods supporting health-related and or sports performance change.</p> <p>The learning and teaching methods will enable students to think independently, analytically, and engage with new areas of investigation becoming informed citizens and developing a sense of responsibility and commitment to ethical practice thereby contributing to the development of employability</p>	<p>Essay, report, presentation, portfolio, case study, practical.</p> <p>Assessments consist of both formative and summative elements.</p> <p>The practical, hands-on sport, exercise and clinical exercise methodological focus of this course means assessments require a mixture of problem based learning, practical skills, and literature research and evaluation skills thereby encouraging students' to apply relevant knowledge to practical and theoretical situations.</p>

		skills.	
B2	Formulate appropriate research questions within the realm of clinical exercise science.	<p>Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, tutorials, practical work.</p> <p>The Applied Research Methods and Project modules specifically will allow students to develop appropriate research questions and apply the theoretical and practical knowledge developed via the study of supporting core and optional modules in developing pertinent research questions. This will provide students' with an avenue for independent and autonomous research contributing to the development of employability skills.</p>	<p>Essay, report, presentation, portfolio, case study, practical.</p> <p>Formative and summative assessment of the research proposal and related ethical considerations, research project, portfolio and practical assessment skills will encourage students' to apply relevant knowledge to practical and theoretical situations. Additionally, formative assessment of a research proposal will be facilitated primarily via individual tutorials.</p>
B3	Select and apply scientific principles to the implementation of health-related fitness enhancing and evaluation strategies.	<p>Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, tutorials, practical work, simulation.</p> <p>Each module requires the application of relevant scientific principles to the domain involved. At the same time the subject discipline promotes the exchange of good scientific principles and practice across topic domains and population groups. Collectively, the various modules encourage students to synthesise the available methods supporting health-related, and/or sport or exercise performance change, with the Project module providing students' with a more in-depth opportunity to demonstrate and implement these principles thereby providing students' with an avenue for independent and autonomous research enhancing their employability skills.</p>	<p>Essay, report, presentation, portfolio, case study, practical.</p> <p>Assessments consist of both formative and summative elements.</p> <p>As this programme is designed to provide practical, hands-on expertise in sports, exercise and clinical exercise methodologies, assessments require a mixture of problem based learning, practical skills, and literature research and evaluation skills thereby encouraging students' to be critical and apply fundamental theories.</p>
B4	Use principles and supporting theory to solve "real" health-related fitness issues and challenges.	<p>Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group work, simulation, tutorials.</p> <p>A range of methods will be used to encourage students to identify relevant sport and exercise physiology issues as well as ways of addressing these issues. To support this, tutorials and independent study and group and practical work will be facilitated and students' will be encouraged to work proactively with others. Simulation may also be used to present students with clinical scenarios thereby requiring students'</p>	<p>Essay, presentation, portfolio, report, case study.</p> <p>Assessments consist of both formative and summative elements. This programme is designed to provide practical, hands-on expertise in sports, exercise and clinical exercise domains. Assessments therefore require a mixture of putting problem based learning and knowledge synthesis into action,</p>

		to adopt a problem based learning approach. The latter approach will be particularly emphasised in the research specific element of the course and will contribute to the development of employability skills.	whether via written or practical assessment thereby encouraging students' to be critical and apply fundamental theories.
B5	Select research protocols to collect data that can subsequently be interpreted, evaluated, integrated and disseminated into relevant formats.	Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, tutorials, practical work. Although relevant to all modules containing a data collection component, attention to protocol selection, data collection and interpretation are promoted specifically in the Applied Research Methods and Project modules. The application of the theoretical knowledge leading to collection, interpretation and dissemination will be supported through study of other core and optional modules. Additionally, the Project module itself may lead to the synthesis of, or contribute to, the creation of new knowledge. Students' will be encouraged to develop their problem solving, data management and organisational skills contributing to the development of employability skills.	Report, presentation, portfolio, case study, practical. Assessments consist of both formative and summative elements. Formative and summative assessment of a research proposal and related ethical considerations, research project, portfolio and practical assessment skills will encourage students' to apply relevant knowledge to the design, implementation and collection of data. Furthermore, the target audience for the dissemination of the collected material may be either academic or non-academic e.g. clients.

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Proficiently use equipment in a safe, confident and reliable manner.	Laboratory work, group work, lectures, simulations, seminars. The format of the course will enable students to obtain a range and depth of laboratory-based skills and contribute to the development of discipline specific practical employability skills through the use of real-world scenarios and work-based environments. It will also facilitate students' ability to communicate with clients/patients, adopting a professional and approachable style, thereby developing pertinent employability skills.	Report, portfolio, practical. Students will be given formative assessments/practice prior to formative assessment of practical testing skills and equipment usage and/or demonstration of an awareness of how to undertake physiological assessments. This will include attention to ethical considerations and health and safety issues, which are also promoted within modules and within the production of reports and portfolios. Students are also expected to work within time constraints and pressures

			associated with professional sport and exercise physiology professions.
C2	Produce critical scientific reports, programmes and case studies in an appropriate format for application within a health-related fitness environment	<p>Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group work, tutorials, simulations.</p> <p>Each module requires the application of relevant scientific principles to the domain involved and these skills are transferable across modules. The format of the course will facilitate students to communicate with clients/patients, adopting a professional and approachable style as well as scholarly communication methods thereby developing employability skills.</p>	<p>Essay, case study, report, portfolio, presentation.</p> <p>Formative and summative assessment will encourage students' to apply relevant knowledge when critically reviewing the topical literature and designing tests/experiments to address specific problems. Students' will also be required to format assessed work with either academic or non-academic audiences in mind.</p>
C3	Confidently use a variety of valid and reliable tests in the assessment of health-related fitness status.	<p>Laboratory work, group work, lectures, simulations, seminars.</p> <p>The format of the course will enable students to obtain a range and depth of laboratory-based skills, field skills and techniques, as well as the ability to examine the collected data and communicate with clients/patients, adopting a professional and approachable style thereby developing employability skills.</p>	<p>Report, portfolio, practical, presentation.</p> <p>As well as practical skill and theoretical knowledge assessment, attention to ethical considerations and health and safety issues are also promoted within modules and within the production of assessed work. Students are also expected to work within time constraints and pressures associated with professional sport and exercise physiology professions.</p>

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Communicate effectively and confidently, using a range of media.	<p>Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group work, simulation.</p> <p>Students will build upon their scientific and professional skills developed during their undergraduate studies. This will include communicating methodologies, techniques, and results and applying them to research or support in sport and exercise physiology.</p>	<p>Essay, report, presentation, portfolio, case study, practical.</p> <p>Assessments consist of both formative and summative elements and will consist of a mixture of written, practical and oral assessment modes.</p>
D2	Apply both quantitative and	Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group work, readings, simulation.	Essay, report, presentation, portfolio, case study, practical.

	qualitative skills used within clinical research	Students will be required to demonstrate knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative research skills in a clinical research environment. Readings will be assigned that will explore both types of reading. Different types of research will be systematically explored throughout the course.	Assessments consist of both formative and summative elements and will consist of a requirement to demonstrate knowledge of both types of research skills.
D3	Illustrate competence in the use of IT and specialist software.	Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group work, simulations. Students' will be required to use a range of IT packages during the course. This will include IT packages to research and complete assignments as well as qualitative and quantitative analyses to interpret collected data. This will enhance students' employability skills.	Essay, report, presentation, portfolio, case study, practical. Assessments consist of both formative and summative elements and will consist of a mixture of written, practical and oral assessment modes which require a range of IT packages and knowledge.
D4	Be an independent learner and demonstrate collaborative skills.	Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, group work, simulations. Students' will be encouraged to solve problems and demonstrate sound judgement in decision making throughout the course. This will require a mixture of independent learning and group work, thereby facilitating the development of these employability skills.	Essay, report, presentation, portfolio, case study, practical. Assessments will require students to undertake relevant research into the topics being assessed and will include formative as well as summative assessment. Students' may choose to do this independently or in groups. Additionally the practical assessment in Applied Sports Physiology requires collaboration between students.
D5	Solve problems and demonstrate sound judgement in decision making	Lectures, seminars, laboratory work, tutorials, group work, simulation. Students' will be encouraged to undertake research to facilitate their learning using a variety of resources ranging from journal articles to equipment manuals. Students' will be encouraged to work independently as well as in groups and to be asked to solve a range of real life clinical problems. Knowledge of exercise physiology and psychology will be necessary to create unique and new solutions to current health related problems.	Essay, report, presentation, portfolio, case study, practical. Assessments will require students to undertake relevant research into the topics being assessed and will include formative as well as summative assessment. Students' may choose to do this independently or in groups embracing a wide range of digital and non-digital resources.

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides...

- Extensive induction programme introduces the student to the University and the MSc Human and Applied Physiology course.
- Each student has a personal tutor, responsible for pastoral support and guidance.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Education Strategy 2016 - 2020](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards
- The British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences (BASES) Accreditation Guidelines
- The British Psychological Society (BPS) Standards and Guidelines

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and

students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

Copyright

The contents of this Course Specification are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, such as electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

Document details

Author	Paul Gorczynski
Date of production and version number	30/08/2019, v2
Date of update and version number	/
Minimum student registration numbers	15