



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

## COURSE SPECIFICATION

### *MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration)*

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

**April 2021**

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## COURSE SPECIFICATION

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

Course Title	MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration)
Final Award	<i>MSc</i>
Exit Awards	<i>Pg Cert, Pg Dip</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>P3232FTC</i>
Mode of study	<i>Full-time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>2 Years</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>from January 2022 onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	Faculty of Science & Health
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Sport, Health and Exercise Science
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/school-of-sport-health-and-exercise-science">https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-science-and-health/school-of-sport-health-and-exercise-science</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/msc-physiotherapy-pre-registration">https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/msc-physiotherapy-pre-registration</a>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>Pending approval from Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and Chartered Society of Physiotherapists (CSP)</i>
<a href="#">Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</a>	<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 [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

This course aims to:

- Provide students with the opportunity to develop understanding and skills relevant to the practice of physiotherapy.
- Provide a framework for understanding the role and function of physiotherapy independently and in relation to other health professions.
- Nurture understanding of disciplines and values underlying the practice of physiotherapy.
- Encourage ongoing critical, evaluative and strategic ways of thinking in areas of physiotherapy practice.
- Equip graduates with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning, continual professional development and flexibility in the context of changing physiotherapy practice.
- Develop students' critical thinking and independence around diagnosis of movement restrictions and therapy prescription.
- Support students in extensive practice-based learning covering a range of physiotherapy disciplines.
- Develop an awareness and understanding of personal responsibility and professional code of conduct within the workplace.
- Enhance students' ability to question current thinking, develop alternative hypotheses and engage in independent research

## 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. On successful completion of the course, graduates should be able to demonstrate the following.

### A. Knowledge and understanding:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Integrate applied anatomical knowledge to construct and evaluate appropriate physiotherapy treatments.	Lectures, practical workshops, seminars, group work, professional work-based environments and webinars will enable the learning outcome to be achieved.  These learning and teaching methods will enable students to develop a critical and reflective knowledge of Physiotherapy, with both the ability and readiness to question its principles, practices and boundaries. Furthermore, these teaching methods will enhance students' ability to be proactive in recognising and addressing personal	Assignments consist of both formative and summative elements, with a primary focus on problem-based learning through projects, practical assessments, presentations, and case studies
A2	Draw on professional understanding and values to plan and manage predictable and unpredictable scenarios across the lifespan.		Specific assessment methods will include essays, simulated practical assessments, client reports, portfolios and presentations.

A3	Develop and evaluate the critical application of physiology, pathophysiology and biopsychosocial theory underpinning Physiotherapy techniques.	development needs, and able to make informed treatment decisions.  Students will be encouraged to be intellectually curious, embrace challenges and seize opportunities for development by engaging with different forms of learning, locating and accessing information independently, using current and emerging digital technologies to supplement their learning and fully engaging with practice-based learning.	
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### B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Identify, select and make appropriate use of practitioner and academic reviews and primary sources relevant to physiotherapy practice.	Cognitive skills are developed through lectures, seminars and practical sessions in addition to students' independent learning. As an ongoing part of this course, students will be expected to apply these skills whilst undertaking a range of practical placements.	Assessment of cognitive skills occurs in the range of assessment methods employed i.e. examination/ online assessment, and/or continuous assessment, course and/or group work. Placements are also assessed via educator reports and a self-completed learning log discussed with a Placements Tutor.
B2	Critically evaluate the conceptual and theoretical frameworks of physiology, pathophysiology and biopsychosocial approaches to physiotherapy practice.		

### C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Confidently identify and define pathophysiology in complex and realistic scenarios.	Practical skills will be central to all aspects of learning on the course. Theory covered in lecture and seminar sessions will have applied practical underpinning and practical skills will be taught and evaluated in practical workshops, simulation and practice-based learning.	Assessments will incorporate demonstration of practical and patient-focussed skills relevant to physiotherapy practice. Placements are also assessed via educator reports and a self-completed learning log discussed with a Placements Tutor.
C2	Using a biopsychosocial approach, develop and defend		

	proposed treatment methodologies for predictable and unpredictable diagnosed conditions across the lifespan.		
C3	Work effectively with other professions to effectively provide treatment for patients in varying contexts.		

#### D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Clearly communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions taking into account complex and unpredictable contexts.	Transferable skills will be covered throughout the course to develop students' employability skills and ensure that graduates are well equipped for the workplace. Theory covered in lecture and seminar sessions will have applied practical underpinning and practical skills will be taught and evaluated in practical workshops, simulation and practice-based learning.	Assessments will incorporate demonstration of relevant graduate and employability skills relevant to physiotherapy practice. Placements are also assessed via educator reports and a self-completed learning log discussed with a Placements Tutor.
D2	Demonstrate critical awareness of a range of physiotherapy techniques and communicate appropriately to the selected audiences.		
D3	Demonstrate awareness of the impact of national issues impacting on physiotherapy practice across the lifespan.		
D4	Demonstrate awareness of personal responsibility and professional codes of conduct and propose ethical resolutions in complex scenarios.		

## 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 Physiotherapy course. [?](#)
- Each student has a personal tutor, responsible for pastoral support and guidance. [?](#)
- Placement support/ pastoral support through the School and faculty placement teams and the student's personal tutor whilst on placement.

## 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. This course is subject to the university's Annual review and monitoring process (<https://policies.docstore.port.ac.uk/policy-229.pdf>) as well as the monitoring processes of the Health and Care Professions Council and Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025](#)
- [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 for Events, Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP).
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

## 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.

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