

## Programme Specification for MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration)

This document applies to Academic Year 2023/24 onwards

Table 1 Programme Specification for MSc Physiotherapy

1.	<b>Awarding institution/body</b>	University of Worcester
2.	<b>Teaching institution</b>	University of Worcester
3.	<b>Programme accredited by</b>	The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP)
4.	<b>Final award or awards</b>	Master of Science MSc
5.	<b>Programme title</b>	MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration)
6.	<b>Pathways available</b>	NA
7.	<b>Mode and/or site of delivery</b>	Standard campus-based programme
8.	<b>Mode of attendance and duration</b>	2 years full-time. May include evening attendance. Placement attendance may include evenings, weekends, and flexible working patterns.
9.	<b>UCAS Code</b>	Direct application
10.	<b>Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement</b>	<a href="#">HCPC (2017) Standards of Education and training</a> <a href="#">HCPC (2013) Standards of Proficiency (Physiotherapists)</a> <a href="#">HCPC (2016) Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics</a> <a href="#">CSP (2020) Quality Assurance Processes</a> <a href="#">QAA (2020) Master's Degree Characteristics Statement</a>
11.	<b>Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision</b>	Approved June 2021 August 2022 – AQU amendments July 2023 – annual updates

### 12. Educational aims of the programme

The MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) course aims to provide an accelerated route of entry to the physiotherapy profession for learners who have successfully achieved an undergraduate degree. This course has been designed to meet local and national workforce demands for effective allied health professionals, with the capacity and vision to contribute to integrated care systems and the aspiration to become leaders and managers of the future.

The course has been developed, and runs in parallel, with the MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration), valuing and integrating collaborative working, and evidence-based person-centred practice. Inter-disciplinary learning will ensure that graduates are effective team workers, with leadership and organisational management skills to deliver and design services, relevant to the health and social care practice.

The MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) course combines theoretical and practice learning across two years of study, ensuring that students achieve the HCPC (2013) Standards of Proficiency for Physiotherapists and eligibility to apply for full membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. The course has also been mapped to the draft revised HCPC (2020) Standards of Proficiency (Physiotherapists), in readiness for the introduction of the new proficiencies. The programme combines master's level learning in physiotherapy theory, including advanced skills in research and evidence-based practice, with the practical application skills required for contemporary physiotherapy practice. A specific focus of this course is to equip graduates with the vision, practical skills, and flexibility to envision and develop opportunities for the expansion of physiotherapy practice to meet future demands.

The teaching philosophy ensures that students develop physiotherapy knowledge, skills, and confidence as they progress on the course. The curriculum aims to foster students' individual strengths and attributes relating them to their own developing professional competence and leadership, encouraging a reasoned, evaluative and evidence-based person-centred approach, encompassing reflection and independence in learning, and the ability to work effectively with others. The MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) aims to build on learners' under-graduate experience and attributes, through Level 7 study, to develop a critical and analytical awareness of the physiotherapy profession, and to ensure that our graduates can practice, develop and lead in the changing and contemporary contexts within which future physiotherapists must be able to work.

### **Mission statement**

University of Worcester MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) graduates are competent professionals with the knowledge and skills to improve the health and wellbeing of people, communities, and populations. Our graduates can design and develop services to achieve optimal benefit, and to maximise the ability to live the life that service users want and need, wherever they are.

University of Worcester MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) graduates are flexible and creative problem solvers, with strong professional identities, confident developing leaders, and are resilient to change. Our graduates work independently and collaboratively to ensure the needs of people, communities and populations are central to their practice, in partnership with service users and stakeholders.

### **Programme aims**

To achieve this, the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) course sets out to ensure that graduates can;

1. Demonstrate competence as a physiotherapist and support integrated health care service development and quality improvement through professional practice and leadership skills.
2. Achieve the [HCPC \(2013\) Standards of Proficiency \(Physiotherapists\)](#) within an integrated curriculum providing eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and eligibility to apply for professional membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.
3. Practice in a professional and inclusive manner, reflecting on and critically evaluating own abilities and limitations, acknowledging the need to seek appropriate assistance where necessary in accordance with the [HCPC \(2013\) Standards of Proficiency \(Physiotherapists\)](#), the [HCPC \(2016\) Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics](#) and the [CSP \(2019\) Code of Professional Values and Behaviours](#).
4. Critically reflect upon contemporary theory that provides the underpinning knowledge base for the scope of professional practice recognising the importance of knowledge, skills, behaviours, and values.
5. Demonstrate competence and confidence in assessing, planning, delivering, evaluating, and modifying practice, accordingly, communicating and interacting inclusively with a diverse range of people in a variety of settings, indicative of safe and effective Physiotherapy practice.
6. Be sensitive to the impact of social disadvantage to health and wellbeing, thinking critically in line with the [CSP \(2019\) Code of Professional Values and Behaviours](#) to make sound and compassionate clinical decisions, responsive to the physical and holistic needs of people.
7. Learn independently, conduct research, and use evidence and reflection to continually improve physiotherapy practice.
8. Be accountable practitioners, working in partnership, demonstrating flexible leadership of self and others, enabling them to improve and develop person-centred services
9. Demonstrate resilience to changing demands and practice whilst focusing on the future, using technology whilst committing to sustainable practice.

### 13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods

Table 2 knowledge and understanding outcomes and which module/code they relate to

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>			
<b>LO no.</b>		<b>Module Code/s</b>	<b>Award</b>
	On successful completion of the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) students will be able to:		
1.	Analyse and critically discuss the application of physiotherapy knowledge, skills, values, and behaviours in complex and predictable contemporary practice within local, national, and global contexts	PTHY4005	PG Cert
2.	Respect, evaluate and value the impact of diversity and culture on behaviour, judgement, and practice in physiotherapy	PTHY4005 ALHS4001	PG Cert
3.	Critically synthesise and apply physical, clinical, and behavioural science in person-centred assessment, diagnosis, management, and modification	PTHY4004 PTHY4005 ALHS4001	PG Dip
4.	Critically apply a breadth of evidence to sustainable service development, quality improvement, and the expansion of physiotherapy practice	ALHS4007 PTHY4008	MSc Physiotherapy
5.	Critically evaluate the use of physiotherapy to improve, restore and maintain the health, function and wellbeing of individuals, communities and populations always maintaining the service user(s) at the centre of care	PTHY4006	MSc Physiotherapy

Table 3 cognitive and intellectual skills outcomes for module code/s

<b>Cognitive and Intellectual skills</b>			
6.	Critically discuss and apply underpinning bio-psycho-social knowledge, using clinical reasoning and decision-making for appropriate, safe, and effective physiotherapy practice	PTHY4004 PTHY4005	PG Cert
7.	Critically analyse the influence of political, social, economic, and institutional factors on sustainable physiotherapy resource management	ALHS4007	PG Dip
8.	Critically evaluate and conduct research to contribute to ethical evidence-based physiotherapy practice	PTHY4004 ALHS4002	MSc Physiotherapy

Table 4 learning skills and capabilities related to employability outcomes for module code/s

<b>Skills and capabilities related to employability</b>			
9.	Critically reflect on personal values and systemic practices that are discriminatory, and seek to reduce barriers to inclusivity	ALHS4003	PG Cert
10.	Demonstrate advanced verbal and nonverbal communication skills with all stakeholders, including the use of technology, to establish and	PTHY4005 PTHY4008 ALHS4007	PG Dip

<b>Skills and capabilities related to employability</b>			
	maintain effective and collaborative professional relationships		
11.	Apply and critically evaluate leadership and management skills to enable effective physiotherapy practice and service provision	ALHS4007 PTHY4008	MSc Physiotherapy
12.	Demonstrate entrepreneurship and business evaluation skills required to obtain and develop employment in a range of diverse settings.	PTHY4008	MSc Physiotherapy

*Table 5 transferable/key skills outcomes for module code/s*

<b>Transferable/key skills</b>			
13.	Demonstrate confidence in ability to work independently, and flexibly as a collaborative team worker	ALHS4003	PG cert
14.	Demonstrate confidence and effective use of health informatics and digital platforms to maximise opportunities for practice and adapting to change	PTHY4008	PG Dip
15.	Demonstrate advanced use of reflective processes and engagement in continual professional development to enhance employability	PTHY4006	MSc Physiotherapy
16.	Demonstrate strong professional identity including autonomy, accountability, resourcefulness, and resilience within own practice, when working in complex situations and teams	PTHY4008	MSc Physiotherapy

## **Learning, teaching and assessment**

### **Learning and Teaching Pedagogy**

A transformative pedagogical approach underpins the curriculum design, combining a constructivist and critical pedagogy. In-depth knowledge will be constructed through active engagement in enquiry-based learning, independent research, and the development of solutions to complex problems in physiotherapy. The curriculum is designed to encourage students to critically examine theory and practice to develop students' appreciation of multiple perspectives, and a strong sense of professional identity. The curriculum engages students in the development of practical and clinical skills, fostering individual strengths and attributes relating them to developing professional competence and leadership, encouraging a reasoned, evaluative, and evidence-based person-centred approach, using self-reflection for professional transformation. Through a mix of discipline specific and shared modules, the course aims to develop graduate who are compassionate and ethical physiotherapists, who can work autonomously and collaboratively to deliver high quality, person-centred, and flexible health care, within integrated care systems. Students undertaking this master's course are expected to engage professionally in the theoretical and practice-based learning, demonstrating high levels of personal motivation, emotional resilience, and academic performance.

### **Teaching**

The MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) course employs a broad approach to teaching. Whilst teaching is predominantly campus based, all modules will include synchronous lectures, seminars, and workshops, as well as asynchronous online delivery. The specific blend of campus-based and online teaching will vary across the modules. Full details are available in module outlines; however, students can expect a minimum of 10% of teaching in each module to be delivered online. Constructive alignment of the programme aims, module aims, module content, learning and teaching methods and assessments, support and scaffold the development of advanced academic skills, across the two years of the course. Teaching is

student-centred, reflecting the philosophy of knowledge construction whereby students are active participants in their learning experience, and learn with and from each other.

Academic modules consist of specific MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) modules that can only be taken by physiotherapy students (prefixed PTHY), and shared modules with MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) students (prefixed ALHS). Shared modules provide valuable opportunities for interdisciplinary learning, where students will be able to articulate their professional roles and contribution to integrated and interdisciplinary care, and develop collaborative skills, through learning together. Learning sessions are inclusive, providing varied opportunities for learning through active participation of activities designed to enable students to achieve the learning outcomes.

Practice based learning across the curriculum provides direct experience of working with service users and carers, and within professional teams. Students are supported by practice educators to achieve the required level of competency and develop their use of clinical reasoning. Service users and carers are integral to teaching and learning, contributing to development, delivery, and evaluation of teaching sessions.

Interactive seminars and workshops take a variety of formats and are intended to enable the application of learning through critical discussion and student-centred activities. Practical sessions are focused on developing physiotherapy and practice specific skills.

The University places emphasis on enabling students to develop the graduate attributes that will equip them for lifelong learning and future employment, as well as academic achievement. A mixture of independent study, teaching and academic support from Student Services and Library Services, and the Personal Academic Tutoring system enables students to reflect on progress and build up a profile of skills, achievements and experiences that will help them to flourish and be successful.

### **Practice Education**

The MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) is a professional course that integrates theory and practice; modules incorporate a minimum of 1000 hours practice education across the 2 years of study. Practice education is aligned with, and included within, the core professional modules PTHY4005: Essential Physiotherapy Practice 1 and PTHY4006: Essential Physiotherapy Practice 2. Each module will include 2 full-time block practice learning placements of between 6 and 8 weeks, which will take place in a wide variety of practice settings. International placements may be possible, subject to availability and cost, organised by the Therapy Placements Team, and if undertaken, are included in placement hours.

Assessment of practice education against the University of Worcester Practice Learning Document assessment criteria, based on the [HCPC \(2013\) Standards of Proficiency](#), will be pass / fail, and ungraded. Students must pass the required learning outcomes and competencies of practice education in the Practice Learning Documents to pass the core practice modules in each year of the course.

### **Contact time**

The MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) programme will be delivered over 2 years and across 45 weeks of the year. In a typical week, students will have around 10-15 contact hours, consisting of a mix of on-campus and some on-line synchronous and asynchronous teaching. The exact blend of on-campus and online teaching will vary between modules; however, students can expect a minimum of 1-1.5 hours of online teaching per week. Students should expect to undertake between 35 and 40 hours of study each week. Full-time practice learning placement equates to 34 hours for practice learning, leaving students with 3.5 hours academic or placement related study per week.

### **Independent self-study**

Masters level study involves a considerable proportion of independent study, researching topics covered in lectures, seminars, and practice-based learning, and preparing for teaching sessions. Student are expected to manage their time effectively, to allow for the timely



preparation of assignments, identifying knowledge gaps and developing their knowledge through independent study.

In addition to the contact time, students are expected to undertake around 25-30 hours of personal self-study per week which is indicated in module outlines. Typically, this will involve guided study, pre-module or session reading, quizzes and preparation for assessments related to the modules of study. Students are expected to read around topics introduced in class to further extend their knowledge and identify areas that need clarification or further discussion in class.

Independent learning is supported by a range of excellent learning facilities, including the Hive and library resources, the virtual learning environment (Blackboard), and extensive electronic learning resources. The course makes full use of Blackboard for each module, clearly identifying expectations for students. A shared approach to design, ensuring inclusive access for students, is used across both Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy.

### **Teaching staff**

Students will be taught by a teaching team whose expertise and knowledge are closely matched to the content of the modules on the course. The team includes a range of experienced, well-qualified academics in physiotherapy, supported by academics from the Occupational Therapy team, and from other departments within the School, and wider University, who contribute to the delivery of shared modules where appropriate. Guest speakers, specialist clinicians, physiotherapy and healthcare professionals in leadership roles and associate lecturers contribute to the delivery of teaching sessions. Members of the University of Worcester service user and carer group, who undertake 'expert by experience' roles regularly contribute to teaching and learning, alongside academic or practice colleagues.

Teaching is informed by research and practice. All course lecturers have or are working towards a higher education teaching qualification or are Associate, Fellows or Senior Fellows of the Higher Education Academy.

## **14. Assessment strategy**

Assessment is integral to student learning and is aligned with the overall aims and learning outcomes of the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) course. Student achievement is assessed using a diverse range of authentic assessment tasks, appropriate to the professional requirements for competence and a successful future career as a Registered Physiotherapist. A whole team approach ensures that assessment tasks progressively build student skills, with opportunities for formative assessment and constructive feedback, which aims to 'scaffold' student learning, both within modules and across modules. Each module is assessed separately, however a consistent and progressive approach to assessment design and an overall course approach will ensure that students are prepared for the increasing complexity of skills and competency requirements in year 2. A careful and balanced approach to assessment has been made to ensure that the student assessment load is appropriate for an accelerated 2-year professional course.

A diverse range of assessments are employed over the two years of the course, to capture a wide range of advanced academic and practical skills relevant to the level of qualification and the requirements for professional practice. An inclusive student-centred approach to assessment is adopted where possible, allowing for flexibility and student choice, either in the assessment focus or in the assessment method. Graded assessments employ a clear and published marking rubric, of subject specific criteria and descriptors benchmarked to the [University generic Level 7 descriptors](#). Students will receive a mixture of feedback and feedforward to guide their academic development and practical skills. Each module must be passed to achieve the overall qualification, and all modules are graded. Students cannot proceed from one year of the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) course without having successfully completed all the Year 1 modules.

In profession specific modules (prefixed with PTHY) there will be no compensation between assessment items; clear indication of this will be provided in the module outline. Students who do not successfully achieve an assessment pass will be allowed one reassessment attempt, as per the UW assessment policy, and CSP Quality Assurance Processes (CSP 2020). A fail at reassessment will mean that students will have to re-take the module in the following year, with attendance, resulting in a longer enrolment. Practice placement modules are limited to 2 assessment attempts. The CSP requires students to complete the programme normally within a 4-year period.

A grid showing assessment methods and weightings mapped to modules at each level, together with an assessment calendar is included in the Course Handbook.

### **Assessment of Theory**

The curriculum has been developed with the intention of supporting progress across the range of cognitive, academic, practical, and transferable skills across the course. Students are expected to be independent in finding, appraising, and applying evidence based and theoretical knowledge to practice scenarios, including demonstration of physiotherapy assessment and treatment skills by the end of the Year 1. They will also demonstrate effective communication and collaboration skills, with increasing levels of competence in practice. In Year 2 students will demonstrate advanced academic skills through undertaking an independent research project. Practical competence will be demonstrated through application of knowledge and skills to more complex situations, and advanced demonstration of leadership and innovative service development skills.

A mix of discipline specific and inter-disciplinary modules, including an enquiry-based learning stream and collaborative learning activities, serve to ensure students are autonomous and reflective learners, able to evaluate their own performance and develop personal learning and development goals.

Each module includes an assessment of learning achieved in that module. In discipline specific modules with more than one assessment item, both parts must be passed to achieve an overall pass in the modules. Compensation between assessment items in discipline specific modules is not permitted. All modules have opportunity for formative assessment and feedback, designed to support the student's achievement in the module. All module specifications encourage students to act on feedback received in formative and other assessments, meeting with their Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) to discuss this.

Summative assessments assess student learning in a variety of ways, written essays, case studies, poster presentations, reflective essays, individual and group presentations, critical review of literature, and a piece of empirical research. Assessment of clinical knowledge, skill, application, and evaluation is facilitated using practical exams, and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE), developmentally across both years of the course. Through [inclusive assessment](#) that includes choice in some modules, students will develop skills required of a practising lifelong learning physiotherapist. Methods of assessment reflect those likely to be encountered in physiotherapy practice.

The course provides opportunities to test understanding and learning informally through the completion of practice or 'formative' assignments. Each module has one or more formal or 'summative' assessment which is graded and counts towards the overall module grade. Types of assessment included in each year are:

#### **Year 1**

Health Improvement Resource  
Case Study  
Practical OSCE / Oral Exam  
Individual Presentation  
Practice Learning Document x 2

#### **Year 2**

Written Essay  
 Literature Review  
 Reflective Essay  
 Practice Learning Document x 2  
 Dissertation

### Assessment of Practice

Students undertake 4 practice-based learning placements (2 in each year) and must complete a minimum of 1000 hours of practice-based learning across the two years of the course. Practice learning placements 1 and 2 are aligned to a 30-credit module PTHY4005: Essentials of Physiotherapy Practice 1. Practice learning placements 3 and 4 are aligned to PTHY44006: Essentials of Physiotherapy Practice 2. Each practice learning placement must be passed before progressing to the next. To pass the practice placement student must achieve the criteria outlined in the Practice Learning Document (PLD) for each placement which are consistent with the HCPC (2013/2020) Standards of Proficiency (Physiotherapists) and must complete the required hours.

Formative and summative assessment opportunities are provided in each placement to produce an ongoing record of progression and achievement over the two years. A practice educator who has undergone a formal period of preparation and education, including regular updates, holds the primary responsibility for student assessment. The practice educator and student are supported by the Zoned Academic who promotes robust and consistent arrangements for the assessment of practice learning.

Practice learning placements are ungraded (they are pass/fail) and failure to achieve the assessment criteria will result in failure of the placement, and of the module overall. Students are only able to be reassessed in practice a maximum of two times during the course, on non-consecutive placements. Failure of a practice placement normally involves a new practice placement which may involve a delay in progression to year two of the course, or a delay in completion of the programme. If a student fails the second attempt at a practice-based learning component or fails the first attempt at consecutive practice-based learning components, they have failed the requirements of the pre-registration programme and must be withdrawn. Completed hours of a failed practice-based learning component do not count towards the overall minimum requirement of 1000 practice-based learning hours. Failure of a practice-based learning due to substantiated grounds of fitness to practise concerns will not be offered a retrieval attempt.

## 15. Programme structures and requirements

Table 6 award map

Module Code	Module Title	Status Mandatory (M) or Optional (O)			
		Credits	PG Cert	PG Dip	MSc
<b>Year 1</b>					
ALHS4001	Applied Health Improvement	15	M	M	M
ALHS4003	Professional and Collaborative Practice	15	M	M	M
PTHY4004	Evidence based Physiotherapy	30	M	M	M
PTHY4005	Essential Physiotherapy Practice 1	30	O	M	M
<b>Year 2</b>					
PTHY4006	Essential Physiotherapy Practice 2	30		O	M
ALHS4007	Leading Contemporary Practice	15		O	M



PTHY4008	Critical perspectives of Physiotherapy	15		O	M
ALHS4002	Dissertation - Research for Healthcare	30		O	M
<b>Total Credits</b>		180	60	120	180

#### **PG Certificate**

To be awarded the PG Cert in Allied Health students must successfully complete 60 credits at Level 7 including ALHS4001, ALHS4003 and PTHY4004.

**The award does not confer eligibility for registration with HCPC.**

#### **PG Diploma**

To be awarded the PG Dip in Allied Health students must successfully complete the PG Certificate plus PTHY4005 PLUS 30 credits from the remaining modules to a total minimum of 120 credits at Level 7.

**The award does not confer eligibility for registration with HCPC.**

#### **Master of Science**

To be awarded the Master of Science in Physiotherapy (Pre-registration), students must complete a total of 180 credits at Level 7

**Students who achieve 180 credits from all mandatory modules will be eligible to apply to HCPC for registration as a physiotherapist.**

**All modules are mandatory, and all 180 credits must be successfully completed to achieve the award.**

### **16. QAA and professional academic standards and quality**

The MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) is a master's degree course leading to a qualification in physiotherapy that enables successful graduates to apply to join the register of physiotherapists with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). The course is approved by the HCPC and accredited by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP). Only those students successfully completing the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) are eligible to apply to register with the Health and Care Professions Council and apply to join the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy as a full member.

This award is located at Level 7 of the [OfS sector recognised standards](#) and operates under the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#). The course meets the following benchmarks:

- [HCPC \(2017\) Standards of Education and Training](#)
- [CSP \(2020\) Quality Assurance Processes](#)
- [CSP \(2020\) Learning and Development Principles](#)
- [QAA \(2014\) Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland \(FHEQ\)](#)
- [QAA \(2020\) Master's Degree Characteristics Statement](#)

The following professional standards are embedded within the curriculum:

- [HCPC \(2013\) Standards of Proficiency \(Physiotherapists\)](#)
- [CSP \(2019\) Code of Professional Values and Behaviours](#)
- [CSP \(2020\) Physiotherapy Framework](#)
- [HCPC \(2016\) Guidance on conduct and ethics for students](#)

### **17. Support for students**

#### **Induction**

A short induction shared with the MSc Occupational Therapy (Pre-registration) students provides the opportunity to meet peers, the teaching team, and senior members in the university and the School of Allied Health and Community. Introductory sessions will provide an overview

of the course, and an introduction to the University information and learning systems, student services, and the student union.

### **Personal and Academic Tutoring**

There is wide ranging support for students on the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) course. One of the main ways in which students are supported is through the university-wide Personal Academic Tutoring System. Personal Academic Tutoring (PAT) is at the heart of supporting personal, professional, and academic development and tutors meet with their tutees at least four times a year in first year and three times in year two. These meetings are held in groups or individually as needed. PATs will 'signpost' students to the appropriate university support services as needed including Disability and Dyslexia support, IT, media and print services support, as well as Student Services which offer a range of health and wellbeing support services such as student counselling service, financial advice, and accommodation matters.

### **Year Tutors**

Each academic year is overseen by a Year Tutor whose role is to manage the overall student learning experience of the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) course.

### **Practice Learning Support**

In practice placement learning students are supported in their learning by Practice Educators (PE). All students are allocated one or more appropriately trained Practice Educator to support their practice-based learning. All Practice Educators will have undergone a formal period of preparation and are required to attend regular updates. Both student and PE are supported by a member of the academic course team in the role of Zoned Academic (ZA). This role involves liaising with the placement, using virtual meetings to support both PE and student, together and separately, to review progress, discuss the Practice Learning Document (PLD) and the placement experience.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

The MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) team has a proactive and inclusive approach to students with disabilities and works closely with them to ensure that individual support needs are identified and met in a timely and professionally appropriate way within a philosophy of professional regulation, competency, and inclusion. Reasonable adjustments and support strategies are considered and applied creatively for practice, ensuring patient safety. Students are actively encouraged to disclose their disability early on to their PAT, to facilitate safe systems of support and additional needs/reasonable adjustments to be put in place. The [Disability and Dyslexia Service](#) within Student Services provides specialist support. Additionally, the curriculum meets the requirements of the University's Policy and Procedures on [Inclusive assessment](#) to ensure that all assessments are inclusive. [The Accessible Content Toolkit](#) and [Blackboard Ally](#) enable academic staff to ensure that all teaching content is digitally accessible.

### **Student membership of the CSP**

Students on the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) course are strongly encouraged to become student members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy during their induction. Student membership provides a range of supportive opportunities including keeping updated on the latest student and professional issues, access to a range of profession specific learning, study, and professional development resources, and begin the process of developing a professional identity.

### **Student Union**

There is an active Physiotherapy Society in the university, and students will be encouraged to join.

## **18. Admissions**

### **Admissions policy**

The University aims to provide fair and equal access to a university education to all those who have the potential to succeed or benefit from it. Admissions to MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) are made in line with the University's [Admissions Policy](#). Applications are

welcomed from appropriately qualified graduates, including mature and international students, and places are offered on merit. The university is committed to widening participation and the flexible entry requirements reflect this. All applications that meet the academic entry threshold are assessed by the admissions tutor using values-based recruitment principles, to ensure that applicants have the ability and capacity to develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviours required of a future physiotherapist. All successful applicants will have been interviewed.

### **Entry requirements**

A typical applicant will be able to demonstrate:

- Achievement of a degree a 2:2 or above in a relevant discipline OR a degree in another subject with a level 3 qualification in Biology or Physical Education.
- A typical applicant will demonstrate evidence of knowledge or experience in the research process and / or completion of an undergraduate dissertation or independent study
- Sufficient numeracy and literacy to meet the requirements of the course are required, for example Maths and English at Grade 4 and above. University of Worcester GCSE Maths and English equivalency tests will be accepted. See [Admissions Policy](#) for other acceptable qualifications.
- Applicants whose first language is not English are required to provide a language test certificate as evidence of their proficiency must ensure that it is, or is comparable to, IELTS level 7.0 with no element below 6.5 (HCPC 2017).
- A strong interest and demonstrated understanding of the breadth of the values, role and the skills required to be a registered Physiotherapist is necessary.

### **Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks**

Enhanced disclosure under the Disclosure and Barring Service is a requirement for entry. Applicants are asked to provide evidence of this prior to admission, and at the latest before placement allocations are made. Students on the course are also asked to declare any changes in their DBS status at the beginning of each academic year on SOLE and to sign a Physiotherapy Code of Conduct which is in the course handbook. Students are required to pay for their DBS check. If applicants have lived outside the UK for six months or more in the past five years, a criminal record check from the country the applicant was living in is required.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

Students with relevant previous study at postgraduate level or with extensive experience may be considered eligible for recognition of prior learning. Please contact the Registry Admissions Office for further information or guidance on 01905 855111. Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at <http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm>

### **Admissions procedures**

Applicants apply directly to the university via the website. As well as meeting academic entry requirements for the MSc Physiotherapy (re-registration) course, all applicants must have a broad understanding of the profession to ensure clear awareness of the physiotherapist's breadth of practice. They must also have an appreciation of the variety of practice settings where physiotherapists work, with people from all groups of the population. Applicants should provide evidence of communication, teamwork, and leadership skills and to demonstrate an awareness of the qualities and values required to be a physiotherapist. Guidance on completing personal statements is published on the course website. Applications are screened online by the admissions tutor using a scoring sheet that assesses whether a student exceeds, meets, or does not meet the required criteria for interview.

### **Admissions interview process**

Selection decisions are made by the interview panel members based on set criteria following the interview process. The interview panel includes a mix of academic staff, practice partners and service users and carers, who attend training in the principles of selection, anti-discriminatory behaviour and equal opportunities through the University or the practice partner's employing institution.

The interview panel discuss each applicant and a scoring sheet is completed. The areas assessed are:

- Communication Skills
- Qualities: Application to Profession
- Knowledge of the Profession
- Professional Values & Person-Centred Approach
- Personal Motivation for the Programme

Successful applicants are offered a place, conditional upon meeting academic requirements, satisfactory occupational health and enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements. Unsuccessful candidates are given written feedback against individual performance and interview outcome. In some instances, potential students may be advised to reapply, to seek further experience or knowledge of the profession, or to gain life experience or confidence in their communication skills.

## 19. Regulation of assessment

The course operates under the University's [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#)

### Requirements to pass modules

- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- A student is required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- In discipline specific modules (prefixed PTHY) there is no compensation between assessment items and therefore students must pass each item of assessment to pass the module.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

### Submission of assessment items

- A student who submits course work late but within 7 days (one week) of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- A student who submits work later than 7 days (one week) will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations please see the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

### Retrieval of failure

- A student is entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade.
- Students are only able to be reassessed in practice a maximum of 2 times during the course. Students who fail the first assessment opportunity, on consecutive placements will not be permitted further resit opportunities and will be withdrawn from the course.
- Reassessment items that are passed are capped at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module; the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.
- A student will be notified of the reassessment opportunities in the results notification issued via the secure student portal (SOLE). It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and comply with any reassessments.

### Requirements for Progression

- A student will be permitted to progress from year 1 to year 2 if, by the time of the reassessment Board of Examiners, they have passed all modules in year 1 (90 credits).
- If a student has not passed 90 credits by the reassessment Board of Examiners, the student is not permitted to progress to the next year and will be required to either complete

outstanding reassessment or retake the failed modules the following academic year. Students will be able to carry forward any passed modules.

- A student who fails 60 credits or more after exhausting all reassessment opportunities may be required to withdraw from the University.

This course is subject to the [University's fitness to practice procedures](#).

## Requirements for Awards

*Table 7 requirements for awards*

Award	Requirement
PG Cert in Allied Health	60 credits at Level 7 including ALHS4001, ALHS4003 and PTHY4004. <b>The award does not confer eligibility for registration with HCPC, or ability to join the CSP as a full member.</b>
PG Dip in Allied Health	Passed a minimum of 120 credits at level 7, including ALHS4001, ALHS4003 and PTHY4004 PLUS PTHY4005 PLUS 30 credits from the remaining modules <b>The award does not confer eligibility for registration with HCPC, or ability to join the CSP as a full member.</b>
Master of Science in Physiotherapy (Pre-registration)	Passed 180 credits at Level 7 <b>Students who achieve 180 credits from all mandatory modules will be eligible to apply to HCPC for registration as a physiotherapist and apply to become a full member of the CSP.</b>

PG Cert and PG Dip awards are unclassified. The awards of masters may be made with Pass, Merit or Distinction.

### Classification of Masters

The classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification.

#### Method 1

- Candidates will be awarded a Distinction where they have attained an average of A- (PD) or higher from the credit achieved with the University for the award.
- Candidates will be awarded a Merit where they have attained an average of C+ (PM) or higher from the credit achieved with the University for the award.

#### Method 2

- Candidates will be awarded a Distinction, irrespective of their other module results, where they have attained 90 credits at grade A- (PD) or higher
- Candidates will be awarded a Merit, irrespective of their other module results, where they have attained 90 credits at grade C+ (PM) or higher

Candidates will be awarded a Pass where they have not fulfilled the rules for Method 1 or Method 2 but are eligible for the award of a Masters.

For further information on honours degree classification, see the [Taught Courses Regulatory Framework](#).

## 20. Graduate destinations, employability, and links with employers

### Graduate destinations

This is a new course and therefore graduate destinations related to the BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy are provided. The BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy course has recorded 100% employment, and this is mainly within the NHS, although a small number have taken up posts in private healthcare. It is expected that the MSc students will achieve a similarly high level of employment due to the need for Allied Health Professionals in the UK currently to support the



NHS Long Term Plan. Our graduates can also enrol in further Advancing Practice study, at Level 7 and Doctoral studies at Level 8. Graduates are strongly encouraged to become Practice Educators and sessional lecturers within the university to share their experiences of graduate practise. Students can choose to undertake Practice Educator training in the final months of their degree. The team have also established regular involvement of graduates in teaching on the BSc (Hons) course.

### **Student employability**

Employability is integral to the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) course; the aim of the course is to produce registered and chartered physiotherapists. The curriculum facilitates professional development, supported with shared modules, inter-professional learning and practice placements integrated within the course, preparing students for graduation and professional employment.

The teaching team work hard to develop students' employability skills in a shared Level 7 module. This module focusses on making sure students are ready for their first job. As well as making them aware of the current political climate, and the direction of travel of the profession, it also covers the basics of securing a job; writing an application form, interview technique, and presenting themselves professionally as a future graduate in a jobs fayre supported by local employers. There is significant involvement and support from a wide network of local stakeholders with external speakers as Visiting Lecturers.

### **Links with employers**

The Physiotherapy course team has extremely close links with local practice partners who provide many opportunities for employment for graduates. They are invited to support the annual job fayre and we share job opportunities and communication during Zoned Academic meetings with students on placement. Partners have been involved in the consultation and development of this MSc, especially in relation to practice learning placements. The university hold Annual Mentor Awards ensuring that practice partners receive recognition for their input to practice education and the future of their workforces.

**Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in associated course documentation e.g. course handbooks, module outlines and module specifications.