



MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration) Programme

Applicant guide

1. Course overview

Our two-year graduate-entry MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) programme is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to become a highly competent registered physiotherapist able to work compassionately and creatively with a variety of patient groups. Our students will also gain skills in evidence-based practice, research, and continuous professional development practice.

2. Teaching and learning

The learning will be organised into two blocks, as listed below:

- Semester 1 runs from September to January
- Semester 2 runs from January to July

Each block will require you to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes, which allow you to acquire the basic clinical and professional competencies necessary to work effectively with patients and colleagues.

Year One

Students will typically attend three-day teaching weeks throughout the year from September to June, supported by online material, which will include webinars, videos, and discussion forums.

Taught sessions will focus on clinical skills and problem-based learning, further supported by practical sessions, tutorials, and seminars as appropriate.

Early in Semester 1, students will attend a one-week observational placement at one of our NHS Partnership Trusts in the area.

Year Two

Students complete 1,000 hours of clinical placement provided by the programme in a range of settings and simulation clinics reflecting the contemporary role of physiotherapists. Most placements are in Buckinghamshire and surrounding counties, but students may be allocated to clinics throughout south-east England.

Some of our placements might take place over the Year One summer holiday. Typically, you would have six months' notice. However, we strongly recommend not making a holiday plan that will require you to be away for longer than three weeks.

Modules

Year One Semester 1

- Physiotherapy Professional Practice
- Applied Anatomy and Assessment of the Neuromusculoskeletal System
- Applied Pathophysiology, including paediatrics and older age

Year One Semester 2

- Research Methodology and design
- Neuromusculoskeletal Management and Intervention
- Neurological and Long-term Conditions Management and Intervention
- Cardio-Respiratory and Pulmonary Conditions Management and Intervention

Year Two Semesters 1 and 2

- Clinical Placement
- Master's Dissertation

3. Assessment

Each module you will take on the course has at least two forms of assessment. The different assessment strategies include

- Objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE)
- Viva (oral examination)
- Oral presentations
- Written examinations
- Portfolio
- Clinical case studies.

4. Entry requirements

- Five GCSEs at grade C or above, including English language or literature, mathematics, and a science subject
- A 2:1 (upper-second-class) degree (or equivalent) in a related field is required. Related degrees include medical, sport, health, and science degrees, such as biology, biochemistry, chemistry, and physiology. Other degrees are considered on an individual basis.
- In addition to the above, candidates are required to have practical experience relating to Physiotherapy, such as shadowing, work placement, or healthcare work experience, as explained below.

Experience

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognised that not everyone would have work experience. Hence, it will not factor in the 2021 selection. However, we recommend that you have some experience if it is safe to do so.

Examples of work experience include:

- Work experience (paid or unpaid/ voluntary), e.g., in the private, sporting, or military setting or experience in health/social care in acute, primary, or community care environments.

- Non-accredited courses, e.g., in-house training, hobbies
- Life experience
- Family/friends who are physiotherapy service users
- Reading and Research
- Experience to be documented in table format and include location, speciality, and duration of experience – a contact detail for each work experience must be provided for verification if necessary. We recommend a minimum of 20 hours in two settings or 30 hours in one setting.

Applicants with extensive healthcare experience (e.g physiotherapy assistant, healthcare assistants, care worker) with a 2.2 in a related field, and applicants with a 1st or 2:1 classification in a non-specified area but with work experience in a relevant environment will be referred to the Programme lead for consideration.

For students, whose first language is not English, there is a requirement to achieve an IELTS tariff of 7 with no individual component below 6.5. This falls in line with the recommendations of the CSP and the HCPC.

5. Application

Applications will be taken through the postgraduate admissions team. Applicants will use the link on the programme webpage to apply for the programme. Applicants will complete a personal statement outlining their suitability and desire to become a Chartered Physiotherapist.

Applicants will be kept up to date with their application's progress through the postgraduate admission department and informed of decisions and rationales at each stage.

The postgraduate admission department will monitor all applications annually to help identify trends and review procedures.

Skills to be covered in the personal statement (Not more than 4000 characters including spaces)

Why Physiotherapy?

Why Buckinghamshire New University?

Why are you a suitable candidate for the course (outline your experience and skills here)?

References

We require two references after being offered a place as part of the conditions. The referees should outline the applicant's academic and practical suitability for the course.

6. Selection process

The criteria for selection consider an individual's ability to study this subject at the postgraduate level and the professional accrediting bodies' requirements.

All shortlisted applicants will be interviewed online by a panel consisting of an academic staff member and a clinical Physiotherapist or a service user. They will take it in turn to ask questions. Each interview will last approximately 20 minutes.

The interview questions will be based on the NHS values and will explore your understanding of Physiotherapy. The links below may be useful in helping you prepare for the day.

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-constitution-for-england/the-nhs-constitution-for-england>.
- <http://www.csp.org.uk/your-health>

If you have any further queries or require any aids or adaptations to attend the interview, please do not hesitate to get in touch via admissions@bucks.ac.uk.

Following the selection day, applicants will be made formal offers, placed on a reserve list, or told that they have been unsuccessful. All offers are subject to satisfactory pre-enrolment checks, as detailed below in section seven.

7. Pre-enrolment and pre-clinical checks

DBS (Criminal Record Check)

As part of the registration process, you are required to undertake a criminal record check through the Disclosure & Barring Service. The check ensures that you have not been barred from working with children and vulnerable adults and do not have criminal records that make you unsuitable for working with young people.

This will be requested following a successful interview.

Occupational health checks

The admissions team will send a medical questionnaire alongside an offer letter. The questionnaire would be completed by students and returned to the admission team, who then forward all the forms to an external occupational health adviser who will contact the student for further screening if indicated.

Specifically, all prospective physiotherapy students will require immunisation or evidence of immunity for the following:

- Hepatitis B - You are advised to have at least two doses of hepatitis B vaccine before admission to the University
- Tuberculosis (TB) - You should have evidence of 'Bacillus Calmette-Guérin' (BCG) vaccination either by a visible BCG scar or documented proof of vaccination
- Mumps, measles and rubella (MMR) - Satisfactory evidence of protection would include documentation of having received two doses of MMR or having had positive antibody tests for measles and rubella
- History of vaccination for Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Polio
- Varicella history for those born and raised the UK, and Non-UK varicella screening

The above lists are based on the immunisation and infection control standards required for new NHS healthcare workers and students, from the Green Book 2013. The online version of the book available at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/147882/Green-Book-Chapter-12.pdf

Pre-clinical vaccination

All students will need to show evidence of completed vaccination for Hepatitis B, BCG, Varicella, and Influenza, where applicable, prior to starting the programme's placement component. These vaccinations can be received from most GP surgeries in England. There is up-to-date information on the NHS Choices (<https://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/>) on how to obtain these vaccinations.

8. Other relevant information

- Our programme uses a modern and innovative integrated blended learning approach using technology to support face-to-face teaching, requiring university attendance not more than three days in any week.
- Our programme is delivered by academics with extensive clinical experience and guest lecturers who are experienced clinicians.
- We offer an active learning observational placement in the first year of study – a unique opportunity in a range of settings.

Funding

All eligible Physiotherapy students can apply to the NHS Learning Support Fund of at least £5,000 a year. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund>.