

Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration)
Award type	Taught Masters
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	2 years Entry point: January
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 2 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP)
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2025/26 is £9,535*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Full-time fee for 2025/26 is £24,900*</p>

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

2. Overview of the Programme

Physiotherapy is a service provided by physiotherapists to individuals and populations to develop, maintain and restore maximum movement and functional ability throughout the lifespan. The service is provided in circumstances where movement and function are threatened by ageing, injury, pain, diseases, disorders, conditions and/or environmental factors and with the understanding that functional movement is central to what it means to be healthy (World Confederation for Physical Therapy, 2019).

Physiotherapy involves the interaction between the physiotherapist, patients/clients, other health professionals, families, care givers and communities in a process where movement potential is examined/assessed and goals are agreed upon, using knowledge and skills unique to physiotherapists. Physiotherapists are concerned with identifying and maximising quality of life and movement potential within the spheres of promotion, prevention, treatment/intervention and rehabilitation. These spheres encompass physical, psychological, emotional, and social wellbeing (World Confederation for Physical Therapy, 2019)

The MSc programme at Keele is designed to produce health care professionals with the ability to influence, lead and work with others, to demonstrate quality and evidence-based practice, to be actively involved in educating and empowering others and to be providing patient-centred and safe care. Our programme is designed to provide you with the opportunity to observe, experience and develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours related to the four pillars of practice. These are core capabilities that have been identified to ensure the future workforce are equipped to deliver innovative models of care to meet the increasing health and social care

demands of individuals, families and communities. The four pillars of practice are clinical practice, research, education and leadership.

The programme is designed to produce the innovative, independent and insightful practitioner required to meet the health and social care challenges of the 21st century. It emphasises the need for enhancing public health and addressing health inequalities via a health model based on disease prevention, patient autonomy and inclusivity. In keeping with strategic allied health profession frameworks and the requirements laid out in the NHS long-term plan (2019), you will develop your digital skills to prepare you to thrive, champion and lead in digitised evidence-based healthcare delivery. You will embrace a vision of patient-centred professionalism and interdisciplinarity within contemporary health and social care environments. You will develop the attributes of a competent practitioner underpinned by the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will enable you to become, and remain, fit for purpose, delivering high quality, safe, sustainable, integrated and effective care.

Diverse learning opportunities within the university and in practice support the development of confidence, self-efficacy, resilience and adaptability, which are all skills required when working within contemporary practice. The programme is committed to the development and provision of high quality multi and inter-professional learning and aims to support you to develop team working and leadership skills that can be implemented at all stages of your studentship and throughout your professional career.

The programme has been designed to ensure that its content is current, underpinned by evidence and reflective of contemporary practice nationally and internationally as well as reflect local and national workforce demands. You will be prepared for the diversity of practice through your academic studies and your practice-based learning.

In your programme you may sometimes be expected to role play and engage in simulated clinical scenarios with other students, such as the practice and observation of practical skills in physical contact with other students. For some specific practices, this may necessitate modification of dress - e.g., to shorts and t-shirt. These activities will be conducted in a professional, safe, respectful and culturally sensitive way, under the supervision of academic staff, according to a defined protocol.

3. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of this two year MSc Physiotherapy programme are to enable you to develop the knowledge, skills, behaviours and values that underpin contemporary physiotherapy practice, and also competence in applying clinical skills to the practice of physiotherapy. You will develop clinical reasoning and decision-making skills to enable you to undertake best physiotherapy practice in partnership with service users and colleagues. The programme will enable you to develop the competencies required for autonomous practice in a diverse range of health and social care settings.

The programme aims to promote research awareness and its application to physiotherapy practice and the wider health and social care context, and to provide you with the skills to adapt and respond positively to change. In doing this, you will develop key transferable skills to prepare you for graduate employment.

Throughout the programme you will get the opportunity to enhance the development of your interpersonal skills along with effective team working and partnership skills. This approach promotes engagement in lifelong learning, which is a key feature of the development of an autonomous professional.

The programme promotes effective inter-professional working practices and facilitates the development of leadership and management skills.

Distinctive features of Physiotherapy programmes at Keele are:

- Physiotherapy programmes at Keele have a history of excellence, having been consistently highly rated by their graduates as illustrated by strong performance in national league tables.
- Physiotherapy education at Keele has a demonstrable track record of innovation in programme design. Innovation is evident in many aspects of the programme, for example, in terms of the inter-relationship of modules, incorporating of advancing technology and simulated learning, currency of content, and varied approaches to delivery and assessment.
- A strong tradition of excellent staff student relationships and collaborative partnerships across a range of clinical bases.
- Teaching from a range of highly skilled, highly qualified and knowledgeable staff, some of whom are nationally and internationally recognised as experts in their field.
- You will undertake practice experience in a variety of healthcare environments supported by accredited Practice Educators with extensive knowledge and experience in a range of clinical specialities and the other core pillars of practice: research, education and/or leadership.
- Inter-professional education is designed to contribute to professional understanding and respect as students of various professions learn with, from and about each other for the benefit of patient care.
- Support to develop analytical and reasoning skills that are transferable across the various aspects

of physiotherapy practice and wider employment market. The opportunity to develop these skills is designed to support your capacity to practice effectively across your chosen career span.

- A comprehensive range of student support mechanisms.

4. What you will learn

The programme is designed to provide education and training that is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and accredited by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP), therefore allowing the title of 'Physiotherapy' to be awarded.

The MSc Physiotherapy programme at Keele will, in an environment of reflection and research awareness, enable you to develop into an autonomous professional who is able to initiate and respond to change in a wide variety of settings. As a student you will embrace a vision of patient-centred care within contemporary health and social care environments. You will develop the attributes of a competent practitioner underpinned by knowledge enabling you to become, and remain, fit for purpose, delivering high quality, safe, integrated and effective care.

The programme is designed to meet the Health and Care Professions Council's (HCPC) Standards of Education and Training (2017) therefore graduates of the programme will be equipped to meet the:

- HCPC Standards of Proficiency - Physiotherapy (2023)
- HCPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (2024).

The programme is also aligned with the Learning and Development Principles for CSP Accreditation of Qualifying Programmes in Physiotherapy (CSP 2020) and Learning and Development principles: Quality Assurance Supplement for CSP Accreditation of Qualifying Programmes in Physiotherapy (2010). Students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills that are both generic to healthcare and specific to physiotherapy. The CSP's 2010 Physiotherapy Framework (see Table 1) defines and describes the behaviours (and underpinning values), knowledge and skills required for contemporary physiotherapy practice. It identifies that physiotherapy practice is made up of four elements that become integrated in practice:

Table 1: Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Framework

Element	Framework Domain
1. Physiotherapy values	Values
2. Physiotherapy knowledge	Knowledge & understanding of physiotherapy Political awareness Self-awareness
3. Physiotherapy practice skills	Physiotherapy practice skills
4. Generic behaviours, knowledge & skills: - for interacting	Communicating Helping others learn & develop Managing self & others Promoting integration & teamwork Putting the person at the centre of practice Respecting & promoting diversity
- for problem-solving & decision-making	Ensuring quality Improving & developing services Lifelong learning Practice decision making Researching & evaluating practice Using evidence to lead practice

These elements are taught, developed and assessed via individual modules and their inter-relationships across the programme. Achievement of outcomes that support the development of these elements allows students to successfully meet the HCPC three key areas of physiotherapy proficiency:

- Professional autonomy and accountability
- Identification and assessment of health and social care needs

- Knowledge, understanding and skills

The programme is designed to provide you with the opportunity to observe, experience and develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours related to the four pillars of practice. These are core capabilities that have been identified to ensure the future workforce are equipped to deliver innovative models of care to meet the increasing health and social care demands of individuals, families and communities. The four pillars of practice are clinical, research, education and leadership (including equality, diversity and inclusion).

Keele Graduate attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

5. How is the programme taught?

The programme is structured around key elements of physiotherapy practice which are introduced, developed and enhanced via individual modules over the two-year programme. Learning and teaching methods used in the programme vary according to the subject matter of the module. Teaching is undertaken in both the University and clinical environments. All teaching is designed to integrate University learning and learning undertaken in practice settings.

Physiotherapy practical skills are taught in small groups in the University, as are some other areas of the programme. The number of students within these groups is variable depending upon subject matter. In the practice setting students work with designated Practice Educators and are also supported by Visiting Tutors from the School. University based elements of the programme are taught using a variety of approaches including:

- **Lectures** where the lecturer provides students with a framework and context for further reading and independent study. Various lecture formats will be adopted including for example, **interactive lectures** designed to engage you in your learning, for example the use of Audience Response Systems and a range of other media; at other times **external speakers** may be invited. These individuals may be patients/ service users, clinicians, active researchers, academics in the field of physiotherapy and related health and social care practice; all offer invaluable perspectives designed to enhance your practice.
- **Practical work** allows you to observe the application of, or develop the acquisition of physiotherapy practical skills under the supervision of academic staff.
- **Learning in the practice environment** (practice experience) where you are able to develop your clinical and professional skills under the supervision of a designated Practice Educator(s).
- **Small group workshops** when you will work together with other students to, for example, critically appraise papers relating to some aspect of physiotherapy practice. Other approaches to the group workshop might involve working together over an extended period of time to develop a piece of work such as a poster which you may then subsequently present and defend.
- **Individual and group presentations** where you will research and present a topic with relevance to practice (for example, specific approaches to communication or reasoning for particular approaches in physiotherapy research) to the whole group with time allowed for interactive questions and discussion.
- **Student and tutor-led tutorials** which encourage topics of interest and relevance to a module to be discussed in depth within a small group; problem-solving scenarios and case studies may be used as a vehicle for such discussion.
- **Web-based learning** using the Keele Virtual Learning Environment (KLE): this medium is used by all modules and provides a platform for students to share online discussions and to access a wide range of learning resources. In addition, applications such as Google Communities and web-based audience feedback systems are used to support and monitor learning. 'Lecture Capture' and videos are also important adjuncts that are available to support your learning.
- **Independent study** will be required in each module; some study will be guided by tutors where necessary, but will also be self-directed in relation to the various demands of each module and its assessment. This type of learning may be facilitated by use of various resources such as work packages and access to specific web based programmes. Independent study also forms an important part of the development of the final year research project, which is supported by a designated member of the academic staff.
- You will participate in **inter-professional learning** with colleagues from other health and social care disciplines enabling you to learn with, from and about future colleagues.

Apart from these formal activities, one-to-one tutorials are available to support you on an individual basis, on request. This approach is designed to enable you to discuss any particular identified areas of difficulty, and particular learning needs. These tutorials will also give you feedback related to assessed work and support you in the development of strategies to manage your learning (e.g. writing action plans and portfolio use).

These learning and teaching methods enable you to achieve learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- Lectures and independent study enable you to broaden and deepen your existing professional knowledge and understanding of the core scientific principles and concepts of physiotherapy, and to transfer scientific knowledge from theory into practice.
- Practical work in both University and clinical environments supports you to develop, enhance and update your learning of new skills under the supervision of experts. It facilitates the development of safe and competent practice, and the integration of theoretical and practical knowledge and skills.
- Focusing on the management of common pathologies whilst demonstrating the transferability of these skills to the management of less common or multiple complex pathologies.
- Small group work, such as seminars, and workshops, provides opportunities for you to clarify and exchange ideas with both peers and staff, and to question and challenge professional concepts.
- Guided independent study and tutorials will assist you to explore in depth, and evaluate, aspects of professional practice.
- Seminars, tutorials and web-based e-learning activities encourage reflection upon your learning and to take responsibility for its development, and to collaborate with others to share, explore, and evaluate ideas in greater depth.

6. Teaching Staff

Programme Team: The permanent academic staff contributing to the programme are drawn from the University's School of Allied Health Professions & Pharmacy along with contributions from specialist experts when appropriate. The School team includes: professors, readers, senior lecturers, lecturers and academic related staff currently giving a staff student ratio for the programme of 1:15. All current permanent academic staff are fellows of, or are working towards, Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. All current permanent academic staff hold (or are working towards) academic qualifications to at least master's degree level, and currently twelve staff hold or are working towards a doctoral qualification. All staff who are physiotherapists are HCPC registered and have had experience working in the National Health Service (NHS) and other areas of healthcare. The academic staff group also currently includes Occupational Therapists, Radiographers, Prosthetists, Orthotists and Speech and Language Therapists. The staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level and includes individuals with expertise in learning and teaching and research. The work of research active staff has been widely published and shared via conference presentations.

The practice experience component of the programme is delivered and assessed by a range of Practice Educators. These are suitably experienced practitioners working across a broad range of practice environments. All have undertaken the School's Practice Educators training course, for which they are offered regular updates.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content (HCPC and CSP requirements will continue to be met). The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

7. What is the structure of the programme?

The programme commences in January and each year is divided into two semesters, this programme runs over an extended academic year with reduced vacation periods when compared to other three and four year programmes in the University.

Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

The programme is studied full time over two extended academic years and teaching is delivered via individual modules. Each year is arranged into two units called semesters which vary in length. In each academic year time is spent in both the University and practice settings (see Table 2 for exact number of weeks normally spent in each setting).

Table 2: Distribution of Programme Weeks

Year of Study	FHEQ level	Number of teaching weeks based in University	Number of assessment weeks based in University	Number of weeks based in Practice Experience settings	Total number of weeks
1	7	29	4	6	39
2	7	12 (plus 4 weeks university based placement) = 16	3	22	41
	Total	45	7	28	80

The programme is structured around key aspects of physiotherapy practice including:

- A fundamental understanding of biomedical and human sciences
- A strong grasp of physical assessment skills and clinical reasoning
- A repertoire of safe and effective prevention and treatment skills to address commonly occurring problems of movement dysfunction and wellbeing, to meet the needs of people of all ages
- Evidence based evaluation and discharge/modification skills
- Effective communication and inter-personal skills
- Leadership and management skills

These are introduced, developed and enhanced via individual modules (see Table 3) over the two-year programme. Reflective of contemporary health and social care our placements offer students' exposure to physiotherapists and health and social care professionals working in all four pillars of practice (clinical, research, education and leadership).

Table 3: Overview of Modules and Credit Value:

Year 1: Compulsory modules	Module code	FHEQ Level	Credits	Period
Block A				
Pre arrival introduction and work packages	N/A	N/A	0	
Transition into Physiotherapy Studies [incorporating interprofessional Education 1]	PTY-40067	7	15	Semester 2
Essentials of Physiotherapy Assessment	PTY-40069	7	15	Semester 2
Foundations of Physiotherapy Management	PTY-40070	7	15	Semester 2
Practice Experience A1	PTY-30063	6	Pass/Fail	Semester 2
Health, Wellbeing and Behaviour Change	PTY-40072	7	15	Semester 2
Block B				
Advancing assessment & Treatment Skills	PTY-40071	7	15	Semester 1
Evaluating Healthcare and Evidence Based Practice	PTY-40068	7	15	Semester 1
Enhanced Physiotherapy Management for Complex Patients	PTY-40074	7	15	Semester 1
Total			105	

Year 2: Compulsory modules	Module code	FHEQ Level	Credits	Period
Block C				
Management of Complex Patient Caseloads	PTY-40073	7	15	Semester 2
Research Proposal	PTY-40075	7	15	Semester 2
Practice Experience A2	PTY-30138	6	Pass/Fail	Semester 2
Practice Experience A3	PTY-30140	6	Pass/Fail	Semester 2
Practice Experience A4	PTY-30142	6	Pass/Fail	Semester 2
Research Project*	PTY-40066	7	30	Semester 2*
Block D				
Leadership and Service Development	PTY-40076	7	15	Semester 1
Interprofessional Education Activity	N/A	6	Pass/Fail	Semester 1
Practice Experience A5	PTY-30144	6	Pass/Fail	Semester 1
Practice Experience A6	PTY-30146	6	Pass/Fail	Semester 1
Total			75	

*Launched in Year 2, Sem2 (Spring) but runs through to following academic year - i.e. Year 2 of programme, Sem1 (Autumn)

8. Final and intermediate awards

Exit Awards: The programme is designed to educate physiotherapy practitioners. Consequently, the expectation is that students will complete the full programme of study obtaining 180 credits and pass all Practice Experience modules to be awarded an MSc in Physiotherapy (pre-registration). If a student leaves the programme before completing 180 credits they may be eligible for an alternative award. Physiotherapists must however, complete an approved programme of study in order to be eligible to apply for professional registration and so use the protected title of 'physiotherapist'. Consequently, any interim/alternative award will not contain the term 'physiotherapy'.

MSc Physiotherapy	180 credits plus a minimum of 1,000 hours practice experience	You will require at least 180 credits at level 7 in addition to pass marks for all placement experience modules within the programme (the latter must amount to a minimum of 1,000 hours practice experience). Graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC and on successful registration are entitled to practice physiotherapy in the UK and apply for chartered membership of the CSP.
MSc Health and Rehabilitation	180 credits	You will require at least 180 credits at level 7 This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are not entitled to practice physiotherapy.
Postgraduate Diploma in Health and Rehabilitation	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 7 N.B. The title of any such award will not include the title physiotherapy or physical therapy. This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are not entitled to practice physiotherapy.
Postgraduate Certificate in Health and Rehabilitation	60 credits	You will require at least 60 credits at level 7 N.B. The title of any such award will not include the title physiotherapy or physical therapy. This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are not entitled to practice physiotherapy.

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- **Written work/ assignments** test the quality and application of subject knowledge. In addition, they allow you to demonstrate your ability to carry out basic literature searches, communicate your ideas effectively in writing and support your arguments with appropriate referencing. Written pieces vary in their length depending upon the module.
- **Written Examinations** are undertaken in a range of different formats and include online multiple choice examinations, web based peer assessment, essay and short answer questions. This type of assessment is designed to test your knowledge and (as appropriate), your ability to apply that knowledge appropriately to professional practice. Examinations may consist of essay, short answer and/or multiple-choice questions.
- **Reflective assignments** enable you to develop your skills of reflective learning and practice and support portfolio development. These are fundamental skills used by all health care professionals as part of their continuing professional development.
- **Oral presentations** assess your subject knowledge and understanding. They may also be used to test your ability to work effectively as a member of a team, to communicate what you know orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of your own personal development.
- **Practical Examinations/ Interactive Practical Assessments (IPA)** occur in modules that involve the teaching and learning of practical clinical skills. These examinations enable you to demonstrate the safe and effective application of practical clinical skills, to justify your clinical choices and offer reasoned alternatives.
- **Research project** is a student led piece of independent research. Nominated supervisors support you throughout the process, which includes gaining ethical approval from the Student Project Ethics Committee (SPEC) within the School or other appropriate ethics committee. This assessment develops capacity as an independent learner and ability to engage in the research process. It also develops IT skills in use of various software for presentation and data analysis (e.g. Word, Excel, SPSS).
- **Practice assessment** is undertaken during Practice Experience modules and enables you to demonstrate

the safe and effective application of professional practice.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

[1] Summative assessment - the assessment of student performance against a standard where a final mark is awarded.

[2] Formative assessment - informal assessment processes designed to provide feedback to students to improve their learning.

10. Accreditation

This programme has been approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and accredited by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP).

11. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

Suitable qualifications for entry include:

- A 2:1 degree [or above] in an appropriate science-based subject e.g. Kinesiology. Human Biology and/ or human anatomy modules should normally have formed part of the degree programme of study.
- Successful completion of a 3 year diploma in Physiotherapy.
- Individuals with a 2:2 undergraduate degree in an appropriate science or exercise-based subject WITH a minimum of 2 years relevant clinical experience AND evidence of continued professional development activity.

Further details of the specific academic requirements for the MSc Physiotherapy Programme can be found at the following location: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/postgraduatestudy/postgraduatecourses/physiotherapypre-registration/#entry-requirements>

All offers are normally conditional upon the applicant having a satisfactory Occupational Health assessment, and an enhanced clearance by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The School requires students to become student members of the CSP. Student membership of the CSP provides access to a range of useful resources and also provides insurance for practice experience/clinical placements. Further information can be found at the CSP website www.csp.org.uk.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a recognised qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the programme is Academic IELTS 7.0 (to include a minimum of 6.5 in each subtest) or equivalent.

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will sit a diagnostic language assessment. Using this assessment, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. *NB:* students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

13. How are students supported on the programme?

The School provides a comprehensive range of support for student learning on the programme in addition to that provided by the University. Key to the success of this support are the following:

- As a student you are allocated an Academic Mentor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on

academic and practice progress. Academic Mentors also offer pastoral support, acting as a first point of contact for non-academic issues which may affect student learning. Academic Mentors can refer you on to a range of specialist health, welfare and financial services coordinated by the University's Student Services.

- Module Leaders provide support for learning on the modules and the related assessments. They ensure that appropriate tutorial support is available via the module team and that the team provides feedback in a timely manner. Module Leaders also ensure that individual feedback on in-course assessments is available to all students.
- Disability Inclusion Tutor(s) provide support for students with disabilities (including specific learning difficulties) and works closely with wider University student support staff.
- Practice Educators provide supervision whilst you are on clinical placement
- Visiting Tutors liaise between the School and Clinical Bases and provide you with support during clinical placements.

Throughout the year members of academic staff operate an 'open door' policy during normal working hours. All members of academic staff are available to see you on an individual basis outside normal working hours via a flexible appointments system. Those meetings may be face to face or can be facilitated via electronic platforms e.g. MS Teams if you are, for example, on a placement that is distant from the University.

14. Learning Resources

The programme is delivered in modern teaching rooms, all of which are equipped with computers, internet access and projection equipment. Rooms are designed to be flexible and can be used for larger groups, and more informally for small groups working together. The learning resources available to students on the programme include:

- An extensive collection of materials relevant to postgraduate study held in both the main University Library on Keele campus, and in the Health Library on the campus of the University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust. A number of relevant journals are also accessible online to all registered students, and are accessible from anywhere in the world with a University username and password and internet access.
- The Keele Virtual Learning Environment (KLE) provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources including: lecture notes, presentations, and discussion boards which enable students and tutors to discuss topics; all information about the programme; and all modules and other materials designed specifically for particular modules. The KLE can also be used to develop reusable learning objects (RLOs) and integrate learning with assessment.

The School has a wide range of relevant teaching materials available including a large selection of anatomical models, video and DVD materials, Advanced Life Support Patient Simulator, electrotherapy equipment, and an extensive range of equipment related to exercise therapy, including small apparatus, and adjustable plinths. Various pieces of specialised exercise testing equipment are also available (e.g. gas analysis, cycle ergometer, treadmill with bodyweight support facility, sensory testing kits, heart rate monitors, video, etc.).

- Regular opportunities to attend the University's Anatomy Suite (situated in the Medical School) are embedded in teaching throughout the course of the programme.
- Computers for student use are situated in both the Main Library and in the Health Library.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

Some students may have the opportunity to present their final year project work via poster or presentation at conferences. A contribution from the School towards the costs incurred by students in these ventures may be available and will be considered on an individual basis. Such opportunities occur outside the normal timetabled programme; thus a commitment of time will be required from students.

Discrete components of this programme are not currently available as individual units for continuing professional development.

16. Additional Costs

During the programme there will be some additional mandatory costs for the student:-

Students are responsible for reasonable costs incurred in travelling to local placements and making travel arrangements - in the same way as for travel to and from the University generally. However, for additional travel incurred on placements, some costs can be reclaimed as per the NHS Learning Support Fund guidelines (Available at <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf>). Students will also be able to reclaim reasonable costs for additional accommodation required whilst on placement according to the NHS Learning Support Fund guidelines. Not all students are eligible to access The Learning Support Fund, so students are advised to check their eligibility.

Student membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy costs £88 for two years payable online prior to the start of the programme.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

Clearance for an enhanced UK DBS check is mandatory for entry on to the programme. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks reveal the criminal record of an individual. Any serious offences will show up on the check. An enhanced DBS check will reveal both unspent and spent convictions. DBS checks are designed to be used to safeguard vulnerable groups such as children or at-risk adults. It helps organisations to apply safe recruitment procedures and it also allows organisations to recruit people suitable for certain types of roles.

- Our admissions team at Keele will provide you with the information you need to apply for your UK DBS check.
- Please note you will need to pay for the enhanced DBS with the associated digital ID check (c.£49.50*) as well as the update service (£16 per year*) which allows for future DBS monitoring.
- **In addition, international students** will be required to present a police clearance letter or "Certificate of No Criminal Convictions" (CNCC) from your country of domicile. You will need to cover the cost of obtaining clearance documentation from your home country.
- Once you have completed your DBS Form, the DBS will send your "DBS Certificate" to the address you entered on your UCheck online form as your "current address." Certificates are sent in the post.
- Please keep your certificate safe. You may need to show it to your placement provider at the start of your placements as part of their induction process.

DBS Check: Registering with the DBS online Update Service

- Once you receive the result of your DBS check, you will also need to register with the DBS online Update Service as we will be checking your current DBS status at the start of Year 2.
- Registration with the Update Service is time limited so be sure to read the information contained in the link below, so you do not miss the deadline.
- You will need your "DBS Certificate" number to register for the update service.
- Registration lasts for one year and does not automatically update. Registration currently costs £16 a year*.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dbs-update-service-applicant-guide/dbs-update-service-applicant-guide>

Please note, it is your responsibility to ensure that we can obtain your current UK DBS clearance for the duration of your study.

*The current costs for a DBS check are detailed on the additional costs webpage:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/postgraduatestudy/tuitionfeesandfunding/postgraduatetuitionfees/additionalcosts>

Vaccinations

Various **vaccinations** must be completed before you undertake your first Practice Experience module (placement). These are required to protect you, your family and your patients from infections and/or diseases that you may be exposed to whilst working as a student health professional. Obtaining these vaccinations and evidence of their completion is your responsibility and may be completed with your GP who will charge for these services. You are advised to check the cost and feasibility of receiving these vaccinations at your GP practice. If you are unable to obtain vaccinations via your GP, we will be able to arrange for you to receive them at the University, but you should be aware that you will be responsible for the cost incurred. Occupational Health screening costs will be met by the school.

You will be supplied with 3 approved clinical uniforms to be worn for your Practice Experience modules [and for some examinations]. The school will arrange for these uniforms to be supplied for the whole cohort. You will be required to purchase a practical kit (polo shirt, shorts and tracksuit bottoms) to wear during the skills based teaching aspects of the programme and black shoes suitable for the your practice experience modules.

In addition, we recommend that students purchase a good quality stethoscope such as the **3M Littmann® Classic III Monitoring Stethoscope**. Stethoscopes can be ordered from several companies (approximate cost £75).

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

17. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.
- The programme is subject to periodic quality performance reviews by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP).

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

18. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

b. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

In addition:

1. A Disabled Persons Guide to becoming a Health Professional, Health and Care Professions Council 2007
2. Academic and Practitioner Standards in Physiotherapy, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, 2001.
3. Benner P (2001) From novice to expert: Excellence and power in clinical nursing practice. Prentice Hall NJ.
4. Benner P (2009) Expertise in nursing practice: caring, clinical judgment and ethics. Springer Pub Co New York.
5. Career Framework for Health Descriptors, Skills for Health 2010.
6. Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Code for professional values and behaviour (2019)
<http://www.csp.org.uk/publications/code-members-professional-values-behaviour>.
7. Delivering the Forward View: NHS Planning Guidance 2016/17 - 2020/21, NHS England 2015.
8. Five Year Forward View, NHS England, October 2014.
9. Health and Social Care Act 2012, Department of Health.
10. Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Act 2015, Department of Health.
11. [Learning and Development Principles for CSP Accreditation of Qualifying Programmes in Physiotherapy \(2020\), Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.](#)
12. [Quality Assurance Standards \(2012\) Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.](#)
13. [Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics \(2024\) Health and Care Professions Council](#)
14. [Standards of Education and Training \(2017\) Health and Care Professions Council](#)
15. [Standards of Proficiency, Health and Care Professions Council \(2023\)](#)
16. The Equality Act 2010
17. World Report On Disability, World Health Organisation 2011
18. The Topol Review (2019)
19. The NHS long term plan (2019)
20. HEE Maximising Leadership Learning in the Pre-Registration Healthcare Curricula: Model and Guidelines for Healthcare Education Providers (2018)
21. A Digital framework for Allied Health Professionals and Development of a Digital Competency framework for

19. Programme specific regulations

Programme Regulations: MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration)

Final Award and Award Titles	MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration)
Intermediate Award(s)	MSc Health and Rehabilitation Postgraduate Diploma in Health and Rehabilitation Postgraduate Certificate in Health and Rehabilitation
Last modified	July 2025: DBS and OH information added
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/ga/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions, variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

Scope

These programme specific regulations apply to the MSc Physiotherapy programme within the provision of the School of Allied Health Professions & Pharmacy.

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

Variation 1: Time limit

This programme varies from Regulation C1.

The maximum timeframe for completion of studies will not normally exceed 4 academic years. Guidance: This time limit is designed to ensure appropriate currency in student learning/ professional competence thus supporting the maintenance of appropriate clinical standards and patient/ colleague safety.

Students taking a leave of absence will not normally be permitted to extend this leave of absence beyond one full academic year.

Guidance: This time limit is designed to ensure appropriate currency in student learning/ professional competence

thus supporting the maintenance of appropriate clinical standards and public/ colleague/ personal safety.

Variation 2: Module assessment

In order to progress students are normally required to pass the required assessment for all modules. The following statements relating to assessment practice are recommended by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy:

- Condonement of failure is not normally permitted.
- Condonement or compensation of failure is **not** permitted in the practice experience modules of the programme.
- Condonement or compensation of failure is **not** permitted within any academic modules, which are related to practical skills.

Variation 3: Progression

In order to progress students are normally required to pass the required assessment for all modules.

Additional Requirements

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

Additional requirement 1: Entry Requirements

1.1 Entrance to the programme with advanced standing is not normally permitted.

1.2 Acceptance on the programme is dependent upon satisfactory medical screening.

1.3 Acceptance on the programme is dependent upon satisfactory review of any criminal convictions via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) enhanced disclosure.

Guidance: Where any applicant or student with disclosed convictions are accepted in principle onto the programme or permitted to continue on the programme, their successful completion of the programme is dependent on seeking approval from sufficient placement partners to place the student in practice settings to fulfil the placement hours requirement of the programme. If the School of Allied Health Professions are unable to secure placements on the grounds of a conviction, the student/applicant will be withdrawn and/or may be offered an alternative pathway of study (Note: any alternative programme will NOT result in a Physiotherapy qualification)

1.4 On commencement of the programme all students must complete consent and disclosure documentation. This document must then be updated annually or sooner if there are changes to an individual student status.

Guidance: Any student who is found to have an undisclosed health condition, which may prejudice their ability to perform physiotherapy effectively, may be required to leave the programme. Similarly, any student who is found to have an undisclosed criminal conviction may be asked to leave the programme (refer to guidance above).

1.5 On commencement of the programme, all Physiotherapy students must register as student members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Physiotherapy students are, for the duration of their programme, student members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

Guidance: As Student Members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, students have the benefit of professional liability insurance cover for practice experience in the UK and other countries provided they are appropriately supervised. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure the validity of this insurance outside the UK. Failure to register with the CSP will impact upon the student's professional liability status and will preclude the student from undertaking the practice experience modules of the programme. Such action will preclude completion of the programme. In these circumstances the student will be required to withdraw from the programme.

1.6 All physiotherapy students are obliged to comply with current rules and guidance produced by the regulatory [Health and Care Professions Council] and professional [Chartered Society of Physiotherapy] bodies. Failure to abide by CSP and HCPC rules and/or guidance may, following an investigation, result in the student being required to withdraw from the programme.

Guidance: As student healthcare professionals, individuals have responsibilities with regard to their conduct and behaviour. Access to current HCPC, CSP and other relevant documents, will be provided to each student on commencement of the programme.

1.7 All students must comply with the School's requirements with regard to immunisation. Failure to comply with

this requirement will preclude the student from undertaking the practice experience modules of the programme. Such action will preclude satisfactory completion of the programme. In such circumstances the student will be required to withdraw from the programme.

Additional requirement 2: Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

Clearance for an enhanced DBS check is mandatory on this programme. Students will be provided with instructions on how to apply for a DBS check, including a link to apply via a company called UCheck. Students must also sign up to the online DBS update service once the DBS certificate has been received.

Any student who has not completed the DBS application and sign up process, or who has not made the Programme Team, Student Support, Admissions Team aware of any Exceptional Circumstances, by the first working day in November (for September start programmes) or the first working day in March (for January start programmes) will be in breach of regulation B8 (11.1) in relation to providing incomplete information during the application process, and will enter the formal termination of studies process.

Additional requirement 3: Occupational Health

An Occupational Health assessment confirming fitness to commence the programme is mandatory on this programme.

Any student who has not completed all aspects of the Occupational Health process, or who has not made the Programme Team, Student Support, Occupational Health Team aware of any Exceptional Circumstances, by the first working day in January (for September start programmes) or the first working day in May (for January start programmes) will be in breach of regulation B8 (11.1) in relation to providing incomplete information during the application process, and will enter the formal termination of studies process.

Additional requirement 4: Practice Experience Modules

4.1 The School will provide comprehensive requirements and guidelines for practice experience modules to which students must adhere. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in disciplinary action including action under the University Fitness to Practise regulation.

4.2 Where a student's professional conduct and/or suitability is deemed not to meet professional standards the Programme Team may deem it inappropriate/unacceptable for the student to participate in the practice experience modules. Subsequently, the student may be required to withdraw from the programme.

4.3 A student demonstrating unprofessional/dangerous/unsafe behaviour in the practice setting may be withdrawn from the practice experience module and may, following an investigation, be required to withdraw from the programme.

Guidance: Students are also referred to the MSc Physiotherapy Practice Experience handbook for further information.

4.4 On distant practice experience settings, it is the student's responsibility to book non-hospital accommodation.

Students who are residing in practice experience setting accommodation must abide by the rules of the individual residences. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action including action under the University Fitness to Practise regulation. Payment of practice experience setting accommodation invoices is the responsibility of the student.

4.5 Students who use their own transport to travel to and from practice experience settings must provide a copy of their insurance documentation to the School in order to confirm that their vehicles are covered for travel to and from their places of employment.

Guidance: Students are advised to check with their insurance companies if they are using their vehicle to travel between community bases during a working day that they are covered to do so.

4.6 No responsibility can be accepted by the School/University for personal property in practice experience settings or in practice experience setting accommodation.

Additional requirement 5: Attendance Requirements

5.1 The MSc in Physiotherapy (pre-registration) is a qualifying professional programme that has been accredited by a professional body and approved by the Health and Care Professionals Council. This accreditation and approval are subject to students attending all the components of the course and demonstrating the intended learning outcomes of the programme. As such students are expected to attend ALL components of the programme. Students are expected to comply with our attendance monitoring systems accurately and honestly.

Students who do not comply with this attendance regulation may be subject to University disciplinary procedures

(University Regulation B1) and/ or Health and Conduct/ Fitness to Practice procedures (University Regulation B5).

Guidance: Attendance is monitored and students flagged with poor attendance will normally be contacted to explore the reasons for absence, offer support where required and/or refer for disciplinary investigation. Students with a poor attendance record may be required to withdraw from the programme. Absences may be authorised (at the discretion of the Programme Lead) where students comply fully with the procedure for reporting sickness and non-attendance.

Students who fail to comply with our attendance policies and procedures may be acting outside their scope of practice and be in breach of the CSP Code of Members' Professional Values and Behaviours (2011) <http://www.csp.org.uk> and the Health and Care Professions Council Guidance on conduct and ethics for students (2017) <http://www.hcpc-uk.org.uk>. In such circumstances the School may implement University disciplinary procedures and/ or Health and Conduct/ Fitness to Practice procedures.

All practice experience modules/placements are a mandatory component of the programme, students are to attend any placement they are allocated. This may mean that there is financial outlay by the student to be able to get to and from placement and where the placement is too far to travel from Keele/home accommodation, this will incur extra accommodation costs. It is the student's responsibility to ensure they can fund this and be able to attend placement at the allocated time (for further guidance refer to the placement handbook).

Additional requirement 6: Module Assessment

6.1 The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and the Health and Care Professions Council require that academic regulations for the approved MSc Physiotherapy programme are appropriate. As such they may be more stringent than University norms in some areas in order to ensure safe and effective physiotherapy practice.

6.2 Assessment exemptions are not normally permitted.

6.3 Students must comply with the submission requirements documented in the current MSc Physiotherapy student handbook.

6.4 Submission of health-related exceptional circumstances for consideration at three or more examinations boards will normally require the student to be referred for assessment to the Occupational Health Service and/or School Health and Conduct Committee.

Guidance: In these circumstances the school would initiate a referral to the Occupational Health Service in order for them to:

- *Explore with the student whether any underlying health issues exist and to provide guidance to the school about how it may be managed effectively.*
- *Determine what (if any) support measures and/or reasonable adjustments the school should put in place to maximise the student's academic performance.*

Additional requirement 7: Appropriate Engagement with Studies

7.1 Students must complete and sign consent and disclosure documentation at the beginning of each academic year in order to participate in the practical skills components of the programme. Students who do not complete this documentation will be unable to participate in the practical skills components of the programme. Such a circumstance will preclude students from undertaking relevant assessment[s] and also practice experience modules and will result in the student being required to withdraw from the programme.

Guidance: Students are advised that failure to disclose/ update information in this consent and disclosure documentation will be considered a breach of professional responsibility. Consequently disciplinary and /or Fitness to Practise procedures may be invoked and the student may be required to withdraw from the programme.

Additional requirement 8: Student Health and Wellbeing and Fitness to Practise

8.1 Students registered on the programme are subject to the [University Fitness to Practise regulation](#) and procedures and the School of Allied Health Professions & Pharmacy Health and conduct procedures.

Guidance: A student, whose health and/ or behaviour gives cause for concern regarding professional suitability and/or conduct will normally, in the first instance, be advised of the implications of their health and/or behaviour and offered the opportunity to address the concerns raised. They will, at this point be advised that, should there be no change in their health and/or behaviour, they may be referred to the School Health and Conduct Committee.

Where health and/or behaviour gives cause for concern regarding professional suitability and/or conduct is repeated, the student may be issued with a School written warning and may also be referred to the School Health and Conduct Committee.

Where student behaviour gives cause for grave concern regarding professional suitability and/or conduct the

student will be referred directly to the School Health and Conduct Committee.

The School reserves the right to advise HCPC of the outcomes of student involvement with Fitness to Practise processes on publication of award pass lists.

8.2 The School of Allied Health Professions has a duty to ensure that students registered on the programme are fit to practise, in order to protect present or future patients, clients or service users and to comply with the requirements of professional/regulatory bodies. Students registered on the programme must comply with the requirements of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

8.3 Students must make known at the first opportunity, any issues which may impact upon their ability to study effectively.

Guidance: It is the student's obligation to disclose any circumstances that may affect either their capacity to study effectively or their professional suitability and/or conduct. Failure to make such a declaration may constitute an issue of fitness to practise and may limit the grounds a student may invoke to support an appeal. Examples of the types of issues that it may be appropriate to disclose include temporary or permanent changes in health status, adverse personal circumstances or changes in Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) status (these examples are not exhaustive). Where a student may be unsure as to whether disclosure is appropriate they must seek advice from their academic mentor/personal tutor, year head or the programme lead.

The School Health and Conduct Committee will monitor issues regarding student health and conduct that cause concern regarding a student's fitness to practise in line with the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science's Fitness to Practise policy and [Keele University Fitness to Practise Regulation](#).

Additional requirement 9: Progression

9.1 In order to undertake any/all practice experience (placement) modules the student must normally have passed the relevant campus-based module(s) underpinning each placement prior to its start.

Guidance: In the case of failure of an underpinning module, the Programme Lead, Head of Practice Education and the Personal Tutor will consider each individual case and recommend an appropriate course of action to ensure, as far as possible, safe practice in the practice setting. This action may delay the student's progress on the programme and may result in a delay in graduation. The School reserves the right to prevent a student from participating in practice experience if there is reason to demonstrate that they do not have the core skills to be safe in the practice setting.

9.2 In order to be eligible to be assessed for a practice experience module, students must normally complete a minimum 80% of the anticipated practice education module hours.

9.3 Across the programme only one practice experience module may be reassessed following initial failure. Failure, of a subsequent practice experience module will normally result in the student being required to withdraw from the programme.

Guidance: Students who fail one practice experience module at the first attempt will be given the opportunity to be reassessed in the module in the same (or a different location in the same area of practice) which will facilitate achievement of the learning outcomes. If passed, the reassessed practice experience module mark will be identified as a pass grade.

9.4 In the event of failure of a practice experience module, the required time needed to successfully achieve the outstanding intended learning outcomes will be negotiated and agreed between the Practice Education Lead (or their appointed designate) and the Practice Educator. The required duration will be informed by relevant student and practice needs and determined on a case by case basis.

Guidance: In the event of substantial levels of authorised absence from a practice experience module, a review of the students' achievement of the module outstanding assessment criteria and number of practice experience hours accrued will be undertaken by the Module Leader and/or Practice Education Lead (or their appointed designate). If the student has been unable to achieve all the module assessment criteria and/or there is a significant shortfall of accrued practice experience hours appropriate remedial action will be recommended by the Practice Educator and/or Practice Education Lead (or their appointed designate).

If a student is unable to successfully complete a placement due to other reasons (e.g. placement failure, ill health, disruption during placement etc.), the Practice Placement Team will endeavour to find a placement at the earliest possible opportunity. This may mean completion of a placement outside of the normal time period, and in exceptional circumstances, outside of the allocated "outstanding placement" windows that are highlighted on each programme's academic year structure. In rare circumstances, this may prevent timely progression to the next year of study or graduation (for further guidance refer to the placement handbook).

Additional requirement 10: Awards

10.1 *The MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration)* is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and *Physiotherapist* is a protected title. The programme is also approved by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP).

10.2 Students who have successfully completed all assessments (including a minimum of one thousand [1,000] hours of practice experience) and so have obtained full credits for the programme, will be awarded an MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration). These graduates will then be eligible to apply to register with the Health and Care Professions Council, a pre-requisite for employment as a Physiotherapist in the UK. Graduates will also be eligible for full membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

Guidance: In order to achieve MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) and be eligible for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council candidates MUST successfully complete all modules, achieve 180 credits and normally a minimum 1000 hours practice experience.

10.3 Students who have successfully completed all assessments and accrued 180 credits, but have not successfully completed the practice experience element of the programme, will not have accrued the required 1,000 hours practice experience. As such, the award will not include the term 'Physiotherapy'. Candidates who obtain an award of this type will not be eligible for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council or membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. The title of any such award will be MSc 'Health and Rehabilitation'

10.4 A candidate who fails to attain the standard required for the award of MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) degree, but is entitled to an intermediate award, will not be eligible for membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy or for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. The title of any such award will include the title 'Health and Rehabilitation'

10.5 Where an award is made under Ordinance IV (Aegrotat award), that award will be an unclassified degree in Health and Rehabilitation. Aegrotat awards will not include the term 'Physiotherapy'. Candidates who obtain an Aegrotat award, will not be eligible for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council or membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

Other Regulatory Matters Specific to the Course not Covered by the University Academic Regulations

All students must comply with School Health and Safety Guidelines contained within the MSc Physiotherapy student handbook.

Students must comply with the dress code required by practice experience settings, information about dress code is included in the Practice Experience Handbook.

Students must comply with the dress code required for practical classes.

Jewellery is not to be worn during practical classes or in practice experience settings except for wedding rings and one pair of stud earrings.

Guidance: If a student raises a faith related issue with regard to dress code/ clothing/ jewellery regulations the School will contact a relevant religious authority for guidance.

It is the responsibility of each student to organise appropriate accommodation for teaching/ practice experience/ assessment periods outside the normal university semester dates.

[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 07 July 2025

What's Changed

Updated information relating to DBS and Occupational Health requirements added to the programme-specific regulations annex

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2025/26	CLAIRE STAPLETON	19 June 2025	
1	2024/25	CLAIRE STAPLETON	10 June 2024	
1.2	2023/24	CLAIRE STAPLETON	19 September 2023	Amended to reflect the modules delivered in AY23/24 - this is a transition year between two differing module delivery patterns as such PTY-40073 runs in Sem 1 and Sem 2 - for two different cohorts. PTY-40076 does not feature in this programme specification (AY23/24) but will re-appear in next years programme specification (AY24/25)
1.1	2023/24	CLAIRE STAPLETON	07 August 2023	Corrected module code for Practice Experience A2. Change to the order of module delivery and position of placement experience modules.
1	2023/24	CLAIRE STAPLETON	17 April 2023	
1	2022/23	CLAIRE STAPLETON	19 August 2022	