

Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MSci Physiotherapy MSci Physiotherapy with International Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Single Honours (Masters)
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	4 years; 5 years with the International Year between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	This programme is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and accredited by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP). For further details see the section on Accreditation.
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £9,535*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £24,900**</p> <p>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee</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.

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

** These fees are for new students. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. What is an Integrated Master's programme?

The Masters level programme described in this document allows you to focus exclusively on the study of

Physiotherapy. Physiotherapy has been offered at Keele University since 1994. Integrated master's awards are delivered through a programme that combines study at a bachelor's degree with honours with study at master's level. As such, a student graduates with an integrated master's degree after a single four-year programme of study. The Integrated Masters programme described in this document allows graduates to gain enhanced skills and knowledge to masters level.

3. Overview of the Programme

Physiotherapy emphasises the use of physical approaches in the promotion, maintenance and restoration of an individual's physical, psychological and social wellbeing, encompassing variations in health status. Physiotherapists work with individuals to maximise quality of life by restoring, maintaining and improving function and movement, by promoting physical approaches to optimising health, wellbeing and illness prevention. Physiotherapists deliver high quality services to meet patient and population needs in accessible, responsive, timely ways and work to help address health inequalities. The profession is founded on a strong, evolving evidence base, a broad scope of practice, clinical leadership and patient-centred professionalism. The Keele MSci Physiotherapy programme reflects the shifting emphasis away from increasing the quantity of care available towards enhancing the quality of care, moving away from a medical disease model towards a health model based on prevention of disease and personal responsibility. The programme is designed to ensure that its content is current, reflecting contemporary physiotherapy practice in the UK, and is sufficiently flexible to accommodate the changing demands of health and social care and the future requirements of the profession, both in the UK and globally. The programme is committed to the development and provision of high quality multi- and inter-professional learning.

As the programme progresses you will learn to appreciate the importance of your role in the education of patients, carers and colleagues and will be able to demonstrate sensitivity to the context of learning situations in a healthcare environment. You will develop responsibility for the ownership, planning and implementation of your own continuing professional development and your studies will equip you to function effectively in partnership and leadership roles. In the final year the programme offers the opportunity to explore specialist areas of practice and [where appropriate] to undertake and develop those skills in a practice environment. The School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy utilises a range of high quality practice based settings in order to deliver the clinical component of the programme.

The MSci Physiotherapy programme at Keele will, in an environment of reflection and research awareness, enable you to develop into an autonomous professional, 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 has embedded the following themes:

- **Core subject knowledge** including anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and related clinical skills and physiotherapy subject knowledge;
- **Physiotherapy practice placements**
- **Health and wellbeing and resilience** for themselves and service users and their carers;
- **Leadership** including professionalism and ethics;
- **Education** including students, service users and carers, and peers and multidisciplinary team members;
- **Research** or Evidence based practice.

In your programme you will 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.

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

Develop the knowledge, skills, behaviours and values that underpin contemporary physiotherapy practice and develop 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. This four year programme also offers you the opportunity to develop learning in some specialist areas of practice, these areas may be self-selected via negotiation with or guided directly by academic staff to support your professional profile. Hours spent in the practice experience environment will exceed the minimum 1000 hours required by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP), this additional capacity is intended to consolidate and enhance your clinical skills.

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, modules such as Health Behaviour Change, Learning and Teaching in Healthcare, Leadership and Management for Healthcare Professionals and Enhanced Practice modules continue that tradition. Innovation is evident in many aspects of the programme, for example, in terms of the inter relationship of modules, their 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 by a range of highly skilled, highly qualified and knowledgeable staff some of whom are nationally and internationally recognised as experts in their field.
- Practice experience undertaken in a variety of healthcare environments that is supported by accredited practice educators with extensive knowledge and experience in a range of clinical specialities.
- Inter-professional education is embedded within the programme allowing you to learn alongside other health and social care students. This approach 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.
- Student choice [subject to guidance and student profile] is a feature of the programme. The opportunity to make choices relating to enhanced practice modules in Year 4 enables you to consolidate and refine your knowledge and skills in key areas of practice.
- 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.
- Opportunity for international placement experience [subject to satisfactory student performance and availability], such experiences are designed to support your personal and professional development.
- A comprehensive range of high quality student support mechanisms.

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

5. What you will learn

The programme is designed to meet the Health and Care Professions Council's [HCPC] Standards of Education and Training (2017) therefore as a successful graduate of the programme, you will be equipped to meet the:

- HCPC Standards of Proficiency - Physiotherapy (2023): [Physiotherapists | \(hcpc-uk.org\)](https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards-of-proficiency/physiotherapy)
- HCPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (2023). [Standards of conduct, performance and ethics | \(hcpc-uk.org\)](https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards-of-conduct-performance-and-ethics)

The programme is also aligned with the Learning and Development Principles for the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) Accreditation of Qualifying Programmes in Physiotherapy (CSP 2010). As a student you will develop knowledge, understanding and skills that are both generic to healthcare and specific to physiotherapy. The CSP's 2011 (updated May 2020) 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 as identified in table 1.

<https://www.csp.org.uk/professional-clinical/cpd-education/professional-development/professional-frameworks/physiotherapy>

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for interacting • for problem-solving & decision-making 	Communicating Helping others learn & develop Managing self & others Promoting integration & teamwork Putting the person at the centre of practice Respecting & promoting diversity 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 four years of 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

Annex A provides details of when and in which modules the four elements of physiotherapy practice are developed and assessed across the four year programme (available on request)

[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.

6. 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 four year programme. Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level 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 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 an allocated practice educator(s).
- **Small group workshops** when you will work together with other students to, for example, critically appraise research 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 explored 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. Online learning utilising online platforms will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning. In addition, applications such as web-based audience feedback systems are used to support and monitor learning. Communication platforms such as Microsoft Teams may be used for synchronous learning activities such as online lectures, workshops and seminars to complement in-situ sessions. Videos are also important adjuncts that are available to support your learning.
- **Simulation** using low and high fidelity purpose built simulation facilities in the faculty where you are able to develop your clinical and professional skills under the supervision of facilitators.
- **Independent study** will be required in each module; some study will be guided by tutors where necessary, but will also be self-directed depending upon the various demands of each module and its assessment. This type of learning may be facilitated by use of a range of 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 an allocated member of the academic staff.
- You will participate in **inter-professional learning** in groups made up of a range of other health and social care students, an approach that enables you to learn with, from and about your current peer group and the perspectives of future colleagues.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the 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 the 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.
- Focussing 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.

7. Teaching Staff

The permanent academic staff contributing to the programme are drawn from the University's School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy along with contributions from specialist experts when appropriate. The school team includes: professors, senior lecturers, lecturers, teaching fellows 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 several staff hold or are working towards a doctoral qualification. All staff who are physiotherapists are HCPC registered and have had experience working in the NHS and other areas of healthcare. The academic staff group also currently includes Radiographers, an Exercise Physiologist and Prosthetics and Orthotics specialists. 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.

Several current staff are active members of clinical specialist interest groups for example, The Council for Allied Health Professional Research (CAHPR).

The practice 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 including 'role emerging placements'. 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.

8. What is the structure of the programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April.

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.

All modules within your programme are compulsory, that is, you are required to study them. Within some of these university based modules [Level 7 only] you may be able to make a choice of subject matter from a given selection. There may also be the opportunity to undertake one core practice education module in a setting of your choice- this opportunity is subject to ongoing satisfactory clinical performance and practice education base availability. A summary of the credit requirements per year is identified in Table 3, with a minimum of 120 subject credits required for each year.

The programme is studied full time over four years and teaching is delivered via individual modules. Each year is arranged into two units called semesters (Autumn and Spring) 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 [excluding assessment periods]

Year of Study	FHEQ level	Number of weeks based in University	Number of weeks based in Practice Experience settings	Total number of weeks
1	4	22	4	26
2	5	17	12	29
3	6	16	12	28
4	7	16	9	25

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

- A fundamental understanding of biomedical and human sciences

- Knowledge and application 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 interpersonal skills.
- Leadership and management skills

These are introduced, developed and enhanced via individual modules (worth credits ranging from 0-30, see Table 3) over the 4 year programme; each year carries 120 credits. The curriculum also facilitates the progression from novice to advanced beginner to competent practitioner (Benner, 2001; Benner, 2009).

Modern Language modules: You are able to take up to 60 credits across your degree programme as Faculty Funded additional Modern Language modules in order to graduate with the Enhanced Degree Title. [Please see [link](#) for more information on Enhanced degree titles.]

For further information on the content of modules currently offered please visit:
<https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	120	0	0
Level 5	120	0	0
Level 6	120	0	0
Level 7	90	30	30

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Fundamentals of Physiotherapy Practice (MSci) 1	PTY-10086	30	Semester 1
Professionalism and Effective Communication (MSci/BScRES)	PTY-10092	15	Semester 1
Health and Wellbeing (MSci/BScRES)	PTY-10094	15	Semester 1
Principles of Rehabilitation (MSci/BScRES)	PTY-10082	15	Semester 2
Fundamentals of Physiotherapy Practice (MSci) 2	PTY-10088	30	Semester 2
Principles of Assessment and Measurement	PTY-10090	15	Semester 2
Practice Experience 1	PTY-10096	0	Semester 2

Students complete non-credit bearing Inter Professional Education 1 in Semester 2. It is a Faculty Module and no module code is available.

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Physiotherapy Practice: Neurology (MSci)	PTY-20091	15	Semester 1
Physiotherapy Practice: Musculoskeletal (MSci)	PTY-20093	15	Semester 1
Evidence Based Exercise Prescription	PTY-20101	15	Semester 1
Practice Experience 2a	PTY-20107	15	Semester 1
Physiotherapy Practice: Cardiovascular Respiratory (MSci)	PTY-20095	15	Semester 2
Practice in Specific Populations (MSci)	PTY-20097	15	Semester 2
Implementing Evidence into Practice	PTY-20099	15	Semester 2
Practice Experience 2b	PTY-20109	15	Semester 2

Students complete non-credit bearing Inter Professional Education 2 in Semester 1. It is a Faculty Module, no module code is available.

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Practice Experience 3a	PTY-30055	15	Semester 1
Learning and Teaching in Healthcare	PTY-30057	15	Semester 1
Evaluating Healthcare Services	PTY-30058	15	Semester 1
Physiotherapy Management of the Complex Patient (MSci)	PTY-30060	15	Semester 1
Practice Experience 3b	PTY-30056	15	Semester 2
Planning Research	PTY-30059	15	Semester 2
Caseload Management of Frailty, Trauma and Long Term Conditions	PTY-30061	15	Semester 2
Health Behaviour Change (MSci)	PTY-30062	15	Semester 2

Students complete non-credit bearing Inter Professional Education 3. It is a Faculty Module and no module code is available.

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Leadership and Management for Healthcare Professionals	PTY-40064	15	Semester 1
Research Skills and Funding	PTY-40065	15	Semester 1
Practice Experience 4a	PTY-40110	15	Semester 1
Research Project (Level 7- MSci PTY)	PTY-40108	30	Semester 1-2
Practice Experience 4b	PTY-40112	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Enhanced Practice: Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation	PTY-40061	15	Semester 1
Enhanced Practice: Cardiovascular and Respiratory	PTY-40062	15	Semester 1
Enhanced Practice: Neurological Rehabilitation	PTY-40063	15	Semester 1
Enhanced Practice: Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation	PTY-40061	15	Semester 2
Enhanced Practice: Cardiovascular and Respiratory	PTY-40062	15	Semester 2
Enhanced Practice: Neurological Rehabilitation	PTY-40063	15	Semester 2

Level 7 Module Rules

Students must select two optional modules - one in semester one and one in semester two.

Student complete their Inter Professional Education 3 written work in PTY-40110 module.

9. Final and intermediate awards

The programme is designed to educate physiotherapy practitioners. Consequently, the expectation is that you will complete the full programme of study obtaining 480 credits and so be awarded the MSci Physiotherapy. As a student you usually accumulate 120 credits per academic year. If you leave the programme before completing 480 credits you may be eligible for an alternative award. Physiotherapists must complete an approved programme of study in order to be eligible to apply for professional registration and so use the title 'physiotherapist' as Chartered Physiotherapist is a protected title. Successful completion of the MSci programme offers eligibility to apply for HCPC registration, successful HCPC application then offers entitlement to practise in the UK as a Physiotherapist. Should you not achieve the award of MSci Physiotherapy you **will not** be eligible for registration with the HCPC and so will not be able to practise as a Physiotherapist. You may be eligible for an interim award, but should be aware that any such award will not contain the term 'physiotherapy'.

Table 4: Credits required for each level of academic award

MSci Physiotherapy	480 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5, 6 and 7</p> <p>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 membership of the CSP. Students will accrue a minimum of 1000 clinical hours required to join the HCPC register.</p>
BSc [Hons] Health and Rehabilitation	360 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6</p> <p>Providing 360 credits have been achieved, the title of the award will be BSc (Hons) Health and Rehabilitation.</p> <p>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.</p>
Diploma of Higher Education in Health and Rehabilitation	240 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher</p> <p>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.</p>
Certificate of Higher Education in Health and Rehabilitation	120 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher</p> <p>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.</p>

International Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'international year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the four-year version of the programme.

10. 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 summative[1] as well as formative[2], individual, as well as group 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:

- **Online Communication platforms** such as Microsoft Teams may be used for assessments such as oral examinations or presentations
- **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 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.
- **Reflective assignments** enable you to develop your skills of reflective learning and practice and support portfolio development. These are fundamental skills used by all healthcare professionals as part of their

continuing professional development

- **Oral presentations/** oral examinations 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 Assessment [IPA] examinations** 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 of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy or other appropriate ethics committee. This assessment is designed to develop your 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.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. For the MSci physiotherapy programme this module choice is limited to the fourth year enhanced practice modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

The programme has three main mode of learning. One third will involve in-situ teaching and learning including lectures, practical, tutorials and workshops. A third of the time you will be doing practice placements including simulation. You will be required to do your independent study and assessment preparation using learning resources for another third of your time.

12. Accreditation

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

Please note the following:

Graduates of the programme are eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). In order to use the title 'physiotherapist' a practitioner must be registered with the HCPC. HCPC registration is a prerequisite for employment as a physiotherapist in the UK NHS. The programme meets the requirements of the HCPC standards of Education and Training (2017) and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) Learning and Development Principles for CSP Accreditation of Qualifying Programmes in Physiotherapy (2020).

Module Selection: All modules are currently compulsory.

Regulations: Your programme has professional accreditation and there are course specific regulations, which you have to agree to abide by.

13. 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'.

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

Applicants must be able to satisfy the general requirements of Keele University and the School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy. The School implements an inclusive system of academic requirements to widen access for appropriately qualified candidates at different career stages.

Details of the specific academic requirements for the MSci Physiotherapy Programme can be found at the following location: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/physiotherapy/entryqualifications/>

NB: Applicants are expected to have a minimum of 2 years post GCSE study or work experience. Although it is recognised that some applicants will be mature students where this may not be applicable.

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 Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP). Student membership of the CSP provides access to a range of useful resources and also provides insurance for clinical placements. Further information can be found at the CSP website www.csp.org.uk.

Applicants who are not currently undertaking any formal study or who have been out of formal education for more than 3 years and are not qualified to A-level or BTEC standard may be offered entry to the University's Foundation Year Programme.

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 provide a sample of Academic English during their registration. Using this sample, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. This will replace any GCP modules. *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.

English Language Modules at Level 4:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 5:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 6:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2); ENL-90005 Advanced Business English Communication
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

Funding Information: The programme is student finance funded.

Contact Details:

Admissions enquiries please contact: enquiries@keele.ac.uk / +44 (0)1782 734010

15. 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 to 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 your 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 provides support for students with disabilities (including specific learning difficulties) and works closely with wider university student support staff
- In the first year you are offered a student mentor
- 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 practice experience modules

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 media e.g. MS teams if you are, for example, on a placement that is distant from the university.

16. Learning Resources

The programme is delivered mainly in teaching rooms in the School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy, 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 undergraduate and 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 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 enabling you to discuss topics with peers and tutors; all information about the programme; and all modules and other materials designed specifically for particular modules. It can also be used to develop reusable learning objects (RLOs) and integrate learning with assessment.
- The School of Allied Health Professions and Pharmacy 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 are situated in both the Main Library and in the Health Library.

17. Other Learning Opportunities

Study abroad (International Year)

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for you after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided at in the Annex.

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

18. Additional Costs

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

- Student membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy costs £35.52 per annum or £2.96 monthly (2025 costs).
- In the first year, most students borrow half skeletons in pairs to help their learning of anatomy. There is a charge of £35 per person paid online at the start of the first semester.
- **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS):** Clearance for an enhanced DBS check is mandatory. Students will be provided with instructions on how to apply for a DBS check, including a link to apply via a company called UCheck. There is also an online DBS update service to sign up for once the DBS certificate has been received, which allows employers to check DBS status and lets students keep their DBS certificates up to date online.

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

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/tuitionfeesandfunding/undergraduatetuitionfees/additionalcosts>

- Various vaccinations must be completed before you undertake your first Practice Experience module. 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 as to 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 may be required to purchase your own approved uniform to be worn for your Practice Experience modules [and for some examinations]. It is the student's responsibility to order and purchase all their own uniform. The school will inform students where they are able to obtain appropriate uniform.
- You will be required to purchase your own stethoscope to help support your studies at the start of the programme in the first year (estimated cost £18-£100).

You will usually undertake a minimum of 1,000 hours of practice experience before graduating. Typical hours will be around 37 hours per week on practice experience modules. During the first year approximately three and a half weeks are spent in the practice environment with approximately nine weeks in each of the second and third years and thirteen weeks in year four of the programme. Practice experience opportunities are allocated based on availability and your clinical experience profile. You may be required to travel distances to complete their practice experience and may prefer, therefore, to source accommodation for that time.

Variable costs associated with Practice Experience:-

- 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>).
- Some 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.
- Many students continue to fund their own university/private accommodation whilst accessing additional accommodation for less local practice experience settings.
- Claim forms for travel costs must be submitted within six months from last day of the placement to be eligible for reimbursement.

Should you choose to undertake an elective placement abroad or beyond the usual geographical placement area for the programme, this may incur additional travel, health and liability insurance costs which must be paid for by you.

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.

19. 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.

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 National Student Survey (NSS), 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/>

20. 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>

c. A Disabled persons Guide to becoming a Health Professional, Health and Care Professions Council 2007

d. Academic and Practitioner Standards in Physiotherapy, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, 2001.

e. Benner P (2001) From novice to expert: Excellence and power in clinical nursing practice. Prentice Hall NJ

f. Benner P (2009) Expertise in nursing practice: caring, clinical judgment and ethics. Springer Pub Co New York

g. Career Framework for Health Descriptors, Skills for Health 2010

h. Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Code for professional values and behaviour (2010)
<http://www.csp.org.uk/publications/code-members-professional-values-behaviour>

i. Delivering the Forward View: NHS Planning Guidance 2016/17 - 2020/21, NHS England 2015

j. Five Year Forward View, NHS England, October 2014

k. Health and Social Care Act (2012), Department of Health

l. Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Act 2015, Department of Health

m. Learning and Development Principles for CSP Accreditation of Qualifying Programmes in Physiotherapy (2010), Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

n. Quality Assurance Standards (2012), Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

o. Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (2023) Health and Care Professions Council: [Revised standards of conduct, performance and ethics | \(hcpc-uk.org\)](https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards-of-conduct-performance-and-ethics)

p. Standards of Education and Training, Health and Care Professions Council (2017) [Standards of education and training | \(hcpc-uk.org\)](https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards-of-education-and-training)

q. Standards of Proficiency, Health and Care Professions Council (2023) [Physiotherapists | \(hcpc-uk.org\)](https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards-of-proficiency)

r. The Equality Act 2010

21. Annex: International Year

MSci Physiotherapy with International Year

International Year Programme
<p>Students registered for this Single Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year option. Students accepted onto this option will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.</p> <p>Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the standard programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.</p> <p>Study at Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 and Level 7 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the International Year option.</p>
International Year Programme Aims
<p>In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially
Entry Requirements for the International Year
<p>Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.</p> <p>The criteria to be applied are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)• General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director) <p>Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.</p>
Student Support
<p>Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring meeting points.• Support from the University's Global Education Team
Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments.
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation.
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.
4. Design, plan and document a reflective diary systematically summarising the differences in education and healthcare systems (with particular reference to physiotherapy services) between the UK and the country of study.
5. Critically reflect on the data collected within the reflective diary.
6. Prioritise and synthesise the data to create a summative portfolio critically reflecting on their experiences studying at an international partner institution with reference to how this experience may impact upon future career choices.

In addition, students who complete the International Year will be able to:

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

Regulations

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules they will study on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

22. Annex: Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: MSci Physiotherapy

Final Award and Award Titles	MSci Physiotherapy MSci Physiotherapy with International Year
Intermediate Award(s)	BSc (Hons) Health and Rehabilitation DipHE Health and Rehabilitation CertHE Health and Rehabilitation
Last modified	July 2025: DBS and OH added September 2025: Repeat year text clarification (Variation 1)
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/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.

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: Regulation D2 (1.1.4, 1.2.4 and 1.6.4): the repeat year options outlined in the regulation will be subject to approval by the Progression and Award Board. In making decisions, the Progression and Award Board will offer repeat options based on the prospect of the student progressing or completing the failed modules or assessments. Students with approved exceptional circumstances will be granted repeat options, subject to the caveat noted below. For students without approved exceptional circumstances, Progression and Award Boards will take the following into account when making decisions: students should normally have achieved a module mark on *all* failed modules within 10 percentage points of the module pass mark and demonstrated engagement with their studies through an attendance record of at least 80% (not including reported absences) to be eligible for a repeat year option.

If it is identified that additional support is required, students will be guided towards the Support to Study process.

Where a repeat year or module option requires a clinical placement, this option may be deferred depending on placement capacity and students may be required by the Progression and Award Board to take a leave of absence until such time that the placements can be undertaken.

Additional Requirements

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

Additional requirement 1: 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 2: 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 3: Attendance Requirements

Attendance at **ALL** components of the MSci Physiotherapy programme is compulsory. Designated module leaders may issue permission in writing for attendance in specified cases to be optional. As physiotherapy is a professional programme, and students are expected to demonstrate appropriately responsible behaviour at all times, students who do not comply with this attendance regulation may be subject to University disciplinary procedures and/or Health and Conduct/Fitness to Practice procedures.

Additional requirement 4: Module Assessment

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and the Health and Care Professions Council require that academic regulations for the approved MSci 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.

Assessment exemptions are not normally permitted.

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 modules which are related to practical skills.

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

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

Additional requirement 5: Progression

Assessment exemptions are not normally permitted.

In order to progress students are normally required to pass the required assessment for all modules. Across all levels of the programme students will normally be allowed one reassessment attempt following initial assessment failure. It should be noted that exceptions apply in respect of practice experience modules at levels five, six and seven. Failure, on reassessment normally results in the student being required to withdraw from the programme.

Progression rules: As an Integrated Master programme, the progression arrangements set out in the

university [Regulation C6](#) section 10, i.e. an average of 50% or above across all Level 5 modules to progress from Level 5 to Level 6; and satisfying the requirements of a Lower Second Class Honours degree to progress from Level 6 to Level 7, will be normally applied.

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.

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 in a placement area.

Across levels five to seven inclusive 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.

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.

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

Additional requirement 6: Awards

Programme awards are made under Keele University Regulations.

The MSci Physiotherapy 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).

Students who have successfully completed all assessments (including a minimum of one thousand [1000] hours of practice experience) and so have obtained full credits for the programme, will be awarded an MSci Physiotherapy. These graduates will then be eligible to apply to register with the Health and Care Professions Council, a prerequisite for employment as a Physiotherapist in the UK. Graduates will also be eligible for full membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

Students who have successfully completed all assessments at FHEQ levels four to six and accrued 360 credits but are unable to progress to level seven will be eligible for a BSc (Hons) classified degree. Such students will not have achieved the level for progression to level seven nor will they have accrued 1000 hours practice experience; as such the award will not include the term 'Physiotherapy'. Candidates who obtain an interim 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 BSc (Hons) 'Health and Rehabilitation'

A candidate who fails to attain the standard required for the award of MSci Physiotherapy degree but is entitled to an intermediate award or pass degree 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'

Where an Aegrotat/posthumous award is made 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.

Additional requirement 7: Dress code

Students must comply with the dress code required by practice experience settings.

Students must comply with the dress code required for practical classes, information about dress code is included in the Practice Experience Handbook.

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

Additional requirement 8: Accommodation

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

Additional requirement 9: Course transfer

(International students only) Due to UK Home Office Visa (UKVI) restrictions, students who enrol on an integrated master's programme are not able to transfer to an alternative programme without the change meeting UKVI requirements. Where students wish to take an exit award of a Bachelor's Degree at the level 6

boards they are able to do so, but it is recommended to speak with Immigration Compliance and Support (visa@keele.ac.uk) before taking this option as this affects current and future Visa options.

All other students who are considering a course change or find themselves in circumstances where they need to change will need to speak to Immigration Compliance and Support (Student Services Centre) (visa@keele.ac.uk) first to check eligibility and review the consequences of the transfer and the timings of a new Visa application from outside the UK.

Additional requirement 10: Practice placement modules

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 Code of Practice ([FtP Code of Practice - 2024.pdf keele.ac.uk](https://www.keele.ac.uk/ftp-code-of-practice-2024.pdf)) and B5 regulation.

Where a student's health or professional conduct is deemed not to meet professional standards, the Programme Team may deem it inappropriate for the student to participate in the practice experience modules. Subsequently, the student may be referred to the School Health and Conduct Committee or Occupational Health and the student may be required to withdraw from the programme under fitness to practice regulation.

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. Students are also referred to the School's Practice Placement Handbook for further information.

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.

Additional requirement 11: Student membership

On commencement of the programme, all Physiotherapy students must register as student members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP). 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 some 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.

All physiotherapy students are obliged to comply with current rules and guidance produced by the regulatory [Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)] and professional [Chartered Society of Physiotherapy] bodies. These include the HCPC Standards of Conduct, ethics and performance (2016) the HCPC Standards of Proficiency for Physiotherapists (2023) and the CSP Code of professional values and behaviour (2020).

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 a copy of current HCPC, CSP and other relevant documents, will be provided to each student on commencement of the programme.

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.

[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: 16 September 2025

What's Changed

Additional costs updated (SCoR membership and stethoscope); repeat options wording clarified

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.1	2025/26	ANIRBAN BANERJEE	07 July 2025	Updated information relating to DBS and Occupational Health requirements added to the programme-specific regulations annex
1	2025/26	ANIRBAN BANERJEE	18 March 2025	
1	2024/25	ANIRBAN BANERJEE	31 May 2024	Removed PTY-40062
3	2023/24	ANIRBAN BANERJEE	13 March 2024	Variation added to the regulations section regarding repeat options
2	2023/24	ANIRBAN BANERJEE	07 August 2023	<p>The placement structure has changed in the MSci Physiotherapy programme to address placement capacity issues.</p> <p>These changes required modifications to the modules at Level 5 (PTY-20053 moved to Sem 2 and PTY-20050 moved to Sem 1); Level 6 (PTY-30061 moved to Sem 2 and PTY-30060 moved to Sem 1); and Level 7 (10 credit PTY-40058 replaced with PTY-40110 (15 credit-Sem 1), 10 credit PTY-40059 replaced with PTY-40112 (15 credit-Sem 2), 10 credit PTY-40060 deleted, 30 credit PTY-40066 replaced by 30 credit PTY-40108).</p>
1	2023/24	VICTORIA CRAIG	02 February 2023	
1	2022/23	VICTORIA CRAIG	28 January 2022	
1	2021/22	VICTORIA CRAIG	11 February 2021	
1	2020/21	VICTORIA CRAIG	19 December 2019	
1	2019/20	VICTORIA CRAIG	19 December 2019	