



Queen Margaret University

EDINBURGH

Programme Specification

Where appropriate outcome statements have been referenced to the appropriate Benchmarking Statement (**BS**)

1	Awarding Institution	Queen Margaret University
2	Teaching Institution	Queen Margaret University
3	Professional body accreditation	Health Professions Council, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
4	Final Award	MSc (pre-registration) Physiotherapy
	Subsidiary exit awards	PGDip (pre-registration) Physiotherapy PGCert Health Studies PGDip Health Studies MSc Health Studies
5	Programme Title	MSc (pre-registration) Physiotherapy
6	UCAS code (or other coding system if relevant)	ISIS code MSP1PHYPSP1
7	SCQF Level	11
8	Mode of delivery and duration	Full-time 26 months
9	Date of validation/review	12/13th April 2011

10. Educational Aims of the programme

The purpose of the course is to produce postgraduate physiotherapists who are skilled, independent, critical, analytical and evaluative, who can contribute to the health and well-being of the individual and of society. Graduates from the programme will be distinctive in their ability to synthesise evidence from current practice and research to develop an in-depth critical knowledge and understanding of the physiotherapy profession. Furthermore they will be able to demonstrate a critical awareness of current issues within the provision of health and social care and will be capable of demonstrating leadership in both personal and professional development.

11. Benchmark statements/professional and statutory body requirements covered by the programme

In designing the programme, the team took cognisance of the following documents:

- Code of Practice for the assurance of academic quality and standards in higher education. Section 9: Work-based and placement learning (QAA, 2008)
- Benchmark Statement: Physiotherapy (QAA, 2001)
- Expectations of M-level programmes within Qualifying Physiotherapy Education (CSP, 2003)
- Learning and Development Principles for CSP Accreditation of Qualifying Programmes in Physiotherapy (CSP, 2010)
- Masters degree characteristics (QAA, 2010)
- Scottish Qualifications and Credit Framework Handbook: A User Guide (SCQF, 2009)
- Standards of Education and Training (HPC, 2009).
- Standards of Proficiency: Physiotherapists (HPC, 2007)

Successful completion of the programme will confer eligibility to apply for

- registration with the HPC as a Physiotherapist
- membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

12. Learning Outcomes of the Programme

On successful completion of the PGDip (pre-registration) Physiotherapy programme, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the main theories, principles, concepts and methods relating to physiotherapy practice. (KU, I)
2. Demonstrate and apply a critical, detailed, knowledge and understanding of a range of health conditions and related evidence based physiotherapy approaches for patients/clients who commonly present to physiotherapists. (KU, I, P)
3. Demonstrate critical understanding of the nature of contemporary health and social care contexts and the implications of these for personal and professional practice and development. (KU, I, P)
4. Critically reflect upon the nature of collaborative and partnership interdisciplinary working in the context of patient/client centred healthcare, and the role of physiotherapy within this. (KU, P, I)
5. Analyse complex issues, both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements using available data and communicate their conclusions effectively, using appropriate methods, to a range of audiences with differing levels of knowledge/expertise. (KU, I, P, T)
6. Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in planning and implementing personal and professional development activities.(KU, I, T)
7. Demonstrate an understanding of how the application of detailed knowledge and skills related to research and scientific enquiry can contribute to the development of physiotherapy. (KU, I, T)

On successful completion of the MSc (pre-registration) Physiotherapy programme, the student will have achieved all 7 programme learning outcomes detailed above, and in addition, will be able to

8. Apply detailed knowledge and the skills related to research and scientific enquiry to produce an original piece of work and interpret its contribution to physiotherapy. (KU, I, P, T)

KU = Knowledge and Understanding, I = Intellectual Skills, P = Practical Skills, T = Transferable Skills.

13. Teaching and learning methods and strategies

The approach to teaching and learning is underpinned by the view that adult learners on this programme bring with them a valuable array of knowledge, skills and experiences which will be built upon through presenting a variety of purposeful and stimulating opportunities for learning within a secure and supportive environment. The programme tutors aim to engage

the learners in a range of activities which further promote student autonomy and self-direction in terms of learning. Although it is anticipated that all students will be motivated to learn, and have an understanding about how they learn, it is the role of the tutors to facilitate the development of greater expertise in reflection and support the learner towards ever increasing autonomous learning i.e. by assuming responsibility for learning and knowing how to self-regulate and evaluate learning.

In this context, the facilitative educational strategies for adult learners used in this programme, have the following features:

- Integration of reflective practices throughout the programme
- Incorporation of learning portfolios
- Enabling students to learn from and with others, through supportive peer-assessment and feedback, guided by the tutor
- Make use of problem-based scenarios and/or case studies within learning sessions and promote collaborative working which is aligned with the context of contemporary physiotherapy practice
- Class debate and critical discussion within interactive sessions where students can incorporate and/or build upon prior experiences and knowledge.

Incorporating these features, students will thus have the opportunity to experience a range of learning and teaching methods, for example, small group discussions, class debates, case study analysis and critique, collaborative working towards group presentations and/or seminar production, simulated role-play, individual presentations, practice based learning and self-directed study. The focus of the teaching and learning methods and assessment design is to promote deep learning, develop critical and analytical thinking, the ability to link theory to practice and acquire skills pertaining to life-long learning. Evidence based practice is at the core of our learning and teaching philosophy and all modules utilise methods that promote critical evaluation of physiotherapy practice.

The practical skills and learning practices will develop through the 26 months of this programme and it is intended that the student will only be fully cognisant of the range and requirements of physiotherapy practice by the end of the programme.

The programme encompasses a range of learning opportunities including lectures, workshops, tutorials and practical classes. Some key lectures are delivered alongside the BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy students at SCQF level 8, however tutorials are undertaken by programme groups

Directed and independent self study is inherent in all modules in the programme with directed learning decreasing as the student progresses through the programme. In order to support directed learning, the programme team makes wide use of current learning technologies. All modules have an associated webCT site which may include narrated powerpoint lectures, lecture notes, reading materials, tutorial questions and worksheet, self-assessment quizzes and discussion boards. These methods are also used to enhance the accessibility of the programme material in order to address the Teachability agenda (University of Strathclyde, 2005).

14. Assessment strategies

A wide range of assessment methods relevant to post-graduate education, are used within the MSc PR Physiotherapy programme, which include: practical examinations, courseworks, case studies, group projects, presentations and portfolios. In general, the assessment pattern for each module reflects the aims, learning outcomes and the learning approaches for that module and allows the strengths of the individual student to be expressed in different ways.

A total of 15 pieces of university based assessment at level 11 are undertaken over 2 years. In addition 6 clinician assessments of clinical practice are undertaken at level 10.

Year 1:

- 6 components of coursework
- 3 practical vivas
- 1 group work presentation
- 3 clinician assessments of clinical practice

Year 2

- 3 components of coursework
- 1 practical viva
- 1 dissertation
- 3 clinician assessments of clinical practice

Guided by the principles of constructive alignment, the assessment methods are also supportive of deep learning.

15. Programme structures and features, curriculum units (modules), credits and award requirements (including any periods of placement)

To qualify for the award of Master of Science (pre-registration) Physiotherapy, the student must:

- Successfully complete all core modules and practice based learning placements.
- Normally complete 1000 hours of supervised practice-based learning

To qualify for the award of PgDip (pre-registration) Physiotherapy, the student must –

- Successfully complete all core modules (with the exception of the Research project) and practice based learning placements.
- Normally complete 1000 hours of supervised practice-based learning

Subsidiary exit points that do not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the Health Professions Council (HPC) may be awarded if a student fails to satisfy the requirements of the MSc (pre-registration) Physiotherapy or PGDip (pre-registration) Physiotherapy:

- **PG Cert (Health Studies)** – students who successfully complete 60 M-level credit points may be awarded a Post-graduate Certificate in Health Studies
- **PGDip (Health Studies)** – students who successfully complete 120 M-level credits, may be awarded a Post-graduate Diploma in Health Studies.
- **MSc (Health Studies)** – students who successfully complete 120 M-level credits plus a satisfactory Research project may be awarded an MSc in Health Studies.

All students will be registered initially for the MSc (pre-registration) Physiotherapy. At the start of year 2 however, they may choose to transfer to the PGDip (pre-registration) Physiotherapy in which case, they will not be registered for the Research Project module. A student who remains registered on the MSc (pre-registration) Physiotherapy but fails to achieve a satisfactory standard in the Research Project may however be subsequently be awarded a PGDip (pre-registration) Physiotherapy.

In order to be awarded MSc (pre-registration) Physiotherapy, students will normally successfully complete all modules within the programme (Table 1). There are a total of 240 M-level credits and 105 H-level credits. There are no optional modules.

Table 1 MSc Physiotherapy programme structure

Semester	Year 1	M-level credits	H-level credits
Semester 1	Applied Functional Anatomy	20	
Sept -	Neuromusculoskeletal Studies 1	20	
	Professional Studies for AHP's	15	

Jan	Foundations for PBL		10
Semester 2 Jan - May	Applied Functional Anatomy Applied Physiology for Physiotherapists Neurological Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Neuromusculoskeletal Studies 2	(20) 15 30 20	
Semester 3 June - Sept	PBL placement 1 PBL placement 2		20 20
Year 2			
Semester 4 Sept - Jan	Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Management Research Methods for AHP's Current and Emerging Roles in Physiotherapy Practice	30 15 15	
Semester 5 Feb - May	PBL placement 3 Research Project		20
Semester 6 June - Oct	Research Project PBL placement 4 Elective PBL placement	60	20 15

In order to be awarded PgDip (pre-registration) Physiotherapy, students will normally successfully complete all modules outlined in Table 2. There are a total of 180 M-level credits and 105 H-level credits. There are no optional modules.

Table 2. Programme structure of PgDip (pre-registration) Physiotherapy

Semester	Year 1	M-level credits	H-level credits
Semester 1 Sept - Jan	Applied Functional Anatomy Neuromusculoskeletal Studies 1 Professional Studies for AHP's Foundations for PBL	20 20 15	10
Semester 2 Jan - May	Applied Functional Anatomy Applied Physiology for Physiotherapists Neurological Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Neuromusculoskeletal Studies 2	(20) 15 30 20	
Semester 3 June - Sept	PBL placement 1 PBL placement 2		20 20
Year 2			
Semester 4 Sept - Jan	Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Management Research Methods for AHP's Current and Emerging Roles in Physiotherapy Practice	30 15 15	
Semester 5 Feb -	PBL placement 3		20

May			
Semester 6	PBL placement 4		20
June - Oct	Elective PBL placement		15

There are two routes to the PgDip (pre-registration) Physiotherapy, these are:

A student may opt to transfer to the PgDip at the start of year 2

A student may opt to exit with a PgDip at the end of semester 6, if they have not successfully completed the Research Project by this point.

For those who opt to transfer to the PgDip at the start of year 2 and where placement provision allows, a student may be allowed to complete placement 4 during semester 5.

All students who choose to exit with a PgDip (pre-registration) Physiotherapy and who have not previously registered for the Research Project module, will normally be offered the opportunity to 'top-up' their award to MSc (pre-registration) Physiotherapy - subject to the University Assessment regulations (Regulation 8.5) and Admissions Regulations (Regulation 8.2). Students who choose this option must re-register within 2 academic years and will be required to complete the Research Project (either full or part-time). Those students who have previously unsuccessfully attempted the Research Project and have been required to exit with a PgDip (pre-registration) Physiotherapy will not normally be offered this option.

16. Criteria for admission

To be considered for the programme, applicants will normally be required to hold a **minimum of a lower second class honours** degree. This degree may be in any discipline however where the undergraduate degree is not science or engineering based, candidates should be able to demonstrate an understanding of scientific enquiry.

Applications will be assessed based on the following evidence from the application form:

- the candidate's academic profile
- evidence of motivation to study physiotherapy. For example, having undertaken work-shadowing.
- evidence of motivation to study for a higher degree
- references (one of which will normally be an academic reference)

All applicants will normally be free of any health problems which may influence their ability to practice safely and effectively.

All year 1 students are required to undergo health clearance checks (conducted by Lothian Occupational Health Service) and will be offered Hepatitis B immunisation prior to going on placement.

All offers of places are conditional on a successful application for membership of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme. Non-UK based applicants are required to provide an equivalent criminal records check in order to fulfil the requirements for entry to the programme. Non-UK based applicants who cannot apply for PVG Scheme membership prior to commencing the programme will be required to apply for scheme membership prior to going on practice-based learning placement.

All prospective students who are offered a place should note that this should not be taken as a guarantee that the applicant also satisfies the requirements for registration with the HPC as a physiotherapist. Applications may be considered from those who have a criminal conviction. Such applications will be considered on an individual basis taking into account the Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (HPC, 2008).

Continuing students are asked to declare on their matriculation form whether they have received any criminal convictions in the previous 12 months.

Further information is available in the University Admission and Registration regulations (<http://www.qmu.ac.uk/quality/gr/default.htm#regs>)

Applicants holding qualifications from North America will normally be expected to have achieved a minimum GPA of 3.0 in their undergraduate degree.

Applicants holding qualifications from other international universities will have their qualifications assessed for equivalency using the NARIC system.

Applicants for whom English is not their first language will normally be required to demonstrate competence at a standard equivalent to British Council English Language Testing Service (IELTS) test at an aggregated grade of 6.5 or above with no element of performance below 6.0. It is expected that over the duration of the programme, students will develop their English language skills and upon successful completion of the programme, they will be able to demonstrate competence at a standard equivalent to an IELTS score of 7.0 (the level required by the HPC for registration as a physiotherapist).

17. Support for students and their learning

All students will have access to the following support services:

- Personal Academic Tutors
- Personal Development Portfolios (via Pebblepad)
- Student handbooks (via WebCT)
- Narrated lectures, lecture notes, tutorial questions and other learning materials via WebCT
- Access to Student Learning Services, Library and IT support
- Access to Student Services: careers, counselling, disability advice
- Representation through Student-Staff Committees
- Clinical educators whilst on placement
- Subject area Academic Disabled Student Co-ordinator
- Access to support services provided by the Student Union.

18. Quality Assurance arrangements

This programme is governed by QMU's quality assurance procedures. See the QMU website for more detail: <http://www.qmu.ac.uk/quality/>