



BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy (pre-registration)

Application Information: 2021/22 entry

Physiotherapy, School of Clinical and Applied Sciences
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Introduction

Physiotherapy is a health care profession concerned with human function and movement and maximising potential. It uses physical approaches to promote, maintain and restore physical, psychological and social well-being, taking account of variations in health status. It is science-based, committed to extending, applying, evaluating and reviewing the evidence that underpins and informs its practice and delivery. Physiotherapists are able to practise as autonomous professionals exercising their own professional judgement, able to act as first-contact practitioners, as well as accepting referrals from other health care professionals.

The BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy course is a qualifying programme for those who wish to pursue a professional career in physiotherapy. Successful completion of the course will allow eligibility to apply for full membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) and eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). As such, successful completion of the course will lead to eligibility to practice as a chartered physiotherapist in the UK.

If you wish to work outside the UK following qualification you must ensure that you are aware of the registration requirements in the country in which you intend to work. Some countries will still require successful completion of their own examinations.

Course overview

In the first year (level 4), you are introduced to subjects that underpin physiotherapy practice along with physiotherapy skills and will form the foundation of the course. You will be involved in around 15 hours of teaching per week. You will also have pre-session and post session reading or work to complete.

In the second year (level 5), you build on this foundation and explore theoretical principles in more depth and developing skills in clinical reasoning, including patient assessment, prioritisation of clinical problems and selection of appropriate interventions. You will develop your practical skills and consider how you evaluate your effectiveness as a clinician. You will undertake three core modules; cardiovascular-respiratory, musculoskeletal and neurological physiotherapy, and a developing practice module which introduces you to additional areas of physiotherapy for example, paediatrics, sports physiotherapy, learning disability, mental health, women's health.

You will also undertake and continue to attend around 18 hours of teaching per week with additional independent guided study.

You will then undertake two 6-week placements, these are full time placements and you are expected to work 36 hours per week, usually over Monday to Friday though you must be willing to work flexible shifts which may include weekend working.

In your final year (level 6) you develop your clinical reasoning and decision-making skills applying these to more complex patients and scenarios ensuring that you progress to the autonomy expected of a newly qualified graduate. You will complete a further three placements alongside an advancing practice module, before undertaking a dissertation and a final module that focusses on leadership and management and preparing for employment.

Teaching

Teaching delivery will adopt a blended approach of face-to-face lectures, tutorials and practical classes, as well as utilising the benefits of on-line learning, including online lectures and seminar sessions, interactive classrooms and breakout rooms to facilitate small group discussion and problem based learning within an increasing digital world.

Practical Sessions

Therapeutic skills and techniques are integral to the development of a physiotherapist. As part of the course you are required to learn, develop and practise skills. As such, it is expected that you will undertake activities both as a student practitioner and as a subject ['patient model'] upon which a fellow student can practice under the close supervision of qualified and experienced staff. Examples of such activities are the development and practice of massage techniques, physical exercise and the palpation of muscle and joints as part of assessment and treatment techniques.

Students will usually act as models for their peers during practical sessions where it may be necessary to remove appropriate clothing that may otherwise prevent accurate observation and/or palpation.

As required within the CSP Code of Professional Values and Behaviour students are required to respect and maintain the dignity of whomever they work with. Thus, when acting as a model, the dignity of all students will be maintained by everyone and monitored by teaching staff. However, you are not under any obligation to agree to be a patient model.

We are sensitive to individual student circumstances that may influence your choice to participate in practical sessions. Whilst practical classes are mixed gender, screens are available to protect dignity and privacy of students who prefer to work in a separate area.

Placements.

You will complete a minimum of 1000 hours of clinical experience in a variety of placement settings. Clinical placements are provided on your behalf to ensure that you develop a broad placement portfolio. You will gain experience across a range of different settings including acute and community sectors. You may be placed in hospitals, community bases in GP surgeries and health centres, residential homes, schools, hospices, and sports clubs. Furthermore, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the adoption of alternative methods of service delivery we have recently included virtual placements to our portfolio.

You will be allocated placements in a range of different clinical specialities; these may include musculoskeletal, cardiovascular-respiratory and neurological fields and other clinical areas such as paediatrics, amputees, learning disability, mental health, occupational health. If you have a particular area of interest you may request a placement in a specific clinical speciality and where possible we will accommodate your request.

Most clinical placements are provided across Leeds. In some instances, we may be able to source placements further afield should a student request this. This may mean that significant travelling or

additional accommodation is required. Students must organise their own travel and accommodation. These costs must be paid up-front by the student themselves. Some hospitals have on-site accommodation that is reasonably priced and for the specific use for health-care students. Alternatively, past students provide details of the accommodation that they have used.

Disabled applicants and applicants with specific learning difficulties, or other health concerns

We support the Social Model of Disability and welcome applications from disabled people and people with specific learning difficulties e.g. dyslexia. We strongly recommend that you tell us about any long-term health conditions, learning difficulty or disability you may have. This is so we can assess whether we can deliver the course in such a way that you can meet the HCPC standards of proficiency and take part without disadvantage both in University and on placement. You are advised to read the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) booklet: Health and disability and becoming a health professional: <http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutregistration/healthanddisability/>

We aim to reduce the requirement for individual adjustments by increasing accessibility and embedding inclusivity generally.

Early contact with the Disability Support Team on 0113 812 5831 or at disabilityadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk is advised so that the process of assessing individual needs can be commenced. Where appropriate this may include recommendations for practicable reasonable adjustments on an individual case basis. In order to access the full range of support, you will need to provide medical evidence; this could be a letter from your GP, Consultant, Health Care Professional or report from an Educational Psychologist. If you are providing an Educational Psychologist assessment report, your diagnostic assessment must have been completed post-16 years. More information can be found here: <http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/disability-advice/>

If you feel that you will need support to undertake the selection event tasks please contact the admission tutor to discuss your needs: c.oddy@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Selection process

We have a large number of applicants for limited number of places. There are 3 stages to our selection process.

Stage 1: qualification screening

This is completed by the admissions team. All applicants who meet or who are predicted to meet the entry criteria are progressed to the second stage.

Stage 2: personal statement screening and checking of references

We want to ensure that students coming onto a health course are suitable candidates to work with vulnerable individuals in a respectful and compassionate manner. Your referee should be able to provide both a character reference as to your suitability for a career in a caring profession and your suitability to undertake undergraduate academic study. This would usually be a school or college tutor.

For those with previous undergraduate experience you may wish to use your academic or personal tutor.

At this stage applicants are shortlisted for interview on the basis of the quality of their personal statement. It is therefore important that you include relevant detail on your personal statement. We look for applicants who are able to demonstrate good insight into the full breadth of physiotherapy and are able to discuss the many specialities along with the personal qualities required for such work. We do appreciate that 'Work Experience' placements are limited in hospitals because of the high numbers of individuals that wish to apply to study physiotherapy and also the more recent issue of access to healthcare environments under Covid-19 restrictions. We certainly take this into account and suggest where possible, you seek to provide more personal examples of where you might have demonstrated empathy and care towards others especially vulnerable people including the elderly and/or those with disabilities. The personal statement should be written to a high standard that has logical flow and succinctness in writing style.

Stage 3: interview

Applicants who are shortlisted will be invited to attend an online interview lasting approximately 20 minutes; selection events will run from December 2020 to March 2021.

Academic staff from the physiotherapy course team and student ambassadors are usually involved with the selection event.

Do remember that an interview is a two-way process and that you should treat the interview as an opportunity to ask the course team questions to ensure that this course is right for you.

After interview

We will not be able to tell you the decision on the day, but we will let you know the result as soon as possible via UCAS Track, so please check your account regularly. You will receive one of the following decisions.

- Conditional offer: you must meet specific conditions, which may be academic and/or non-academic conditions before you can be accepted on the course.
- Unconditional offer: this is made when you have met the specific conditions we have asked for.
- Unsuccessful: we are not able to offer you a place on the course. This may be due to the limited number of places that we have available or because we do not feel that you have demonstrated the necessary skills or experience to be successful at this time; however this does not prevent you from applying in future, should you undertake further study or develop your skills and experience. For individual feedback on the decision you can contact ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

As there is very high competition for this course, we may delay making final decisions until we have completed all the interviews in March. This means that your application may be placed "on hold" and you may not receive a decision following the interview for some time. If this is the case, we will email you to advise you that your application is on hold and confirm exactly what this means for you.

Interview information for International applicants:

- An individual online interview will be undertaken with a member of staff.

If you are successful you will receive a conditional offer of a self-funded place within 2 weeks of attending interview.

If you are unsuccessful feedback can be provided via the university admissions team. For individual feedback on the decision you can contact internationalofficeUG@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Interviews via Skype are scheduled to take place between December 2020 and March 2021

Transferring onto the course

This is a course leading to eligibility to apply for registration as a physiotherapist with the Health and Care Professions Council hence it is essential that we ensure students have covered all areas of the curriculum. Whilst it is possible in theory to transfer from another equivalent physiotherapy course this may not be feasible in practice. Any application for transfer would be considered by the admissions team. If you are considering this option, please seek advice from the course leader or admissions tutor.

Staff details and contacts

The course team comprises experienced clinicians that reflect the breadth of clinical specialities within the physiotherapy profession and wider health-care setting. All staff are HCPC registered.

Key contacts

Course Director: Lorna Campbell at lorna.campbell@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Admissions Tutor (Home applicants): Cassie Oddy at c.oddy@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Admissions Tutor (International applicants): Gill Phillips G.Phillips@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

The Admissions Team: ucasadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

International admissions: internationalofficeUG@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Useful resources

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy at <http://www.csp.org.uk/>

Health and Care Professions Council at <http://www.hpc-uk.org/>

NHS Careers at <http://www.nhs.uk/careers/>