Application Information
MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) Course

2013-2014 Entry
Start date: January 2014

Application deadline for UK and EU applicants
4.00pm, Thursday 30th May 2013

Physiotherapy, Faculty of Health & Social Sciences
Leeds Metropolitan University
City Campus
Leeds
LS1 3HE
United Kingdom

Web: http://courses.leedsmet.ac.uk/physiotherapyprereg_msc
Email: direct-admissions@leedsmet.ac.uk
Introduction

We hope you find the information in this pack useful when considering an application to the MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) course.

The MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) 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 can lead to licence to practice.

The MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) course has successfully produced high calibre graduate clinicians since its inception in January 2005. The course has been designed to produce physiotherapists who are ‘clinical scholars’ who can contribute to the well-being of the individual to maximise their potential. The term ‘clinical scholar’ characterises a high level of curiosity, critical thinking, continuous learning, reflection and the ability to seek and use a range of resources and evidence to improve effectiveness of clinical interventions. A clinical scholar brings a spirit of inquiry and creativity to their practice to solve clinical problems and improve outcomes.

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.

Course Leader: James Milligan at j.g.milligan@leedsmet.ac.uk. or The Admissions Team at direct-admissions@leedsmet.ac.uk.
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Course overview

Problem-based learning
The overarching educational approach used in the MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) is problem-based learning (PBL). In problem-based learning students are presented with real-world ‘problems’ which provide the motivation and context for learning. Problem-based learning is different from other approaches primarily because the problem is presented first which students solve by then gathering the relevant knowledge and skills. Problem-based learning is well suited to the MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) course given that the students are adult learners preparing to practise as team members in a world characterised by continual change. We believe that the PBL approach increases awareness of the importance of group dynamics and improves self-confidence in clinical decision-making.

Problem based learning addresses the following objectives. It:
- Develops subject knowledge, and integrates theory and practice
- Develops skills for lifelong and self-directed learning
- Enhances commitment to, and skills for, team working
- Develops clinical reasoning and critical thinking

You can find out more about problem-based learning by searching the web or by visiting some of these websites…
- http://www.ukcle.ac.uk/resources/pbl/what.html
- http://www.med-ed-online.org/f0000012.htm
- http://www.netcomuk.co.uk/~maggisb/two.html

Interprofessional Learning
The MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) course also benefits from interprofessional learning through elements of shared learning with the MSc Occupational Therapy (pre-registration) course, through the Faculty wide ‘Interprofessional learning’ initiative and on clinical practice placements.

The three shared elements in which students from both pre-registration courses work together in mixed groups are; ‘Working and Learning Together’, ‘Contributing to Professional Knowledge’, and the Course Conference. The nature of the learning experiences will provide opportunities for students to develop their team working skills as well as their knowledge of both professions. Additionally there are opportunities during the ‘Integrated Practice’ module to explore issues of working as part of team, communication and understanding the role of other professionals.

Another key opportunity for inter-professional learning is when students undertake practice placements. Practice placement educators are qualified physiotherapists who support students with multidisciplinary team learning experiences while on clinical placement. This helps broaden students’ horizons by exposing them to health and social care professionals other than physiotherapists.
## Example Structure of MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration)

### MSc Physiotherapy YEAR 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'Working and Learning Together' module: Induction</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Understanding Movement &amp; Function' module</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Cardiovascular and Respiratory Physiotherapy' module</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS for CPK</td>
<td>1 week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Neuromusculo-skeletal Physiotherapy' module</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer vacation</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Neuromusculo-skeletal Physiotherapy' module</td>
<td>5 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPP</td>
<td>1 week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Neurological Physiotherapy' module</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas vacation</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Integrated Practice' module</td>
<td>5 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For information relating to Practice Placements please see the ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ section.
Entry requirements

Applicants should have a recent Upper Second class Honours degree (or higher), or equivalent, in a biological or behavioural science, sports science or a health related profession. The first degree must also have had a research training component.

All applications must be accompanied by TWO references. The references should provide evidence of an applicant’s suitability for the physiotherapy profession and postgraduate study. Examples of referees would be a previous academic tutor, current or recent employer. These should be supplied at the point of submitting your application and it is your responsibility to ensure they are submitted with your application before the deadline.

Applications from international students are welcomed. Advice and assistance regarding degree classifications and IELTS (average 7.0) can be sought from the University’s International Office.

The following lists the criteria used to determine whether an application is short listed.

- Evidence of a recently gaining (within 5 years) an Upper Second class Honours degree, or higher, or equivalent, in science or a related subject.

Applicants will also need to:
- Demonstrate an awareness of the breadth of physiotherapy as a profession.
- Explain how the three core specialities of physiotherapy interest you.
- Demonstrate how the content of your first degree and experiences would enable you to study an accelerated physiotherapy course.
- Explain how the research training component from your previous degree course would enhance M-level learning
- Identify common methods of assessment from your previous degree course and your preferred method(s) of assessment.
- Reflect upon your previous work experience with physiotherapists and/or other health and social care staff and/or from voluntary or charity work. Explain how this would transfer to physiotherapy studies.
- Reflect upon your abilities to work independently and upon your own contributions to teamwork.
- Produce two recent references – ideally from a recent academic institution and place of work or other setting in which you demonstrate responsibility.

In all previous years the number of applications has exceeded the number of places available to study. Hence those short listed will be allocated randomly to a place on the course or to a place on the waiting list.
Application procedure

- Your application should be submitted via our online application system. All supporting documentation (certificates, transcripts, references) can be uploaded to your online application before submission. If you experience any difficulties uploading attachments, please email hssadmissions@leedsmet.ac.uk.

- Completed applications will be reviewed by the Admissions Tutor / panel.

- All applications must be accompanied by two references – please do not submit references and application forms separately. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that two references are provided with the application. These references should provide evidence of your suitability for the occupational therapy profession and postgraduate study e.g. academic tutor, current or recent employer. You will therefore want to show your referees the entry requirements for the course before they write the reference. Personal references will not be accepted.

  **Please note:**
  References must be the original copy on official headed paper and signed by the referee. Applications which do not include two references will not be processed.

- All applicants who would like to be considered for entry in 2014 must ensure their completed application is submitted by **4.00pm on Thursday May 30th, 2013**.

- Random selection is currently being used. However, applicants who meet the entry requirements may be invited to an interview. A waiting list is also created.

- We will begin informing applicants of the outcome of their application in late July 2013.

- Successful applicants will be offered a place on the course for the next intake, January 2014. This offer may be conditional on meeting particular terms, e.g. 2.1 honours degree completion, satisfactory health screening and Criminal Records Bureau checks.
Health screening and Criminal Records Bureau checks
Being a healthcare profession applicants to the MSc Physiotherapy must pass an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check and health screening questionnaire. Confirmation of a place will be conditional upon candidates having no criminal convictions or charges that would impact upon professional work and professional body membership and HCPC registration. The health screening questionnaire is a confidential assessment undertaken by the University Health Centre on behalf of the Admissions team.

Successful applicants will usually be offered a place conditional on health and CRB checks. If you are made a conditional offer and you accept this place, the processes involved in carrying out these checks will be initiated approximately 3 months before the start of the course. For more information regarding Criminal Records Bureau checks please see www.crb.gov.uk

Disabled applicants and applicants with specific learning difficulties, or other health concerns
We welcome applications from disabled people and people with specific learning difficulties e.g. dyslexia. Early contact with the Disability Support Team on 0113 812 8519 or at disabilityservices@leedsмет.ac.uk is advised so that the process of assessing individual needs can be commenced.

Accreditation of prior learning and experience
Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) is the generic term used for the award of credit on the basis of demonstrated learning that has occurred at some time in the past. In theory, for this course prior learning may be assessed and could be used for:
- entry into the institution,
- direct entry into the second year of the MSc Physiotherapy or
- advanced standing with credit towards a target award.

Accreditation of Prior Experience and Learning (APEL) refers to non-certificated learning gained from experience e.g. if students wish to demonstrate equivalency for entry to the course. Applicants may demonstrate prior non-certificated learning equivalent to those identified using procedures set out in University Academic Regulations. The applicant must demonstrate the claim using procedures set out in University Academic Regulations.

The integrated nature and inclusion of essential skills in many modules of this Physiotherapy course may result in logistic difficulties in granting entry with advanced standing. Applicants seeking admission on the basis of prior non-certificated learning will be interviewed and the method by which they seek to demonstrate their claim will be agreed.

All decisions on admission based on non-certificated learning shall be made by the Admissions Committee and reported to the Examination Board. All applications under this process will still be subject to health and CRB screening.
Applying for exemption from modules
A single module for the MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) course is valued at 20 M level credits. It is possible to obtain exemption from whole modules if you have successfully studied the module content at the equivalent level in a previous physiotherapy course. You are required to provide evidence of your previous study including module content. However, due to the highly integrated nature of this course it is unlikely that you will have completed similar modules elsewhere. Please contact the Student Administrator for information about the course modules. The MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) Student Administrator, Diane Jacklin can be contacted on +44 0113 812 5926 Email: d.jacklin@leedsmet.ac.uk

Transferring onto the course
It is possible, in theory, to transfer onto this MSc course from another MSc course. However, 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. Therefore, in practice, transfer onto the course is unlikely to be feasible due to the highly integrated nature of this course.

Any application for transfer with advance standing would be considered by the Admissions Team. If you are considering this option please seek advice from the Course Leader/ Admissions Tutor: MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) Admissions Tutor, James Milligan can be contacted on +44 113 812 3494 Email: james.milligan@leedsmet.ac.uk
Frequently asked questions
Here are some of the questions frequently asked by potential students. If your particular question is not covered here please visit our website or contact the Admissions Team on direct-admissions@leedsmet.ac.uk

Is the MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) at Leeds Metropolitan University recognised and accredited?
Our MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) successfully educates and trains those wishing to become physiotherapists. Our course is validated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP). Successful completion of the course provides graduates the eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) to work in the National Health Service as a Physiotherapist and to apply for membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP).

In addition to the support given by the University and the Students' Union our students are strongly encouraged to join the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy as ‘Student Members’ at the beginning of their studies to access the breadth of support and services from this governing body.

What areas can you specialise in when training?
This course, like all pre-registration physiotherapy courses, aims to produce therapists who can work in any setting across the core specialities of physiotherapy. For that reason there is no possibility of specialisation within the course; you would do that after graduating.

What previous degrees are considered 'relevant' when applying to study physiotherapy?
The concept of accelerated learning is that adult learners integrate their prior learning and abilities in order to complete studies in the shorter time. The course team believe that applicants with Arts backgrounds [as opposed to science backgrounds] could be disadvantaged and be less successful in their studies given the complexity and shortened timeframes of the course. Common examples of previous Honours degree courses from successful applicants are: Biological Science, Kinesiology, Physiology, Psychology, Sport and Exercise Science, Sports Rehabilitation and Sports Therapy.

The literature that I received about the course suggested that a 2.1 honours degree was normally required, is it possible to apply for this course with 2.2 or lower?
No. The course team believe that it is the advanced academic abilities that enable successful students to complete clinical and academic studies at Masters level including the research and dissertation modules. Hence an Upper Second class Honours degree is the minimum requirement.
What can I do to access the course if I do not have a 2.1 honours degree?
Applicants who do not meet the standard entry requirements may be considered if they are able to demonstrate evidence of successful previous study at masters level in conjunction with a strong personal statement and relevant work experience.

How long is the course and is it full time?
The course is full-time. It starts in late January of each year and runs continuously over the next two years. Because it is an accelerated programme students will have approximately seven weeks holiday (two weeks at Christmas, two weeks at Easter and three weeks in the summer).

Would I be able to stay working on a part time basis and study for the MSc at the same time?
The course is an accelerated two-year course meaning that it will be more intensive than other courses. There is less opportunity for part-time work or extra-curricular activities as the course places emphasis upon problem-based learning and self-directed study. In addition, each of the six practice placements lasts five weeks. Students must be present for a normal full-time working week.

Do I pay the tuition fees and what additional costs may I expect?
The National Health Service (NHS) pays the physiotherapy tuition fees for UK citizens. A reciprocal financial arrangement also occurs with other member states of the European Union meaning that, again, the tuition fees are paid for such members. Students who are eligible for an NHS bursary may also be eligible to apply for a means tested bursary to help with living expenses.
Unfortunately, Non-European applicants are required to meet the tuition costs themselves. If you are classed as an international student you will not qualify for any funding and you will be required to pay the course fees and have sufficient funds to support yourself for the duration of the course.
To find out which category you fall into please check the Student Grant Unit Website at
http://www.ppa.org.uk/StudentBursariesCalculator/reset.do;jsessionid=3A6C780708265FAC3DCB31C70B2148F2

Students are expected to pay for all other costs that they might incur. This relates to accommodation and travel costs as well as other study and living costs. Some or all of these costs may be paid from a means tested student bursary. However this is means tested for ‘Home’ applicants and is not eligible for EU or International applicants. Further information and advice relating to ‘Student Money Advice’ is available on-line at:
http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/students/money-advice.htm

Please also see the section entitled: “If my clinical placement is far away do I have to organise my own accommodation and travel?”

What accommodation is available?
Details relating to ‘Accommodation at Leeds Met’ is available on-line at:
http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/accommodation/index.htm
How many students are there in each Year?
Being a publicly funded course the local Strategic Health Authority determines the funding and hence the numbers of students in physiotherapy training. In recent years there have been 15-20 new physiotherapy students per intake. We also accept a small number of self-funded students. Overall, this number enables small groups of tuition and supervision of practical clinical skills by teaching staff whilst on campus.

Do I need to participate in practical sessions and what is involved?
Therapeutic skills and techniques are integral to the development of a physiotherapist. As part of the course students are required to learn, develop and practise practical skills. As such, it is expected that students will undertake activities both as a student practitioner and as a subject ['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.
In order to undertake some practical procedures effectively it may be necessary to remove appropriate clothing that may otherwise prevent accurate observation and/or palpation. As required within the CSP Rules of Professional Conduct students are required to respect and maintain the dignity of whomever they work with. Thus, when acting as a model, the dignity of the student will be maintained by everyone and monitored by teaching staff. You are not under any obligation to agree to be a model. However, you are strongly encouraged to participate as a model for the teaching and learning processes involved in the acquisition of physiotherapy skills both in University sessions and during clinical placements. By doing this you will begin to appreciate how a particular skill ‘feels’ and be more empathetic towards the patient, as well as perfecting your own technique.

How much clinical experience is there in the course?
The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy requires successful graduates to have completed 1,000 hours of clinical experience during the training course.
Clinical placements are provided on your behalf to ensure that all students have experience of managing individuals from the breadth of specialities and environments within the musculoskeletal, cardiovascular-respiratory and neurological fields. These clinical placements take place at a variety of hospital- based and community-based NHS Trusts, Independent ['private'] hospitals and charities. As such the experience is not just hospital based but can take place in GP surgeries and health centres, residential homes, schools, hospices, sports clubs etc.
There are six clinical placements in Year 2. Each of these lasts five weeks.

Do I need to find my own clinical placements?
No. A central Clinical Placement Coordinator is employed to work with the four local universities (being the Leeds Metropolitan University, the University of Bradford, the University of Huddersfield and York St John University) to organise the core clinical placements for all physiotherapy students from all four universities. The placement coordinator at the Leeds Metropolitan University then allocates specific placements to individual students to ensure a rounded experience is gained in a wide variety of
clinical fields and environments including potential to choose a speciality in the final year. 

Please note that as clinical placements are provided across the Yorkshire and Northern Health Region this may mean that significant travelling or additional accommodation is required.

**Can I choose where to take my clinical placement?**

Students may also request the type of clinical experience having identified potential significant gaps in clinical experience. This is done in consultation with our own placement coordinator. By organising placements for students we can offer the breadth of experience preferred by employers in a variety of clinical and geographical settings and so enhance students’ experiences and employability. We appreciate that many students have additional domestic commitments and extra-curricular interests. In fairness to all we ask that all students be prepared to undertake at least one clinical placement per year that requires additional travel and/or accommodation.

**If my clinical placement is far away do I have to organise my own accommodation and travel?**

Yes. Each student 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. This is a valuable resource. Students who are eligible for a bursary may be able to claim back these additional costs.

**Is there an elective placement? If so is there funding for this?**

Students on the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) have successfully organised one of their five week placements in Australia, USA and Malaysia. Some funding is available to contribute towards the cost. This has to be applied for and is awarded following an interview.

**Is this course recognised abroad or will I have to do further exams?**

The course is validated by the Chartered society of Physiotherapy but some countries will still require successful completion of their own examinations.

**What research interests do they staff have?**

The teaching team have a wealth of clinical, educational and research experience with which to stimulate and motivate students. Of the various academic awards, staff have gained or are working towards the awards of PhD (Doctor of Philosophy), MSc (Master of Science) and MPhil (Master of Philosophy). As such staff present their research at differing conferences within the UK and internationally and integrate such new approaches into the teams’ teaching.
I am not a UK resident. May I apply?
There are only limited places for those applicants who do not meet the United Kingdom Department of Health residency requirements or do not reside in the European Union. This is because international students from outside the European Union fall outside the Workforce Development Confederation contract and hence we have limited availability of the necessary clinical placements to be fulfilled to enable the student to graduate and/or become eligible to apply to the Health and Care Professions Council and Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

For students whose first language is not English, applicants are expected to demonstrate English language ability at a level equivalent to IELTS score of 7.0 overall with no element being less than 6.5.

More information can be accessed from the International Office at:
- Telephone: + 44 113 812 6110
- Web: http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/internat/index.htm

Are there any helpful hints for my application?
We look for applicants who are aware of the full breadth of physiotherapy and are able to discuss its 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. Whilst we take this into account, we do suggest that applicants have some experience of working alongside therapists or other health professionals to help vulnerable people including the elderly and/or those with disabilities. Please review the advice on the Course Finder pages at:
http://courses.leedsmet.ac.uk/physiotherapyprereg_msc

I do not wish to approach my present employer for a reference. Could I use my past employer for a reference instead?
Who you choose for your referees is up to you. However, we require a reference from someone who has had recent sustained contact with you is necessary. Personal friends are not acceptable. Please choose those who can make some comment on your suitability to be an physiotherapist/ health professional and to study at postgraduate level.

I have a previous criminal conviction. Does this matter?
It may matter depending upon the severity of the criminal incident. All applicants are asked to submit a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check. To ensure fairness and parity to all applicants across the many courses any positive outcomes are considered by a panel of independent academic staff within the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences in Leeds Metropolitan University and not by the Admissions Tutor of that course. It is essential that you provide a truthful account. If in doubt declare any interventions that you have had with police or judicial courts. This must include any convictions or cautions that you may have had under the age of 18 as these can appear on CRB declarations.
Finding out more
There are several ways you can find out more about Physiotherapy, the course, and Leeds Metropolitan...

Visit the Leeds Met website at: http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk
Alternatively seek general reading of information on the internet from:
- 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.nhscareers.nhs.uk/

For more information on NHS bursaries and student grants visit: Students NHS Business Services Authority at: http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx

If you are concerned about the financial implications of studying full-time visit the Leeds Met Student Services website – they are also happy to speak to prospective students if you have particular questions. This is available at:
http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/metoffice/stuserv/

Leeds Met provides undergraduate and postgraduate students with a unique combination of living and learning experiences. Leeds Met operates in partnership with Unipol, a charity that helps students find housing from the private sector. For more information visit:
http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/fm/accomm/
http://www.unipol.leeds.ac.uk

While it is not a requirement that you have direct experience of physiotherapy before applying you do need to have an understanding of the physiotherapy profession and physiotherapy practice. You will also want to make sure that you are choosing the right profession for you. One way to obtain this information is to spend time with health-care clinicians.

Contacts
Admissions Office
Telephone (0113) 812 3700
Email direct-admissions@leedsmet.ac.uk