



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration)

Course Code: **PHYSM**

2026/27 (January 2027 start)

MSc Physiotherapy

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at November 2025

General Information

Award	Master of Science Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration)
Contained awards	Postgraduate Diploma Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration)
<i>Non-Professional</i>	Master of Science Human Physical Science Postgraduate Diploma in Human Physical Sciences Postgraduate Certificate in Human Physical Sciences
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England and 75 credits at Level 6 (Placements)
Course lengths and standard timescales	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 24 months (full time, campus based, January start with extended course calendar)• 36 months (part time, campus based, January start with extended course calendar)• 48 months (part time, campus based, January start with extended course calendar)
Part time study	PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration, funding and placement capacity permitting. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence from that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent.
Location(s) of delivery	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus. Clinical Placements are undertaken within local health care providers with an option to undertake one elective placement in a location of choice once quality assurance has been guaranteed.
Entry requirements	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:
AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Course fees

Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>

Standard regulations apply to this course except where noted below.

Fitness to Practise

MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration) is a professional course, and students are expected to act in a professional manner at all times in line with the University Fitness to Practise Policy and Procedure: [link](#).

Student Attendance

Attendance at all modules and practice placements is mandatory. Non-attendance for any reason must be reported to the course administrator. If a student's non-attendance is sufficient to give cause for concern regarding the students' fitness to practise this will then be managed through application of the Fitness to Practise Policy and Procedures or the University Engagement Policy.

Credits for this course

This course has 180 level 7 credits (threshold pass mark 50%) and 75 level 6 credits (threshold pass mark 40%) from the placement modules.

Modules must be passed and compensation requirements

The HCPC Standards of Education and training state 'The learning outcomes must ensure that those who successfully complete the programme meet the standards of proficiency for their part of the Register'. All modules on the course must be passed in order to ensure that the standards of proficiency for Physiotherapy are met by all students achieving the target award.

Placement attendance

A student must fully attend practice placements in order to be assessed. If a student is unable to complete a placement through illness or other extenuating circumstance the practice educator together with the university link tutor will decide in any particular case whether the student's attendance has been sufficient to enable the student to be assessed against the module learning outcomes. Where a student placement is 37.5h per week over 6 weeks they should complete 225 hours, if a student has completed 80% of the placement (180h) in the intended format (face to face/hybrid/ leadership) they can be considered for assessment. If this is allowed and the students' performance is at a pass level the completed hours will be counted towards the minimum number of hours of practice. Some placement modules fall outside of the standard term dates.

Placement Hours

Where a student has successfully completed their placements but have not achieved the mandated number of assessed placement hours (e.g., 1000 hours), the course team will look at the proportion of hours

completed in a patient facing versus non patient facing environment to guide individual decisions. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapists recommends not more than 25% of the required 1000 hours be completed in a non-patient facing environment. Where a student has capacity to undertake additional non patient facing hours to 'make up' hours this will be offer in the form of a simulated 'Beckett Town' placement and assessed accordingly. Where a student is short of patient facing hours, they will be offered a patient facing placement and will need to achieve an overall pass standard on the common physiotherapy assessment framework (CPAF). There will be no extra university fee for top up placement hours, however student should be aware that they are unlikely to be able to apply for funding for this extra time at university.

Taster Placement

There is a one-week initial Taster placement located in the Foundation of Physiotherapy module which includes a placement assessment, marked as pass/fail, which must be passed to pass the module. These hours (37.5h) are included in the final total towards professional registration (1000h).

Placement modules - Common Placement Assessment Framework (CPAF)

Applies to placement modules (all level 6):

Clinical Placement 1	Clinical Placement 2	Clinical Placement 3
Clinical Placement 4	Clinical Placement 5	

The adoption of the [Common Placement Assessment Framework V2](#) (CPAF 2024) is a new development from the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (who accredit this course). This has been approved by the regulatory body HCPC for course providers to adopt these. There are 10 domains of the CPAF that must be passed for that placement to meet a successful pass threshold (40%+). Students must also achieve a pass threshold for the professional behaviours and responsibilities (PRB) section. Where these are not met the placement is failed and recorded as a zero mark. Note, the threshold pass mark of 50% is applied to all MSc (pre-registration) academic modules.

To attend placement modules the CSP recommends that the teaching team consider where there are extenuating circumstances and public protections issues under consideration that are likely to impact the student on placement (See below). If a student is referred / under investigation for occupational health needs, professional suitability or academic engagement (formal university proceedings) where a public protection issue is identified then the student will not go out on placement until suitable resolution is achieved to mitigate public protection concerns.

o A student's progression through the programme (i.e., a team should keep under review whether a pattern is emerging of a student needing to re-attempt units or modules, with particular attention paid to issues of public protection that an individual's performance may raise, and the practicalities of a student progressing from one unit to another if the need for a second attempt arises) CSP

Whether exam board ratification, or not, if a student has not successfully passed at least one of the core modules of 'Cardiovascular Respiratory Physiotherapy', 'Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy' or 'Neurological Physiotherapy', then the student will be invited for a (documented) supported conversation to confirm a student's 'fit to sit assessment' in terms of the suitability to attend placement due to the CSP's recommendation relating to '**practicalities of a student progressing from one unit to another if the need for a second attempt arises**' on multiple modules.

Equally, if a student has not been assessed on any of the core modules of 'Cardiovascular Respiratory Physiotherapy', 'Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy' or 'Neurological Physiotherapy', then the student will be invited for a (documented) supported conversation to confirm a student's 'fit to sit assessment' in terms of the suitability to attend placement due to the CSP's recommendation relating to '**practicalities of a student**

progressing from one unit to another if the need for a second (mitigated) attempt arises' on multiple modules.

Attainment Requirements

A student will be required to re-submit for assessment in respect of any failed components of assessment, where their profile of attainment for the module shows an overall average of less than 50%. All reassessment will be on a component basis. Students are required to achieve 40% in all practice placements. Practice placements are assessed at level 6.

Re-assessment for Progression - General Provisions

Requirement to recover failure: A student will be required to re-submit for assessment in respect of all failed components where their profile of attainment for the module shows an overall average of less than 50%. All re-assessment will be on a component basis.

Students failing to gain 40% in a practice placement (Assessed at level 6) will be required to undertake a further placement.

Master's Awards

Recommendation for an Award of the University Target Award: MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration). Graduates with this award are eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council to practise as a Physiotherapist.

Masters degrees are awarded for the attainment of a minimum of 180 credit points at Level 7.

The MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) is awarded to students who have achieved the following profile.

1. Pursued a programme of study of 180 credit points at Level 7 or above or has been accredited with no more than 120 credit points at Level 7 on admission.
2. Satisfied the submission and attainment requirements for each module of study.
3. Achieved the overall Learning Outcomes for the programme of study by attaining or exceeding the following requirements:
 - achieved a mark of 50% or more in, or been credited with, modules equivalent to 180 credit points at Level 7 or above.
 - achieved an overall average of 50% or more in each module studied.
 - achieved an average of 50% or more across all modules studied at level 7.
 - achieved a mark of 40% or more in each of the individual placement elements within the Clinical Placement modules, which total 75 credit points at level 6.
 - Successfully completed a minimum of 1000 hours of clinical practice.

Awards with merit and distinction

The course follows the standard Regulations for these awards.

Contained Awards

Conferment of Contained Awards. Contained awards cannot be target awards in their own right within this particular provision. However, a contained award can be made as a fall-back award. The contained awards for the MSc Physiotherapy course are as follows:

Professional contained award: Postgraduate Diploma in Physiotherapy (pre-registration) Graduates with this award are eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council to practise as a Physiotherapist. Note, this fallback award is accepted for licence to treat in Canada. The award of Post-Graduate Diploma in Physiotherapy (pre-registration) in this particular provision is obtained by achieving the

requirements set out above for the award MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) with the exception of the requirement to pass the module 'Research Project'.

The requirement is therefore: successful completion of a minimum of six modules at level 7, including the 'must pass' modules of Musculoskeletal physiotherapy, Neurological physiotherapy and Cardiovascular Respiratory physiotherapy (Minimum of 130 Level 7 credit points), plus

- achieved a mark of 40% or more in each of the Level 6 Clinical Placement modules totalling 75 credit points although this does not contribute towards the Level 7 award.
- successfully completed a minimum of 1000 hours of clinical practice.

Non-professional contained awards

The following awards follow the Academic Regulations and do not provide eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC.

MSc Human Physical Sciences: This is awarded to students who have achieved the following profile:

1. Pursued a course of study of 180 credit points at Level 7 or above or has been accredited with no more than 120 credit points at Level 7 on admission.
2. Satisfied the submission and attainment requirements for each module of study.
 - achieved a mark of 50% or more in, or been credited with, modules equivalent to 180 credit points at Level 7 or above;
 - achieved an overall average of 50% or more in each module studied;
 - achieved an average of 50% or more across all modules studied at this level.

There is no requirement to pass level 6 Clinical placement modules or to successfully complete the minimum of 1000 hours of clinical practice.

Postgraduate Diploma in Human Physical Sciences: 120 Level 7 credits. Minimum requirements for this award are successful completion of academic components except for 'Research Project' and unsuccessful clinical placement modules.

Postgraduate Certificate in Human Physical Sciences: Minimum requirements for this award are successful completion of 60 credits of academic components and unsuccessful clinical placement modules.

Aegrotat award: An Aegrotat award does not lead to eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC.

Other requirements

Applicants are required to undertake DBS and Occupational Health clearance checks. Compliance with Occupational Health checks and with immunisations is mandatory and essential for placement attendance. Occupational health costs are currently covered within your course fees. If you fail to attend your appointment you may be charged a missed appointment fee. Non-compliance with this process will be managed through application of the Fitness to Practise Policy and Procedures. Students must comply with Placement Provider dress codes. This may stipulate that facial piercings including dermal piercing be removed or covered up for infection control reasons.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Regulatory body

Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC): <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/>

Professional body

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP): <https://www.csp.org.uk/>

Accreditation/recognition summary

The MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) and the Postgraduate Diploma Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) provide eligibility to apply for HCPC registration. It is a legal requirement that anyone who wishes to practise in the UK using a title protected by the Health Professions Order 2001 is on the HCPC Register.

Students successfully completing the course will be eligible to apply for qualified membership of CSP.

'In Year' Work Placement Information

Summary

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy recommends that students complete a minimum of 1,000 hours of practice placement experience. Students undertake a taster placement in year 1 and then undertake five blocks of 6-weeks in year 2, one of which is an elective placement which students can source. When one of the core modules of musculoskeletal, cardiovascular respiratory or neurological physiotherapy have been completed a student may undertake a placement in that area as early as the summer of year 1, offering a more flexible route of placement study.

All placements are sourced and allocated by the physiotherapy placement team. Students normally work a 37.5 hour week with an expectation that they are flexible with their working patterns in an ever-changing working environment. The physiotherapy placement team sources and allocates all placements ensuring that our students gain a great depth and diversity of placement experience through a variety of placement settings which may include community-based services, acute services, chronic services, rehabilitation services across a variety of settings for example inpatients, outpatients, private and NHS providers. Placements may also include a hybrid or full placement in a leadership role or supported with our internal 'Beckett Town' project.

Placement Delivery

1x taster placement block in year 1.

5x 6-week blocks typically in year 2 (the 5 placements provide potential for students to gain up 1125 clinical placement hours).

Location

A variety of healthcare settings including private and NHS providers mainly within but not limited to the Leeds postcode area. The location of your elective placement is negotiated with the course team and subject to risk assessment.

Timetable

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Key Contacts

Your course director Richard Partner

Your course administrator Sharon Caden, s.caden@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are to provide the successful graduate the eligibility to apply for registration to be a physiotherapist and to make a contribution to their organisations, community, profession and wider society. They will have the ability and attributes to develop, deliver and evaluate physiotherapy in a range of settings and continue to enhance professional practice through their continuing professional development and lifelong learning.

Course learning outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	Demonstrate competence as autonomous reflective, learners and physiotherapy practitioners with excellent communication skills.
2	Use varied approaches, including digital technologies, to identify, select and critically apply information to enable an evidence-informed approach to physiotherapy practice.
3	Critically evaluate existing knowledge through the use of effective research strategies and initiate, conduct and disseminate research findings that further develop the physiotherapy and healthcare professions.
4	Demonstrate skills of assessment, application and evaluation in the holistic management of individuals from diverse and multicultural backgrounds in order to plan, implement and evaluate physiotherapeutic interventions that are safe, efficient and effective, and to organise and manage a caseload.
5	Critically evaluate the current healthcare focus upon health promotion, enterprise, leadership and quality from a physiotherapy perspective, taking account of potential future developments and their impact on physiotherapy practice, locally, nationally and globally.
6	Demonstrate commitment to continuing professional development as a physiotherapist and to life-long learning.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Summary

The physiotherapy course is taught on campus with mandated attendance. There will be ad-hoc online sessions on some modules with the same mandated attendance requirement.

Prior to students undertaking practice placements they are provided with a sound theoretical base and associated skills delivered and developed using various strategies including lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical classes, group work, inter-professional learning and independent study. Technology Enhanced Learning is used to support module and course delivery via discussion boards, Pebble+, online portfolio development (Pebble+) and on-line marking via Turnitin®. This therefore develops flexible and blended learning. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills of flexibility, adaptability and group working through seminar, tutorial, problem-based learning, practical classes and practice placements. Students will be encouraged to adopt a critical and enquiring approach through structured learning experiences within each module.

External lecturers, clinical specialists, local clinicians and managers will also input into module delivery throughout the course through key lectures and workshops. Service users, carers and patient groups are also invited to participate in campus-based teaching. Where possible simulated patients are used to enhance learning and promote holistic care and communication skills prior to Clinical Placements. In addition to sessions being delivered by academic staff, most of whom maintain their clinical expertise, other senior clinical colleagues are also invited to contribute to the professional skills-based activity in all modules.

All health and social care students studying at master's level and studying pre-registration courses attend an inter-professional education day, this serves to develop understanding of professional roles, identification of role overlap and role specificity, and promotes opportunity for collaborative working. The programme aligns to the level 7, IPE (Interprofessional Education) learning outcomes with a focus on a collaborative approach to the management of complex healthcare scenarios.

Clinical placement education provides the opportunity for students to experience, investigate and critically evaluate inter-professional working. Critical reflection and critical evaluation skills are assessed at level 7 through the Developing Clinical Practice module which requires students to develop and maintain a professional portfolio throughout their clinical education experience including examples of case studies which demonstrate an ability to develop and appraise integrated management plans for complex clinical cases with critical evaluation of available evidence and to demonstrate the integration of theoretical knowledge across clinical boundaries.

Teaching activities include: staff-led lectures and workshops, student led seminars and workshops, practical work, study packs, tutorials, clinically based teaching; case studies, problem solving exercises; reflective learning techniques, computer-assisted learning, simulated practice and inter-personal group skills. We use a considerable amount of computer-based learning, which enriches the versatility of the delivery. Problem solving exercises and case studies enable students to integrate their knowledge and increase their interest in the subject matter. Oral communication and the ability to work effectively in groups are developed by assignments such as group presentations and seminars. Interpersonal skills and interviewing techniques are developed in workshops.

During the practice placements students will be required to develop portfolios and learning logs of work experience. Students will utilise their transferable skills from their previous academic background and previous life-skills to attain the necessary clinical education and experiences to be a Physiotherapist. Elements of enquiry-based learning and its component problem-based learning will further develop their enquiring, analytical and critical problem-based learning skills. Problem based learning addresses the

following objectives: develops subject knowledge, and integrates theory and practice, develops skills for lifelong and self-directed learning; enhances commitment to, and skills for, team working and develops clinical reasoning and critical thinking.

Enquiry-based learning and problem-based learning will be promoted from the outset of the course to develop students' skills of searching, analysing, interpreting and implementing evidence to address common health-and social care scenarios and case-studies. Thereafter, alongside enquiry-based learning there will be elements of didactic teaching and 'master classes' of clinical skills will also be implemented by lecturers and other experts in their clinical fields. Tutorials, case studies, videos of patients, demonstration and practice of manual clinical skills and patient visits will be employed.

Professional Development Planning (PDP) will be encouraged throughout the Course by module teams, academic advisors and Clinical Placement educators giving PDP greater clinical relevance and promoting lifelong learning. Early Year 1 core modules (Foundations of Physiotherapy) prepare students for their future professional life and reflect the core specialities of physiotherapy that are then presented: Cardiovascular and Respiratory Physiotherapy, Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy and Neurological Physiotherapy. In Year 2 students will further integrate complex clinical presentations that emphasise holistic management and inter-professional teamwork. Enterprise, leadership and the changing role of healthcare are important elements of clinical care and are embedded in all modules. This further promotes the culture of PDP necessary for the qualified healthcare practitioner. Throughout, students will be encouraged to think creatively and independently with reflective learning contracts, extended pieces of academic writing, verbal presentation of practice acquired case studies, their own research protocols and implementation of empirical research. Hence the Course facilitates a problem-solving and critical approach, learner empowerment and autonomy these being the qualities necessary of the newly qualified physiotherapist.

The Clinical Skills Suite has been developed for inter-professional use across the School. See here for more details: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/school-of-health/facilities/>. The Clinical Skills suite offers a vast array of equipment to be utilised to enhance learning during sessions. Simulated teaching resources include an immersive learning suite, an Anatomage table, and simulated hospital bays.

Your modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Two Years, Full-Time

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Year 1		
Foundations of Physiotherapy	10	1
Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy	25	1
Neurological Physiotherapy	25	1
Cardiovascular Respiratory Physiotherapy	25	2
Research Foundations	10	2
Clinical Rehabilitation	10	2
Year 2		
Developing Clinical Practice*	15	1
Research Project	50	Year-long
Clinical Placement 1**	15 (Level 6)	1
Clinical Placement 2	15 (Level 6)	1
Clinical Placement 3	15 (Level 6)	1
Clinical Placement 4	15 (Level 6)	2
Clinical Placement 5	15 (Level 6)	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	170 (plus 75 credits at Level 6)	

* Due to the practice learning requirements for this module, there is some flexibility to its timing in the year

** Could be undertaken in the summer of Year 1.

Two Years, Full Time Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Foundation of Sports and Exercise Medicine	10	Year 2, Sem 1
Shaping Healthcare – Management of Long-term conditions	10	Year 2, Sem 1
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	10	

Three Years, Part-Time

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Year 1		
Foundations of Physiotherapy	10	1
Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy <u>or</u> Neurological Physiotherapy	25	1
Cardiovascular Respiratory Physiotherapy	25	2
Year 2		
Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy <u>or</u> Neurological Physiotherapy	25	1
Clinical Placement 1*	15 (Level 6)	1
Developing Clinical Practice	15	1
Research Foundations	10	2
Clinical Rehabilitation	10	2
Year 3		
Clinical Placement 2	15 (Level 6)	1
Clinical Placement 3	15 (Level 6)	1
Research Project	50	Year-long
Clinical Placement 4	15 (Level 6)	2
Clinical Placement 5	15 (Level 6)	
Number of credits of compulsory modules	170 (plus 75 credits at Level 6)	

* Could be undertaken in the summer of Year 1

Three Years, Part-Time *Option modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Foundations of Sports and Exercise Medicine	10	Year 3, Sem 1
Shaping Healthcare – Management of Long-term conditions	10	Year 3, Sem 1
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	10	

Four Years, Part-Time

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Year 1		
Foundations of Physiotherapy	10	1
Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy <u>or</u> Neurological Physiotherapy	25	1
Cardiovascular Respiratory Physiotherapy	25	2
Year 2		
Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy <u>or</u> Neurological Physiotherapy	25	1
Clinical Placement 1*	15 (Level 6)	1
Developing Clinical Practice	15	1
Research Foundations	10	2
Clinical Rehabilitation	10	2
Year 3		
Clinical Placement 2	15 (Level 6)	1
Clinical Placement 3	15 (Level 6)	2
Research Project	50	Year-long
Year 4		
Clinical Placement 4	15 (Level 6)	1
Clinical Placement 5	15 (Level 6)	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	170 (plus 75 credits at Level 6)	

* Could be undertaken in the summer of Year 1

Three Years, Part-Time *Option modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Foundations of Sports and Exercise Medicine	10	Year 3, Sem 1
Shaping Healthcare – Management of Long-term conditions	10	Year 3, Sem 1
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	10	

Assessment and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director, but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

Level 7

This course is assessed by a mix of oral presentations, practical exams based on clinical case scenarios and written coursework. Students are assessed on placement.

Overall Workload	Level 7
Teaching, learning and assessment	639 hours
Independent study	1191 hours
Placement	1125 hours