



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF CLINICAL &
APPLIED SCIENCES

Application Information

**MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration)
Therapeutic and Rehabilitation Sciences
Clinical and Applied Sciences**

2021-2022 Entry

Start date: 17th January 2022

Closing date for applications

Thursday 27th May 2021 (Home students and International students)

The Admissions Team: directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Admissions Tutor (Home applicants):

Lawrence Mayhew at L.mayhew@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Admissions Tutor (International applicants)

Gill Philips at G.Phillips@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Director:

Lorna Campbell at lorna.campbell@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Introduction

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

The MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) is a qualifying programme for those who wish to pursue a professional career in physiotherapy. The course is an 'accelerated' programme meaning that it is shorter in duration than traditional pre-registration physiotherapy courses but without significant loss in content. This reflects the essence of accelerated post-graduate education as students consolidate knowledge and skill from their previous Honours degrees. 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.

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.

The MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) course has successfully produced high calibre graduate clinicians since its inception in January 2005. The course team comprises experienced clinicians that reflect the breadth of clinical specialities within the physiotherapy profession and wider health-care.

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.

Course overview

In the first year, you will study the foundations of physiotherapy theory and practice before commencing placement in the second year.

In the first semester January to June of Year One you will study the principles of movement analysis, anatomy and biomechanics in the examination and assessment of the neuromusculoskeletal system. You will also study the principles of neurophysiology, cardiorespiratory and vascular physiology and pathophysiology in a 40-credit module. You will develop clinical reasoning skills and learn how to select, justify and apply evidence-based interventions.

Alongside this you will study a research-based module and develop a research proposal following a search and critical appraisal of appropriate literature and resources.

In the second semester September to December of Year One you will study subject specific modules within physiotherapy (namely neurological; cardiovascular respiratory and neuromusculoskeletal physiotherapy) to critically justify and holistically apply evidence-based assessment, clinical and management skills to individuals with a variety of conditions. Some of this content will be taught alongside the 2nd year undergraduate BSc (Hons) student group.

In your second year you will start clinical placements. You will complete five placement modules interspersed with blocks of university- based teaching. These placement teaching weeks introduce

you to additional areas of physiotherapy. Examples might be burns and plastics, learning disability, mental health and women's health.

You will reflect on your own practice in relation to existing evidence and develop a deeper understanding of theoretical and practical concepts related to the uni- and inter-professional management of complex patients.

In this second year you will also conduct an independent research project based upon your first-year research proposal.

The table on the following page shows example modules, the module credit and the assessment used within each module.

Inter-professional Learning

There will be opportunities for students to learn of, and alongside, other professions and disciplines through 'Inter-professional learning'. The nature of the learning experiences will provide opportunities for students to develop their team working skills as well as their knowledge of other professions. This explores 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 whilst on clinical placement. This helps broaden students' horizons by exposing them to health and social care professionals other than physiotherapists.

In addition, students undertake a minimum of 1000 hours of clinical experience in a variety of placement settings. 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 is also the opportunity for one elective placement at home or overseas. **Please note there are restrictions on overseas placements during the COVID pandemic.**

Teaching methods

The course utilises both elements of traditional didactic teaching when teaching specific clinical theory and skills and Problem-based learning (PBL). Teaching delivery will adopt a blended approach of face-to-face lectures, tutorials and practical classes, as well as utilising the benefits on-line teaching delivery 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.

PBL enables students from different academic backgrounds and life experiences to learn from, and with, one another. 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

Example timetable for the MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration)

	Jan'	Feb'	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept'	Oct'	Nov'	Dec'
Year One	'Foundations for Physiotherapy Practice' [PBL] 'Research in Physiotherapy Practice' 1 (RIPP1)					Indep' study Data collection for RIPP1 and RIPP2	Clinical placement preparation and one week placement, either July or September. *currently unavailable due to COVID-19 (this is subject to change)	Cardiovascular and respiratory physiotherapy' module 'Musculoskeletal physiotherapy' module 'Neurological physiotherapy' module <i>[Modules to coincide with delivery of associated BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy modules]</i>				
Year Two	Clinical placement: Five 6-week placement blocks to include 1 elective placement sourced by the student. <i>[Schedule for 2023 to be confirmed]</i>											
	'Developing Clinical Practice' module <i>Includes placement theory, leadership and management in health care and preparation for employment.</i>											
	'Research in Physiotherapy Practice 2' (RIPP2) Dissertation & Poster presentation at Conference											

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.

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 Chartered Society of Physiotherapy's (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. You are not under any obligation to agree to be a patient 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.

We are sensitive to cultural differences; whilst practical classes are mixed gender, screens are available to protect dignity and privacy of female students who need 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.

You will be allocated placements in a range of different clinical specialities including core areas of 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.

Clinical placements are provided primarily within the Leeds area (within West Yorkshire) but it may be that travelling or additional placement accommodation is required. 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 that requires additional travel and/or accommodation. 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.

You will undertake an elective clinical placement of your choice, on negotiation with the clinical placement team – you could complete this placement in the UK or abroad; **please note that international placements are currently restricted due to the COVID pandemic.**

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 difference 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 admissions tutor to discuss your needs. l.mayhew@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Applying for exemption from modules

A single module for the MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) course is valued at 20 M level (Level 7) 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 at that academic level. 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 Support Administrator, Sharon Caden, can be contacted on +44 **0113 8126784**

Email: S.Caden@leedsbeckett.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 (HCPC). 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 Director / Admissions Tutor.

Entry requirements

Applicants should have a 2.1 degree (or higher) in the cognate subjects of Biological Science, Behavioural Sciences, Sports Science or a Health-related profession that has been completed within five years of the start date of the course applied for. The first degree must also have had a research methods training component.

Applications

Personal statements can only be reviewed once by the physiotherapy Admissions Team in order to make a decision to progress to interview or reject the application. Hence, we recommend that you address the following advice:

You should submit your personal statement as a separate word document. The maximum word count is 1000 words. It is important that you include relevant detail on your personal statement and that it is written to a high standard that has logical flow and succinctness in writing style. Should a personal statement exceed the word limit then only the first 1000 words will be considered.

We look for applicants who are able to demonstrate good insight into the full breadth of physiotherapy and are able to discuss their interest in the many specialities of physiotherapy. We want to ensure that students coming onto a health course are suitable candidates to work with a range of vulnerabilities and risk factors in a respectful and compassionate manner in accordance with Value Based Recruitment, (Health Education England, Value Based Recruitment Framework, October 2014).

You should also provide insight to the personal qualities required for such work. We expect applicants to have some experience of working alongside physiotherapists or other health professionals. You should reflect upon these experiences or insights explaining how this would transfer to physiotherapy studies and how you would work with a wide range of clients.

Your personal statement should also demonstrate how your previous academic experience has prepared you to undertake an accelerated course at Master's level and independent primary research study. All applications must be accompanied by **TWO** references, ideally from a recent academic institution and place of work or other setting in which you demonstrate responsibility. The references should provide evidence of an applicant's suitability for the physiotherapy profession and postgraduate study e.g. 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.

Referees should also (where possible) comment on the following:

- Motivation, commitment, reliability and attendance
- Intellectual qualities including present and potential performance
- Personal qualities, including self-discipline and working with others
- Ability to organise their own time
- Communication skills – oral and written
- Any further comments that would be relevant to the candidate's application

Satisfactory health and enhanced criminal history checks will be required by all applicants prior to acceptance on the course; these will be in line with professional body membership and HCPC registration requirements.

Selection process

Students will be recruited on the basis that their values align with those of the NHS Constitution as well as having the right skills and aptitude in accordance with Value Based Recruitment (Health Education England, Value Based Recruitment Framework, October 2014). All short-listed applicants will need to attend an online interview.

Date	Stage of the admissions process for home/ EU students
Up to May 2021	<p>APPLICATIONS</p> <p>Closing date: Home/EU students Thursday 27th May 2021</p> <p>Ensure we have received the completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application including personal statement. Please note that submitting a CV alone is not sufficient • References <p>(N.B. It is your responsibility to meet the deadline for all of the above)</p>
April to June 2021	<p>CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS</p> <p>All applications received before the 27th May 2021 will be considered. All shortlisted applicants will be informed and invited to attend one of the online interview days. If you are unsuccessful at this stage (personal statement screening) limited feedback can be provided via the university admissions team.</p>
June to July 2021	<p>Online interview days for Home applicants are scheduled for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 23rd June 2021 • Thursday 24th June 2021 • Wednesday 30th June 2021 • Thursday 1st July 2021 • Wednesday 14th July 2021 • Thursday 15th July 2021 <p>The selection process consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre- task in which you will be asked to present your understanding of the role of physiotherapy for a given topic. The topic will be made available to you at least 48 hours in advance. • An individual interview will be undertaken with a member of staff using Microsoft Teams or Skype for Business • The online individual interview will last approximately 30 minutes with a staff member <p>If you are successful you will receive a conditional offer of a self-funded place within 2 weeks of attending interview.</p> <p>If you are unsuccessful limited feedback can be provided via the university admissions team.</p>

June to July 2021	<p>Interview days for International applicants are scheduled for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 23rd June 2021 • Thursday 24th June 2021 • Wednesday 30th June 2021 • Thursday 1st July 2021 • Wednesday 14th July 2021 • Thursday 15th July 2021 <p>The selection process lasts approximately 30 minutes via a Skype or Microsoft Teams and the interview and consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre- task in which you will be asked to present your understanding of the role of physiotherapy for a given topic. The topic will be made available to you at least 48 hours in advance. • An individual interview will be undertaken with a member of staff. <p>If you are successful you will receive a conditional offer of a self-funded place within 2 weeks of attending interview.</p> <p>If you are unsuccessful limited feedback can be provided via the university admissions team.</p>
September /October 2021	<p>DISCLOSURES AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) CHECKS/HEALTH CHECKS</p> <p>You will be invited to complete online DBS and occupational health checks, as well as a self-declaration form. We require clearance from these checks before you can start the course, so please ensure that you complete the applications promptly as this may delay your enrolment. If you have lived overseas for more than 12 months since the age of 16 you will also need to obtain a DBS equivalent, e.g. Police check from your country of origin/previous residence prior to the start of the course. If your self-declaration form or DBS certificate contain a previous conviction or caution, this will be assessed in line with safeguarding procedures. The University is required to satisfy itself that the nature of your conviction is low risk and will not affect progression to placement and/or eligibility to register with the HCPC.</p>
January 2022	Induction week commences

Key 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.

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

Admissions Tutor (Home applicants): Lawrence Mayhew at l.mayhew@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

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

The Admissions Team: directadmissions@leedsbeckett.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 directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Is the MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) at Leeds Beckett University recognised and accredited?

Our MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration) successfully educates and trains those wishing to become physiotherapists. Our course is approved 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.

It is possible for International students to gain sufficient practice placement experience to enable their application and registration to work in their chosen country. However, students are advised from the outset to discuss and plan this with academic staff at Leeds Beckett University.

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. Instead, 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. It is 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.

I did not complete my degree within the last five years, can I still apply?

We are looking for evidence of recent academic study. This must be at least Level 4 and should include a form of assessment. Please supply this evidence at the time of assessment so that your application can be considered.

What previous research experience do I need to meet the 'research training component'?

You need to be able to demonstrate that you have planned, undertaken, evaluated and presented an appropriate method of 'research enquiry' that would contribute to the current body of knowledge. Ideally you will have undertaken your own primary (empirical) research from either a qualitative or quantitative approach. Secondary research in the form of systematic reviews and research proposals may also be considered if the applicant demonstrates an understanding of the research process within the personal statement.

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 in an accelerated format.

What are the course teaching commitments?

Given the accelerated delivery of the course and the necessary clinical placements you should expect the university-based weeks to be full with teaching and self-directed study. Different modules require different delivery that reflects staffs' commitments and teaching resources.

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 five practice placements lasts six weeks. Students must be present for a normal full-time working week and be willing to work flexible shifts which may include weekend working depending on the requirements of the placement.

What accommodation is available?

Details relating to 'Accommodation at Leeds Beckett' is available on-line at:

<http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/accommodation/index.htm>

Is there an elective placement?

Students on the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) have successfully organised one of their placements in Australia, USA and Malaysia. Until further notice international elective placements have been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Do I need to find my own clinical placements?

With the exception of the elective placement which you will source yourself, the placement team at the Leeds Beckett University 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.

Do I have to organise my own accommodation and travel when on placement?

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. The course team will advise you on this if the need arises.

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

The course is approved by the regulatory body, the Health and Care Professions Council and endorsed by the professional body being the Chartered society of Physiotherapy but some countries will still require successful completion of their own examinations.

Students who wish to work outside the UK following qualification must ensure that they are aware of the registration requirements of that State and/or country.

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 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 references from those who have had recent sustained contact with you. Personal friends are not acceptable. Please choose those who can make some comment on your suitability to be a physiotherapist/ health professional given your levels of responsibility elsewhere and your ability to study at postgraduate level.

If I am unsuccessful at gaining a place on the course can I request feedback on my application?

Due to the high volume of applications we are only able to provide a limited amount of feedback to applications. This request can be made to the university admissions team.