



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF CLINICAL &  
APPLIED SCIENCES

## Application Information

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

**2024-2025 Entry**

**Start date: January 2025**

**Closing date for applications**

**May 24<sup>th</sup> 2024** (Home students and International students)

The Admissions Team: [directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

International Admissions: [international@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:international@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

Admissions Tutor (Home applicants and International applicants)

Lawrence Mayhew at [l.mayhew@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:l.mayhew@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

Course Director:

Richard Partner at [R.partner@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:R.partner@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 are fit for practice now and in the future and to make a contribution to their organisations, community, profession and wider society. 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 develop the key physiotherapy skills of communication, note keeping and critical thinking within the Foundations of Physiotherapy module. You will also study the related anatomy, physiology, skills and knowledge required to begin to work effectively with clients presenting with a range of musculoskeletal (Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy module) and neurological conditions (Neurological Physiotherapy module).

In the second semester September to December of Year One you will study the related anatomy, physiology, skills and knowledge required to begin to work effectively with clients presenting with a range of cardio-vascular or respiratory related problems (Cardiovascular Physiotherapy module). The 'Clinical Rehabilitation' module allows our students to develop rehabilitation strategies for a range of patients from a wide social demographic with complex health needs. In addition, you will begin to develop the foundations for which to plan and propose a research study relevant to the scope or breadth of physiotherapy practice (Research Foundations module), as well as enhancing your understanding of the care and management of more complex patients prior to clinical placement (Developing Clinical Practice module)

In your second year you will start clinical placements. You will complete five placement modules interspersed with option modules to broaden your learning experience. You can choose to study either Shaping Healthcare – Management of Long-term conditions module, or, Foundations of Sports and

Exercise Medicine module. In this second year you will also conduct an independent research project based upon your first-year research proposal which completes your programme of study with us.

The table on the following page shows example modules and the full-time course layout.

## Inter-professional Learning

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 helps students to develop and maintain a professional portfolio throughout their clinical education experience.

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. 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

## Teaching methods

The course team uses a variety of teaching and learning approaches including blended learning to provide students with 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 through the structure of the learning experiences within each module to adopt a critical and enquiring approach. A sound theoretical base must be established along with associated skills prior to the student undertaking practice placements.

Our emphasis at level 7 is to support our students through a range of ways to transform into sophisticated, independent, critical thinkers, able to apply their knowledge with originality within advanced academic and professional contexts. For example, the Foundations of Physiotherapy module will contextualise these skills to study at Level 7 for physiotherapists and we will support this transition so that all students will become confident in their academic and professional abilities and able to apply their knowledge and skills within complex situations.

The use of tutorials, case studies, problem-solving exercises related to physiotherapy practice, videos of patients, demonstrations and patient visits will be employed within modules to maintain clinical enthusiasm and further encourage deep learning. Students will undertake structured selfstudy which will be closely guided by the module tutors. The skills of and for learning will also be embedded within the Level in order that students have the tools necessary for Professional Development Planning (PDP).

## Example timetable for the MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration)

	Jan'	Feb'	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept'	Oct'	Nov'	Dec'
Year One	Foundations of Physiotherapy (10 credits)					Indep' study	One week taster clinical placement (Date to be confirmed)			Cardiovascular Respiratory Physiotherapy (25 credits)		
	Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy (25 credits)						Scheduled summer break			Research Foundations (10 credits)		
	Neurological Physiotherapy (25 credits)									Clinical Rehabilitation (10 credits)		
										Developing Clinical Practice (15 credits)		
Year Two	Students choose one option from:											
	Foundation of Sports & Exercise Medicine (10 credits)											
	Shaping Healthcare - Management of Long-term conditions (10 credits)											
	Research Project (50 credits)											
	5 x 6-week clinical placement blocks <b>Placement 1</b> Jan/ Feb, <b>Placement 2</b> May/ June,					<b>Placement 3</b> Jun/Jul/Aug			<b>Placement 4</b> Sept/ Oct, <b>Placement 5</b> Nov/Dec			

## 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 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.

Students undertake a taster placement in Year 1, subject to availability. You will then undertake five blocks of 6-weeks in year 2, one of which is an elective placement which you will source with guidance from the course team. All other placements are sourced and allocated by the physiotherapy placement team. Students normally work a 36-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 This may include community-based services, acute services, chronic services, rehabilitation services across a variety of settings for example inpatients, outpatients, private and NHS (National Health Service) providers.

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.

## 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: <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/students/health-disability-and-becoming-a-health-and-care-professional/>

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](mailto: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](mailto:l.mayhew@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Applying for exemption from modules

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](mailto: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. **The admissions team will not be able to accept documents after the deadline date and your application will be judged on what is provided on submission.**

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 interview.

Date	Stage of the admissions process for home/ EU students
Up to 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	<p>APPLICATIONS</p> <p>Closing date: Home/EU students <b>25<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b> Ensure we have received the completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The application including personal statement. Please note that submitting a CV alone is not sufficient</li> <li>• References</li> </ul> <p><b>(N.B. It is your responsibility to meet the deadline for all of the above)</b></p> <p><b>The admissions team will not be able to chase documents or accept documents after the deadline date and your application will be judged on what is provided on submission.</b></p>
	<p>CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS</p> <p>All applications received before the <b>25<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b> will be considered. All shortlisted applicants will be informed and invited to attend one of the interview days. If you are unsuccessful at this stage (personal statement screening) limited feedback can be provided via the university admissions team.</p>
May to July 2024	<p>Interview days for applicants are scheduled for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024</li> <li>• Wednesday 19<sup>st</sup> June 2024</li> <li>• Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024</li> <li>• Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024</li> </ul> <p>The selection process consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 1:1 online interview with a staff member. This will include the delivery of a short 5-minute presentation of a 'set task' followed by interview</li> <li>• The set task will be sent to the applicant 48 hours before their scheduled interview.</li> <li>• If you are successful you will receive a conditional offer of a self-funded place within 2 weeks of attending interview.</li> </ul> <p>If you are unsuccessful limited feedback can be provided via the university admissions team.</p>

September /October 2024	<p>DISCLOSURES AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) CHECKS/HEALTH CHECKS 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 2024	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: Richard Partner at [R.partner@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:R.partner@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

Admissions Tutor: Lawrence Mayhew at [L.mayhew@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:L.mayhew@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

The Admissions Team: [directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:directadmissions@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

International Admissions: [international@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:international@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](mailto: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. The course offers an option choice module in year 2 and you have independent choice of research project title, so whilst this is not specialism per se, it does show future employers your clinical focus on graduation.

### **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 and Exercise Therapy.

**The literature that I received about the course suggested that a 2.1 honours degree is 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.

There is a part-time option that may be available to students for 2025 intake. This is currently undergoing regulatory approval. Please contact the admissions tutor for further information in January 2024.

**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:

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-experience/accommodation/>

**Is there an elective placement?**

Yes. There is one elective placement. Students on the MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-registration) have successfully organised one of their placements in Australia, USA and Malaysia.

**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 upfront 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. It should be noted that Leeds Beckett University students primarily have placements in a Leeds postcode, commuting is the normal process for placement for most of our students.

**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.