



Course Specification

Part A

Course Title: MSc /PgC
Advancing Physiotherapy Practice
Course Code: HLST255

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences
School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health

Academic Year: 2020/21

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

PART A Course Specification

Title of Course: MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice

1. Introduction

The MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice is a well established course which consistently receives excellent feedback from students and external examiners, particularly relating to student support during the course and for enhancing student employability. Previous graduates have gone on to work as clinical physiotherapists, lecturers and researchers in the UK, Europe, USA, Asia and Africa.

The specific aims of the course are to enhance the knowledge, skills and behaviours of physiotherapy graduates, specifically in the three core areas of physiotherapy practice (cardiorespiratory, musculoskeletal and neurology) and to contribute to students' professional development. The course offers physiotherapy graduates the opportunity to progress their professional development immediately following completion of their undergraduate programme, without having to gain a period of post-graduation work experience. Currently there are few master's programmes across the UK, which offer opportunities for new graduates, and this is one of the unique features of this course. This has resulted in the course attracting a culturally diverse cohort of students with a wide range of healthcare experiences. Thus, all students benefit from rich intercultural exchange within the cohort and also from wider opportunities for international experiences provided as part of Coventry University's Internationalisation Strategy. All students benefit from the well established support strategies, which enhance students' transition to master's level study, develop their study skills, communication skills and intercultural competence. The pre-course welcome pack introduces students to the university, the course structure and relevant preparatory reading material. The extended induction programme includes an academic English course (which is specifically tailored to the requirements of health care professionals), as well as workshops relating to study skills, assessment and referencing. In addition to this, student learning is enhanced by the excellent library facilities, support from the Centre for Academic Writing and access to additional online material through the university's virtual online environment. As well as guidance with academic work, students receive personalised support from their personal tutor whose role is to guide students in terms of professional development and employability.

The three clinically focussed modules comprise learning outcomes, which emphasise the development of assessment, clinical reasoning and treatment skills in the three core areas of physiotherapy practice. This is achieved through innovative teaching and assessment that includes the engagement of service users and clinical experts in teaching and the use of state of the art simulation equipment. Two fully equipped community houses, a hospital ward and intensive care unit in the purpose-built Alison Gingell Building, provide students with the opportunity to develop and practise their clinical skills in an environment, which closely resembles real life clinical practice. The philosophy underpinning the course recognises the importance of research and critical thinking. The course structure supports this ethos by scheduling modules relating to research and evidence based practice, early in the course, allowing students to embark on the clinically-focussed modules, with a more critical approach and more able to use research evidence in clinical problem solving. The research module is directly linked to the dissertation module so that right from the start, students are supported in cultivating their own research ideas so that they develop a clear focus on the topic they will address for their dissertation. In addition to enhancing the students' clinical reasoning during the course, these skills will specifically enhance graduates' employability by preparing them for more advanced roles in clinical practice, education or research.

A key feature of the course is the Global Professional Development module, designed in collaboration with the Chartered Management Institute. By learning alongside other students from a diverse range of cultural and professional backgrounds, this module specifically aims to provide students with the opportunity to broaden their communication skills and confidence. The module content aims to develop their leadership skills, creativity and understanding of entrepreneurship. These skills are particularly relevant to physiotherapists aiming to advance their careers and will equip them to take on leading roles in the changing health and social care landscape. While the MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice is aimed specifically at new graduates, the PgC Advancing Physiotherapy Practice which comprises the three clinically focused modules, is aimed at a different demographic. This course provides a focused short programme for physiotherapists who wish to specifically enhance their assessment, treatment and clinical reasoning skills in the core areas of physiotherapy practice. The course has been particularly relevant for physiotherapists who are returning to practice after a career break. It provides students with the opportunity to engage with the current evidence base relating to physiotherapy, update their skills and enhance their intercultural communication skills and confidence in preparation for employment.

The course content is informed by market research undertaken nationally and internationally and the views of key stakeholders have been taken into consideration in the continued development of this course. In particular, external examiner and student feedback have driven the changes in course and module structure that ensure that content remains current and relevant, delivery remains innovative and effective and that students are effectively supported to achieve their potential. Innovative features of the course include:

- Develops clinical skills in three core area of practice
- Authentic approaches to teaching and learning
- Develops intercultural communication
- Develops leadership skills and entrepreneurial mind-set
- Enhances employability

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	FHEQ Level
MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice	1 year Full Time 2 years Part Time		Level 7
Postgraduate Certificate in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice	5 semesters		Level 7
<u>Fall-back Award</u> Postgraduate Diploma in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice Postgraduate Diploma (un-named) Postgraduate Certificate (un-named)			

3 Awarding Institution/Body	Coventry University.
4 Collaboration	Not applicable
5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery	Coventry University Campus
6 Internal Approval/Review Dates	Date of last review: December 2019 Date for next review: Academic year 2025/26
7 Course Accredited by	Not applicable
8 Accreditation Date and Duration	Not applicable
9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors	QAA Descriptor for a qualification at Masters (M) level: Master's Degree (QAA 2008) FHEQ level 7 http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/FHEQ/EWNI08/FHEQ08.pdf
10 Date of Course Specification	Current update: December 2020
11 Course Director	Jackie Shanley

12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Courses

The two courses aim to provide coherent programmes of study relevant to current physiotherapy practice, which align with Coventry University's Education Strategy and aim to meet the needs of individuals and employers at a national and international level. The courses will provide the opportunity for individuals to explore and extend their knowledge and professional expertise in the three core areas of physiotherapy practice. In addition to this, graduates of the MSc will be critical thinkers, reflective practitioners, effective users of research with independent research skills.

The main aims of the Postgraduate Certificate in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice are:

- To provide students with subject specific knowledge and skills, with a critical, flexible and collaborative approach to clinical problem solving
- Provide students with enhanced professional and practical skills in preparation for professional employment

In addition to the aims of the PgC, the main aims of the MSc in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice are:

- Enable students to work independently and use initiative to solve diverse problems
- Instil a critical awareness of advances in professional practice
- Equip students with the skills to design, conduct and critically appraise research and professional practice
- Enable students to communicate effectively in preparation for employment in a culturally diverse range of practice environments
- Equip students with the ability to reflect and apply theoretical knowledge to practice
- Equip students with the skills to apply the principles of strategic leadership and entrepreneurship to a workplace environment;

13 Course Learning Outcomes

Postgraduate Certificate in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice

On successful completion of the course, a student will be able to:

1. critically discuss the principles of assessment, treatment and holistic management of clients with a range of impairments and activity limitations;
2. justify clinical decision making through effective clinical reasoning;
3. critically evaluate theoretical basis of physiotherapy practice.

Master's Award in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice

On successful completion of the course, in addition to the learning outcomes of the postgraduate certificate, a student will be able to:

4. critically appraise contemporary research to formulate evidence-informed approaches to physiotherapy management;
5. use critical self-reflection effectively as an integral part of life-long learning;
6. communicate decision making effectively with others.
7. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the principles of entrepreneurship and the theories and practices found in leadership.
8. justify choice of research design, methodology and methods to investigate (under supervision) a research question relating to physiotherapy practice and present it in a way that would stand up to critical review in academic and professional settings.

14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

Full time students normally attend the University for two days per week, for 13 weeks during each of the three semesters per year.

Postgraduate Certificate in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice - Full Time Route

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
7123SOH - Advancing Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Practice 20 credits	7122SOH - Advancing Neurological Physiotherapy Practice 20 credits	
	7124SOH - Advancing Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Practice 20 credits	

Postgraduate Certificate in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice - Part Time Route

Academic year	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Year 1	7123SOH - Advancing Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Practice 20 credits	7122SOH - Advancing Neurological Physiotherapy Practice 20 credits	
Year 2		7124SOH - Advancing Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Practice 20 credits	

Master's Award in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice - Full Time Route

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
7123SOH - Advancing Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Practice 20 credits	7122SOH - Advancing Neurological Physiotherapy Practice 20 credits	7005CRB - Global Professional Development – Entrepreneurship 10 credits
7005SOH - Evidence Based Practice 20 credits	7124SOH - Advancing Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Practice 20 credits	7125SOH – Dissertation 50 credits
7006SOH - Research Methodology, Design and Methods 20 credits	7126SOH - Developing Expertise in Professional Practice 20 credits	

Master's Award in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice - Part Time Route

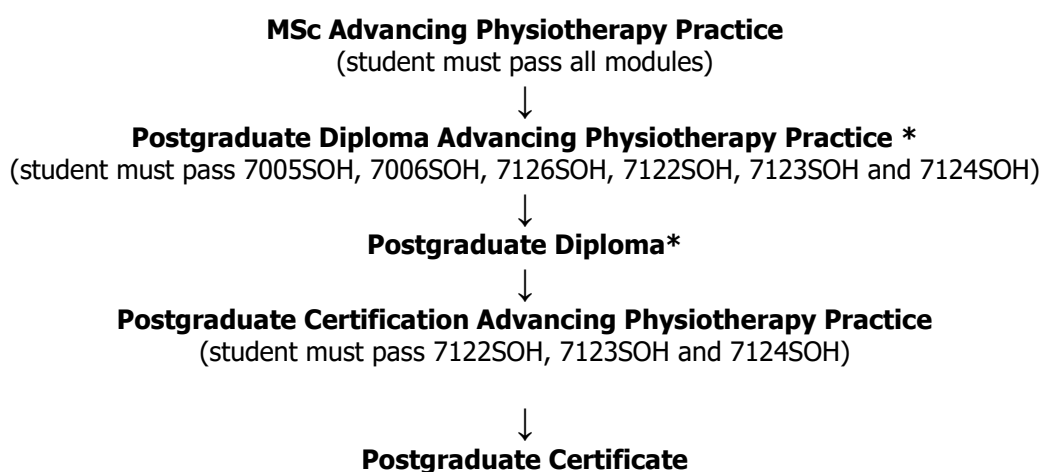
Academic year	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
Year 1	7005SOH - Evidence Based Practice 20 credits	7122SOH - Advancing Neurological Physiotherapy Practice 20 credits	7005CRB - Global Professional Development – Entrepreneurship 10 credits
		7126SOH - Developing Expertise in Professional Practice 20 credits	
Year 2	7123SOH - Advancing Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Practice 20 credits	7122SOH - Advancing Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Practice 20 credits	7125SOH – Dissertation 50 credits
	7006SOH - Research Methodology, Design and Methods 20 credits		

The programme has an embedded module, M005CRB: Global Professional Development - Entrepreneurship, which has been developed with the Chartered Institute of Management (CMI). Students who successfully complete the module and meet the CMI evidence requirements will gain an L7 Certificate in Strategic Leadership and Management:

1. Strategic Leadership (Unit 7013V1 from the L7 Strategic Management and Leadership qualification)
2. Strategic Leadership Practice (Unit 7014V1 from the L7 Strategic Management and Leadership qualification)

This will enable students to apply for Chartered Manager status via the qualified route, once the other entry criteria have been met.

Cascade of Awards:



- available as fall back award only

Modules within the courses are mandatory. The modules required of each course, the levels at which they are studied, and their credit value are identified in the table below.

Credit level	Module Code	Title	Credit Value	Mandatory for which Course	Course Learning Outcomes
7	7005SOH	Evidence Based Practice	20	MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice PgD Advancing Physiotherapy Practice	3, 4, 7, 8
7	7006SOH	Research Methodology, Design and Methods	20	MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice PgD Advancing Physiotherapy Practice	4, 6, 8
7	7123SOH	Advancing Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Practice	20	MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice PgD Advancing Physiotherapy Practice PgC Advancing Physiotherapy Practice	1, 2, 3, 4, 6
7	7126SOH	Developing Expertise in Professional Practice	20	MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice PgD Advancing Physiotherapy Practice	2, 3, 5, 6
7	7124SOH	Advancing Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Practice	20	MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice PgD Advancing Physiotherapy Practice PgC Advancing Physiotherapy Practice	1, 2, 3, 4, 6
7	7122SOH	Advancing Neurological Physiotherapy Practice	20	MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice PgD Advancing Physiotherapy Practice PgC Advancing Physiotherapy Practice	1, 2, 3, 4, 6
7	7005CRB	Global Professional Development - Entrepreneurship	10	MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice	5, 6, 7
7	7125SOH	Dissertation	50	MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice	3, 4, 6, 8

15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

The requirements for admission to the MSc / PgC Advancing Physiotherapy Practice course are as follows:

A qualification in physiotherapy comprising a degree or diploma (or equivalent), normally with a mark of 60% or more.

Students whose first language is not English are normally required to have an IELTS score of 6.5 or above, with no score lower than 5.5 in any component.

Applications from individuals who do not meet the above entry requirements may be considered by the Course Director and assessed for suitability.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Recognition of Prior (Experiential) Learning RP(E)L.

This scheme provides the opportunity for applicants to make claims for both certificated and experiential (non-certificate) learning. Recognition for prior learning (RPL) and Recognition of Prior (Experiential) Learning RP(E)L is in accordance with University regulations. Students on the programme shall submit an RPL/RP(E)L portfolio on admission and will be permitted to present further evidence from their work experience or employer training, during the course for consideration.

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the standard [University Academic Regulations Postgraduate Mode R](#)

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The Course is managed by the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Board of Study of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

The Progression and Award Board (PAB) for the School of Nursing Midwifery and Health is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations.

The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Board of Study which contribute modules to the course.

External Examiners have the opportunity to moderate all assessment tasks and a sample of assessed work for each module. They will report annually on the course and/or constituent modules and their views are considered as part of the Course Quality Enhancement Monitoring (CQEM).

Students are represented on the Student Forum, Board of Study and Faculty Board, all of which meet regularly throughout the year.

Student views are also sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires.

The QAA's review of higher education undertaken in February 2015 confirmed that Coventry University meets UK expectations in:

- the setting and maintenance of the academic standards of its awards;
- the quality of student learning opportunities;
- the quality of the information about learning opportunities;
- the enhancement of student learning opportunities.

Coventry University was awarded a five star overall rating by the QS Stars awards system for 2019, confirming the breadth of its excellence across teaching, research and other key indicators

<https://www.coventry.ac.uk/news/coventry-university-scores-highest-ever-rating-in-qs-stars-awards/>

It achieved 13th place in the Guardian university guide 2019 <https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2018/may/29/university-league-tables-2019>

Coventry University was awarded Gold for outstanding teaching and learning by the Teaching Excellence Framework 2017. <https://www.coventry.ac.uk/primary-news/coventry-university-awarded-gold-rating-in-teaching-excellence-framework-tef-today/>

It came 1st in the Complete University Guide as the UK's Top New University 2018

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/coventry/>

Members of the teaching team are Fellows/Senior Fellows of the Higher Education Academy. A significant number of academic staff have higher degrees, including PhDs. Innovative teaching and assessment strategies are incorporated into modules and courses, reflecting staff interest and expertise. Continual staff development is actively encouraged, in addition to developing research activity relating to physiotherapy and education. Research areas include clinical reasoning in physiotherapy, the use of illness narratives in physiotherapy education, management of delirium and supporting international students in higher education.

Members of academic staff work closely with a range of key partners in health and social care. Staff are engaged in continuing professional development including membership of professional bodies such as the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and the Higher Education Academy (HEA). Staff appraisal and regular peer observation, which improves practice and quality of staff teaching within the department, occur annually. Consultation with external stakeholders is integral also to course quality and enhancement

The External Examiner Reports have been consistently positive, particularly in relation to student support; in 2018 the report stated 'I have every confidence that this programme is developing not only in its content and delivery but by its very ethos and philosophy of "advancing" practice. The module teams have a consolidated programme which offers post-registration opportunities to home and international students and they balance this dynamic very well.'

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including,

- Faculty Handbook;
- Student Handbook;

- Module Guides;
 - Module Information Directory;
 - Online Virtual Learning Environment with 24 hour IT services support;
 - Sigma Maths Support;
 - Centre for Academic Writing.
 - Health and wellbeing support.
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