



MSc Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration) programme

Applicant guide

1. Course overview

An accelerated two years pre-registration physiotherapy programme for those with a graduate degree in a related field. The course will provide students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to deliver comprehensive physiotherapy programmes for a variety of patient groups. They will also gain skills in evidence-based practice to inform the choice of intervention, evaluate progress and improve their knowledge and skills on a continuous basis.

2. Main objectives

1. An understanding of the physiotherapy knowledge, skills, behaviour and values including the ability to take responsibility for one's action, behave ethically, strive to achieve excellence and to deliver an effective service
2. An understanding of the key aspects of physiotherapy knowledge including the scientific basis of physiotherapy; ethical, legal and policy frameworks and an awareness of the political, social, economic and institutional factors shaping health
3. An ability to analyse and apply the appropriate core physiotherapy practice skills in a variety of situations including manual therapy, exercise and movement, electrophysical modalities and kindred physical approaches
4. The ability to communicate appropriately in different situations putting the person at the centre of practice through the management of self and others, and the promotion of integration and teamwork
5. The ability to appraise the quality of provision in order to improve and develop services, demonstrating the ability to research and evaluate practice and use evidence to lead practice and implement change

To gain eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council, and membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy as a qualified Physiotherapist, students must meet all the objectives above.

3. Teaching and learning

First year

Students will attend intensive teaching weeks throughout the year from September to July supported by extensive online material, which will include webinars, videos, and discussion forums.

Taught sessions will focus on clinical skills and problem-based learning, which are further supported by practical sessions, tutorials and seminars as appropriate.

Second year

There is a requirement to complete 1000 hours of clinical placement which will be provided by the programme in a range of settings reflecting the contemporary role of Physiotherapists. Most placements are in London, but students may be allocated to clinics throughout south-east England.

4. Assessment

Assessment for the course varies depending on the module, but always consist of at least two forms of assessment. The different assessment strategies include objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE), Viva (oral examination), oral presentations, written examinations and portfolios, and clinical case studies. These assessments will enable the modules to support and build up the students' practical, clinical, communication and written skills that they will need both for the clinical placement module and for a successful lifelong learning.

Core modules

- Clinical Anatomy and Assessment of the Neuromusculoskeletal System
- Clinical Physiology and Pathology including paediatrics and older age
- Professional Practice
- Management and Rehabilitation of Cardio-Respiratory and Pulmonary Conditions
- Management of Neuromusculoskeletal Conditions
- Management of Neurological conditions, and Long-term Conditions
- Advanced Research Methods
- Placement
- Dissertation

5. Entry requirements

- Five GCSEs at grade C or above, including English language or literature, mathematics and a science subject
- An upper-second-class degree (or equivalent) in a related field is required. Related degrees include medical, sport, and biomedical science, and science degrees such as biology, biochemistry, chemistry, and physiology. Other degrees will be considered on an individual basis.
- In addition to the above, candidates are required to have practical experience relating to Physiotherapy. Such as shadowing, work placement or healthcare work experience.

Applicants with extensive relevant industry experience with a 2.2 in a relevant field, and applicants with a first or upper second classification in a non-specified field with work experience in a relevant environment will be referred to the Programme Director for consideration.

For students whose first language is not English, there is a requirement to achieve an IELTS tariff of 7 with no individual component below 6.5. This falls in line with the recommendations of the CSP and the HCPC.

6. Application

Applications will be taken through the postgraduate admissions team. Applicants will use the link on the programme webpage to apply for the programme. Applicants will complete a personal statement outlining their suitability and desire to become a Chartered Physiotherapist.

Applicants will be kept up to date with the progress of their application through the postgraduate admission department and informed of decisions and rationales at each stage.

The criteria for selection takes into consideration an individual's ability to study this subject at postgraduate level, and the requirements of the professional accrediting bodies. The postgraduate admission department will monitor all applications annually to help identify trends and review procedures.

Experience

Must have completed relevant work experience **prior** to application. Relevant work experience includes any Physiotherapy specific experience in the private, sporting or military setting or experience within the traditional MDT in acute and community care environments. Experience to be documented in table format and include location, speciality and duration of experience – a contact detail for each placement or work experience must be provided and a random check of a proportion of these will be followed up to assess whether genuine.

Skills to be covered in the personal statement

Why St Mary's?

Why Physiotherapy?

Why are you a suitable candidate for the course (outline your experience and skills here)?

References

Required after being offered a place as part of the conditions.

Outline applicant's academic and practical suitability for the course.

7. Selection process

The criteria for selection takes into consideration an individual's ability to study this subject at postgraduate level, and the requirements of the professional accrediting bodies.

All shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by a panel consisting of a clinical Physiotherapist and an academic member of staff, who will take it in turn to ask questions. Each interview will last approximately 20 minutes. Please be aware that there may be other candidates in the room being interviewed by a different panel at the same time as you.

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses-london/physiotherapy>

We advise that you arrive 30 minutes before your interview. Please come to the university's main reception, from where you will be directed to your interview.

The interview questions will be based on the NHS values and will explore your understanding of Physiotherapy. The links below may be useful in helping you prepare for the day.

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-constitution-for-england/the-nhs-constitution-for-england>.
- <http://www.csp.org.uk/your-health>

If you have any further queries or require any aids or adaptations to attend the interview, then please do not hesitate to get in touch via mastersadmit@stmarys.ac.uk.

Following the selection day, applicants will be made formal offers, placed on a reserve list or told that they have been unsuccessful. All offers are subject to satisfactory pre-enrolment checks as detailed below in section 8.

8. Pre-enrolment and pre-clinical checks

DBS (Criminal Record Check)

As part of the registration process onto our postgraduate course, you are required to undertake a criminal record check through the Disclosure & Barring Service to ensure that you have not been barred from working with children and vulnerable adults and do not have criminal records that makes you unsuitable for working with young people.

This will be requested if successful following interview. We will process your DBS check online in July with a company called "GBG Online Disclosures". You will receive an activation email from GBG Online Disclosures to your email address that you have provided to us on your application form. If you would like to nominate a different email address, please let us know in July by emailing mastersadmit@stmarys.ac.uk.

Once you have received the activation email to your preferred address, please follow the instructions as set out in the activation email to start and complete your online DBS application form.

When you have completed the online form, you will be asked to provide three pieces of original ID documents to support your DBS application. GBG Online Disclosures will provide a full list of acceptable ID documents to you, and you must confirm to them the documents that you agree to bring to show us in our Admissions Office (room N46) at St Mary's University. We must see the original ID documents, and we will make photocopies of the three pieces of ID documents for record purposes only. Our office opening hours are 11am-4pm on Monday to Thursday and 9am-12pm on Fridays. You can come in person or alert us if you would like to nominate someone to act on your behalf.

Once we can confirm that we have seen the necessary ID documents from you, we would be able to notify GBG Online Disclosures that the document checking stage is satisfied. You will then be sent payment instructions, and your payment is made to GBG Online Disclosures for the sum of £51.20. Your form will only be released to the actual DBS for processing once

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses-london/physiotherapy>

you have made payment for the check. After payment, you can track your DBS progress on the [DBS Tracking Service](#).

Please note that the DBS only issues *one copy* of the final Certificate and you are the sole recipient of the DBS Certificate. St Mary's University does not receive any version of the clearance check from the DBS. We will receive a letter from GBG Online Disclosures either stating that your check has returned clear or instructions for us to see the original disclosure if any incident is reported.

You must keep your DBS Certificate safe as you will need it for your student registration and your clinical placements on the course.

In order for your DBS check to remain valid for the upcoming year and for your course, you must sign up to the [DBS Update Service](#) upon receipt of your DBS Certificate. You will only have a limited time to join this renewing service so please act quickly:

<https://secure.crbonline.gov.uk/crsc/apply?execution=e1s1>

For any queries relating to the DBS application process, please email the Admissions Office at St Mary's University at mastersadmit@stmarys.ac.uk.

Occupational health check

The admissions team will send a medical questionnaire alongside offer letter. The questionnaire would be completed by students and returned to the admission team who then forward all the forms to an external occupational health adviser who will contact student for further screening if indicated. The cost of the health check is £19 payable by the applicant. The medical questionnaire is available at

https://stmarysuniversity.formstack.com/forms/medicalform_physiotherapy

Specifically, all prospective physiotherapy students would require immunisation or evidence of immunity for the following:

- Hepatitis B - You are advised to have at least two doses of hepatitis B vaccine prior to admission to the University
- Tuberculosis (TB) - You should have evidence of 'Bacillus Calmette-Guérin' (BCG) vaccination either by a visible BCG scar or documented proof of vaccination
- Mumps measles and rubella (MMR) - Satisfactory evidence of protection would include documentation of having received two doses of MMR or having had positive antibody tests for measles and rubella
- History of vaccination for Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Polio
- Varicella history for those born and raised UK, and Non-UK varicella screening

The above lists are based on the immunisation and infection control standards required for new NHS healthcare workers and students, from the Green Book 2013. Online version of the book available at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/147882/Green-Book-Chapter-12.pdf

Pre-clinical vaccination

All students will need to show evidence of completed vaccination for Hepatitis B, BCG, Varicella, and Influenza where applicable, prior to starting the placement component of the programme. These vaccinations can be received from most GP surgeries in England. There is an up-to date information on the NHS Choices (<https://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/>) on how to obtain these vaccinations.

First Aid certificate

Applicants will also need to ensure they have a current First Aid certificate prior to starting the placement component of the programme. St Mary's University's Short Courses Department provides appropriate First Aid courses at a reduced rate of £85 for St Mary's University students. For detailed information, please see the University's website.

9. Other relevant information

- This programme offers a 'blended learning' approach using technology to support face-to-face teaching.
- Programme is delivered by clinicians with extensive clinical and academic experience.
- It offers opportunity for unique placement in a range of settings.