

MSc Advanced Physiotherapy HHMPHYMSC

(Information is correct at the time of going to press, 16th May 2025)

Website link



Course Overview

This contemporary, well-established part time Masters degree is designed for motivated physiotherapists who want to **develop and challenge** their professional practice and obtain an advanced academic qualification. The programme enables you to critically evaluate current practice, develop advanced knowledge, understanding and skills and undertake contemporary clinical research. Flexibility in the selection and delivery modes of an extensive portfolio of taught, work-based and independent modules and short courses results in a bespoke approach to the development of advanced clinical reasoning, academic and research skills and attributes which equips participants to practice successfully in an ever-changing healthcare environment. The Programme has a proven history of enhancing career progression, with many [alumni students](#) progressing into senior roles such as physiotherapy consultants, first contact practitioners, clinical specialists, team leaders, clinical mentors, lecturers and researchers.

The MSc Advanced Physiotherapy is accredited by the [Chartered Society of Physiotherapy](#) (CSP) and can lead to full membership of [The Musculoskeletal Association of Chartered Physiotherapists](#) (MACP) if specific routes of study are undertaken.

Who is it for?

The course is suitable for qualified physiotherapists who are passionate about physiotherapy and want to advance their existing skills, acquire new ones and develop their career opportunities. You should have at least one year's relevant post-qualification experience and evidence of relevant continuing

professional development. Due to the applied nature of the programme, you should normally have a relevant clinical caseload during the course to apply theory to practice, integrate, consolidate and reflect on new skills and meet the demands of the assessment. You will need to be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). If your first language is not English, you will normally have to provide evidence of IELTS of 7.0 (including 7.0 in the writing component) with no less than 6.5 in every band. Several modules of study will have specific pre-requisites for successful application (please see individual application sites for more details). If you have a particular interest in the management of patients with cardiorespiratory problems or long-term conditions, you may wish to explore the master's degrees offered by our partner [Education for Health](#). Or if you wish to pursue Advanced Clinical Practice, you may wish to review the university's [MSc Advanced Clinical Practice](#) Programme.

What is the Course Structure?

The course is **flexible** and **modular**, which allows you to study at a rate that suits **your individual circumstances** and needs. You have up to **6 years** to complete your Masters course, but most students complete in 3-4 years and study 1-2 modules per year. Some modules must be studied as a pre-requisite to other modules but where this is not the case the order of modules is up to you. A full-time option is not available in 2025-26.

To attain an MSc Advanced Physiotherapy award, you need to complete 180 credits (including a compulsory 60 credits of research). However, there are also several interim awards available if you do not wish to study to Masters level:

- **Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) in Advanced Physiotherapy (60 credits).** Please note that this must include a minimum of **30 credits of "core physiotherapy"** modules or the award will be a PgC in Health Studies.
- **Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) in Advanced Physiotherapy (120 credits).** Please note that this must include a minimum of **30 credits of "core physiotherapy"** modules or the award will be a PgD in Health Studies.
- **Postgraduate Certificate in Leadership in Health and Social Care (60 credits).**
- **Postgraduate Certificate in Practice Education in Health and Care (60 credits).**

The MSc Advanced Physiotherapy consists of three key elements: **core physiotherapy modules, compulsory research modules and optional modules.**

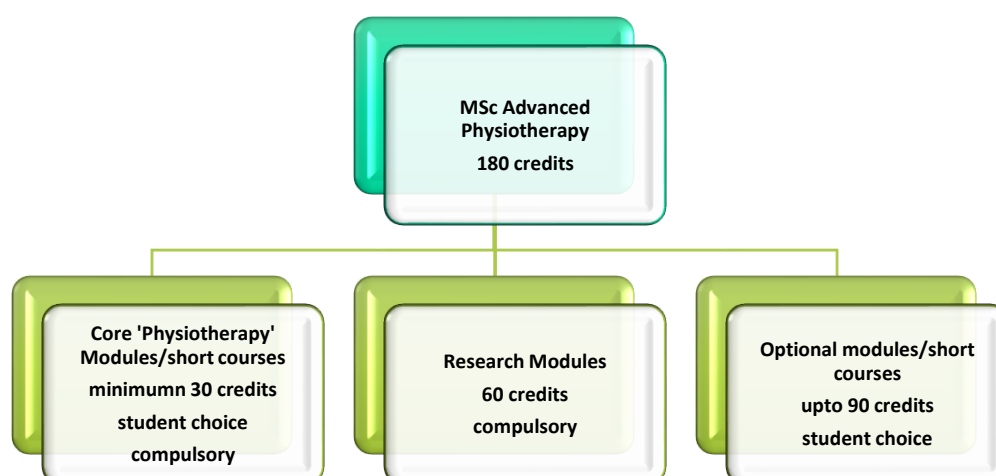


Figure 1 MSc Advanced Physiotherapy course structure

Additional Professional Accreditation

The MSc Advanced Physiotherapy enables students to gain **FULL membership of the Musculoskeletal Association of Chartered Physiotherapists (MACP)** if a specific set of modules is successfully completed. To achieve this, you will need to complete the following modules:

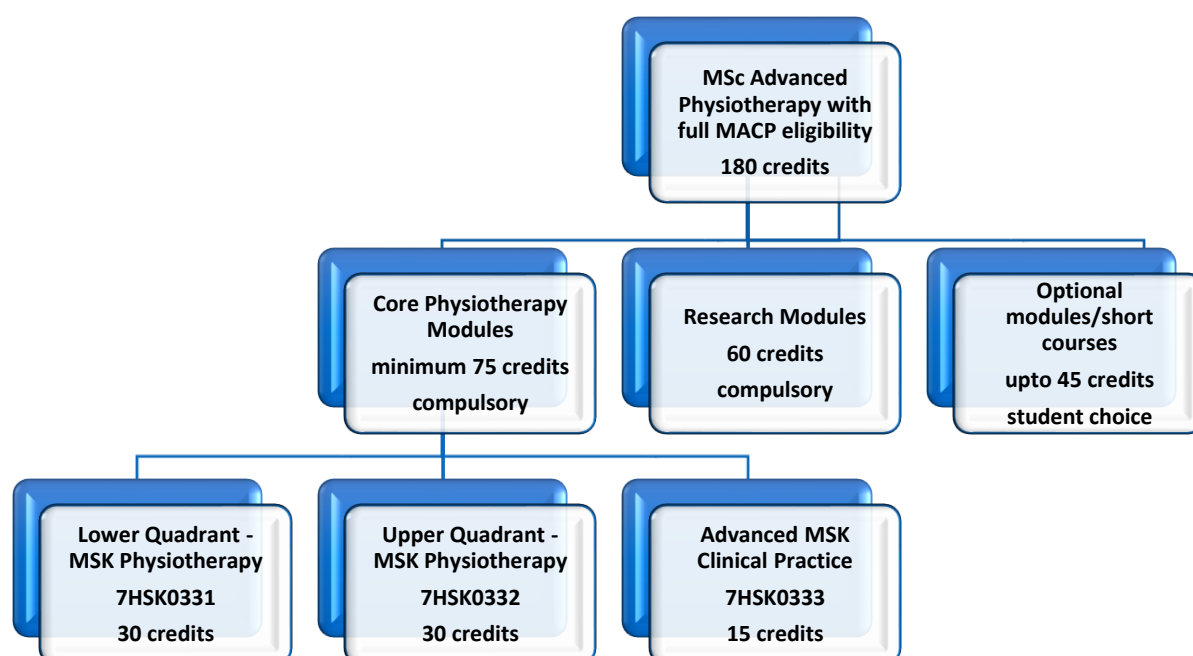


Figure 2: MSc Advanced Physiotherapy with full MACP membership eligibility

The [MACP](#) is a Member Organisation of the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manual & Musculoskeletal Physical Therapists ([IFOMPT](#)) who sets and monitors educational and clinical standards in this area of physical therapy. The IFOMPT educational standards have been mapped against the Multi-professional Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) framework and the Musculoskeletal (MSK) Core Capabilities Framework.

What choice of Core Physiotherapy Modules/Short Courses are there?

Core Physiotherapy Modules	Code/URL link	Credits	Delivery
Lower Quadrant – MSK Physiotherapy	7HSK0331	30	Taught online & in-person delivery on campus
Upper Quadrant – MSK Physiotherapy	7HSK0332	30	
Musculoskeletal Injection Therapy	7HSK2058	15	
Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation & Exercise Prescription	7HSK2008	15	
Advanced Musculoskeletal Clinical Practice	7HSK0333	15	Work-based in-person clinical placement & online
First Contact Practitioner (FCP) Stage 1 MSK	7SCZ2019	30	Taught online
First Contact Practitioner (FCP) Stage 2 Multidisciplinary	7SCZ2027	15	Taught online & with supervised work-based practice hours
Negotiated Learning 1	7HSK2129	15	Independent

Lower Quadrant – MSK Physiotherapy (7HSK0331) must normally be successfully completed before Upper Quadrant – MSK Physiotherapy (7HSK0332). Both modules must be successfully completed before Advanced Musculoskeletal Clinical Practice (7HSK0333). The Negotiated Learning modules allow you to gain an in depth understanding of a particular subject area in which you have a specific interest. They are particularly useful where there are no taught modules available.

What 60 credits of research do I need to complete?

Research Modules	Code	Credits	Delivery
Research Methods	7HSK0308	15	Online
Preparation for Research Project	7HSK2049	15	Online
Research Project	7HSK2048	30	Online

Research Methods (7HSK0308) can be studied at any stage during your studies. Preparation for Research Project (7HSK2049) should be studied immediately before the Research Project module. Research Methods (7HSK0308) must be successfully completed before Preparation for Research Project which must be successfully completed before Research Project (7HSK2048). Research Project is often chosen as the final module in a programme of study, but this is not mandatory.

What Optional Modules can I take?

An extensive range of optional modules allows you to create a bespoke programme of study. The optional modules can include additional core physiotherapy modules, interprofessional modules, School modules, accredited short courses or credits transferred from other institutions. Modules/short courses may change year on year to reflect new developments or advances in practice.

Optional Modules (variety of delivery models, please check application site for details)			
Area of interest	Relevant modules	Code/hyperlink	Credits
Exercise Prescription	Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation & Exercise Prescription (MREP)	7HSK2008	15
	Strength & Conditioning Science	7LMS2104	15
	Applied Strength & Conditioning	7LMS2115	15
Advanced Skills	MSK Injection Therapy	7HSK2058	15
	Musculoskeletal Trauma: Image Recognition for Healthcare Professionals	7HSK0315	15
	Musculoskeletal Pathologies: Image recognition for Healthcare Professionals	7HSK0316	15
	Imaging Modalities for Healthcare Professionals	7HSK0317	15
	Non-medical prescribing for Nurses, Midwives, Pharmacists and Allied Health Professionals	7HSK0109	30

	Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Indicators	7HSK2087	15
	Advanced Patient Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	7HSK0327	15
Education	Leadership Education and Developing Others (LEDO)	7HSK0293	30
	Supporting Practice Education	7HSK2153	30
	Enabling Learning in Contemporary Healthcare	7HSK0267	15
Leadership & Management	Advanced Decision Making	7HSK0168	15
	Coaching Skills for Leading	7HSK2085	15
	Leadership Education and Developing Others (LEDO)	7HSK0293	30
	Leading Service Change	7HSK0306	15

Completion of 60 credits from the Leadership & Management modules provides eligibility for a *PgCert in Leadership in Health and Social Care* ** short courses can also contribute towards this award** e. g. previous completion of 7SCZ0294 Leadership for AHPs.

Completion of 60 credits from 7HSK2153, 7HSK0267 & 7HSK2085 provides eligibility for a PgCert in Practice Education in Health & Care.

Short Courses

Short courses run by the University can contribute towards your award. Please speak to the programme team to discuss your options e.g. 7SCZ2019 First Contact Practitioner Musculoskeletal Stage 1 & 7SCZ0027 First Contact Practitioner Musculoskeletal Stage 2 (FCP1 & FCP2). You may also be able to transfer in Masters level credits from other Higher Education Institutes.

Where will you study?

Modules and short courses may include a blend of 'in person'/face to face, on-line and distance learning encompassing a hybrid approach to delivery. Most '*in-person*' teaching takes place on the [College Lane Campus](#), however, there are some sessions on the [De Havilland Campus](#).

Teaching Methods

Modules and short courses are facilitated by experienced lecturers from the University as well as external experts. The mode of delivery varies, reflecting innovative ways to enhance your learning experience. You will need to have access to a suitable personal computer and a good reliable internet connection. Assessment takes place by a variety of methods for example: VIVAs, essays, presentations, reports, written, work based learning and practical examinations.

Examples of study routes

- Some suggested study plans are outlined below. **All routes involve 60 credits of research modules.**
- It is recognised that your career plans may change during your studies and as such your initial module choices may alter.
- You are strongly advised to discuss your plans for study with the [Programme Lead](#)

Goal: to enhance assessment and management of patients with MSK dysfunction and attain full MACP membership and an MSc (Advanced Physiotherapy):

Lower Quadrant – Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy

Upper Quadrant – Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy

Advanced Musculoskeletal Clinical Practice

+60 credits of research modules (Research Methods, Preparation for Research & Research Project)

+ 45 credits of optional/core modules/short courses, for example:

MSK Injection Therapy

MSK Rehabilitation & Exercise Prescription

Strength & Conditioning Science

Applied Strength & Conditioning

First Contact Practitioner (FCP) Stage 1 MSK

First Contact Practitioner (FCP) Stage 2 Multidisciplinary

Imaging modules

Negotiated Learning

Non-medical Prescribing

Please note full MACP membership is also available through completion of the Pg Diploma in Advanced Physiotherapy for students who have completed a pre-registration master's course and can evidence that their dissertation was in the field of orthopaedic manual and musculoskeletal physical therapy.

Goal: to work towards an Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ACP) MSK role and attain an MSc (Advanced Physiotherapy). These modules will help you evidence the 4 pillars of ACP:

Lower Quadrant – Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy

Upper Quadrant – Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy

Leading Service Change

Leadership, Education and Developing Others

Coaching Skills for Leading

Supporting Practice Education

Enabling Learning in Contemporary Healthcare

Advanced Decision Making in Health & Social Care

+60 credits of research modules (Research Methods, Preparation for Research & Research Project)

+ variety of optional/core modules for example:

MSK Injection Therapy

MSK Rehabilitation & Exercise Prescription

First Contact Practitioner (FCP) Stage 1 MSK

First Contact Practitioner (FCP) Stage 2 Multidisciplinary

Strength & Conditioning Science

Applied Strength & Conditioning

Imaging modules

Negotiated Learning

Advanced Health Assessment & Diagnostic Indicators

Advanced Patient Assessment and Clinical Reasoning

Psychology of Cancer

Application

Application is via our CPD site [On-line application](#)

There are two modes of application:

1. **Independent** – you apply for a single module and are registered as an independent student on the Master's programme. This is a useful approach if you are unsure about applying for a full Master's programme. It will give you an idea of the level of study required and the amount of time involved. You can undertake up to 45 credits as an independent student. If you decide to undertake more credits, then you are transferred to the MSc programme (subject to Programme Team approval and eligibility criteria).
2. **Postgraduate Masters** – you apply for the MSc programme at the beginning of your studies. You will normally need to provide a professional reference (usually this is from an employer indicating your suitability for Masters level study and support) and a brief CV. On application you will need to indicate which module/s you intend to study in your first year. You select subsequent modules you plan to study on a yearly basis using the [On-line application](#)

Fees

- The Masters course is modular, and the fees are payable per module. Some modules are subject to non-standard fees (e.g. 7HSK2058 MSK Injection Therapy, 7HSK0333 AMCP).
- You retain the fee package which you commenced on when you joined the part-time Master's programme (as long as you do not have a break in study). If you first studied a module as an "independent" student (see section on application) this will mean your fees will increase from your first module on the programme.
- For NHS employees, part, or all, of your fees may be covered through the commissioning process. It is therefore worth checking with the CPD lead for your Trust.
- Some short courses maybe fully funded by NHSE, e.g. First Contact Practitioner (FCP) Stage 1 MSK & First Contact Practitioner (FCP) Stage 2 Multidisciplinary for eligible students and subject to availability.
- If you completed your undergraduate degree at UH, you are normally entitled to a fee deduction of 20% on all modules.
- A [postgraduate loan](#) is available for this course. If you receive a loan the course needs to be completed within three years. **The programme of study must be agreed, in advance, by the Programme Leads.**
- Fees for self-funding for the 2025/2026 academic year are as follows:
 - £915.00 per 15 credits & £1830 per 30 credit part-time for UK/EU students
 - Fees may vary for enhanced modules and differ for international students.

What our students say about their experience of learning on the course

"The course has been flexible in allowing me to choose my particular areas of interest"

"Thank you so much for your support throughout my MSc studies. I've had such a great experience over the last 4 years and have loved studying at UH! I'm sure I'll be back"

"All modules including the one I'm currently doing have been excellent, thank you"

"Staff are enthusiastic when teaching each topic, approachable and tailored sessions to the needs of the group"

Further Information

Please take time to review all the available information to formulate a personalised plan of study. We are happy to have a conversation with you via Zoom/Skype/telephone/email to discuss your individual requirements and questions - Andrea Moulson (Physiotherapy Postgraduate Programme Lead) MScAdvPhysio@herts.ac.uk