

Department of Allied Health Professions, Midwifery and Social Work**First Contact Practitioner Stage 1 (FCP1): 15 Credits at level 7****First Contact Practitioner Stage 2 (FCP2): 30 Credits at level 7**

With an established reputation for running successful Health Education England (HEE) approved First Contact Practitioner (FCP) short courses, the University of Hertfordshire has once again been awarded a contract by HEE to offer fully funded training for registered physiotherapists.

Why should you study these short courses?

FCP roles are integral to providing a sustainable and effective workforce, optimising patient care pathways and ensuring the right healthcare professional sees the right patient in the right place and at the right time. By 2024, all adults in England should be able to see a musculoskeletal FCP at their local GP practice without being referred by a GP. The benefits of these roles are manifold, and include facilitating timely and appropriate onward referrals, reducing imaging referral rates and enhancing patient experience and outcomes (NHS England, 2019). HEE's 'Roadmap to Practice' sets out the training and educational pathways to FCP recognition for MSK physiotherapists (HEE, 2021). The University of Hertfordshire's FCP1 and FCP2 short courses are approved by HEE as fulfilling stages 1 and 2 of the FCP Roadmap and on successful completion of FCP1 & FCP2 students will be able to apply to the Centre for Advancing Practice at [Health Education England](#) to register as a First Contact Practitioner. The University of Hertfordshire is one of only three providers in England approved by HEE to deliver this training. These short courses form part of a broader CPD framework that can lead to the award of Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or [MSc in Advanced Physiotherapy](#) or [MSc in Advanced Clinical Practice](#).

What will I study?

- First Contact Practitioner Stage 1 (FCP1): 15 Credits at level 7*
- First Contact Practitioner Stage 2 (FCP2): 30 Credits at level 7

*successful completion of FCP1 is required to enrol on FCP2

What do our previous FCP students say?

"[this course] will ensure competence & quality of FCP clinicians"

"It was really good to have the module on-line, making it easier to fit in clinics and life without travel"

"I have already made changes to my practice"

Who teaches these course?

Contributors include Rishi Navsaria (Consultant Physiotherapist), Dr Neeraj Prasad (GP), Elizabeth Ward (Leadership & management), Marie Tanner (APP), Aldo Russell De Boer (APP), Laura Eccott (FCP & Senior Lecturer) and Dr Hubert van Griensven, along with other clinical and research experts.

How will I learn?

These courses have been developed to be innovative, progressive and accessible. The majority of University teaching is **on-line**, with some sessions available in-person (on campus) and live streamed on-line to facilitate flexible access. Teaching uses synchronous, live streamed and asynchronous activities including lectures, tutorials, workshops, group work and presentations, involving previously successful students and relevant stakeholders, use of case studies and supported peer learning via Action Learning Sets. These activities are supported through the use of enhanced technology, so students will require access to a PC & reliable internet connection. FCP1 covers the theoretical content of the Road Map and FCP2 enables consolidation of knowledge and skills with a period of supervised practice, which is supported by the university team, clinical mentor and peer review sessions. Assessment utilises a wide variety of tools to support different learning styles. This accessible and

innovative course design facilitates an inclusive approach to learning, providing a clinically meaningful student experience with the aim of developing high quality FCPs for the future.

What are the entry requirements?

FCP1 and FCP2 are aimed at fully qualified, experienced and highly motivated practitioners who want to be change makers in the clinical field, working at enhanced an level of practice.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- Current registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) including Professional Liability Insurance
- A minimum of 5 years post registration experience (evidenced by CV)
- A minimum of 3 years of experience within a MSK role (evidenced by CV)
- Evidence of successful level 7 education, this could include a pre-registration MSc physiotherapy qualification, accredited MSc modules etc*.
- Evidence of working in, or towards a MSK First Contact Practitioner (FCP) role on completion of study.
- Confirmation of a suitable clinical mentor for FCP2 (normally this will be GP trainer, Stage 2 qualified FCP, full MACP member/Physiotherapist with MSK related MSc or Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ACP) working in MSK); working in primary care and able to supervise the student.
- Completion of the [elearning for healthcare](#) (E-LfH) modules as stated in the roadmap, before enrolling on the FCP1 course.

*Learners will *normally* hold or be working towards a relevant postgraduate accredited qualification in musculoskeletal practice/MSc, but applications are also welcome from learners with significant relevant clinical experience. All applications will be considered on an individual basis.

The deadline for applications is 9am Tuesday 1st November 2022. The course will close once we have received sufficient applications. You are advised to apply as soon as possible.

Cost

This course is fully funded by Health Education England. There are a limited number of places.

First Contact Practitioner Stage 1 (FCP1): 15 Credits at Level 7

Course aims

On successful completion of this short course students should be able to demonstrate critical knowledge and understanding of the theories, principles and concepts underpinning evidence based MSK practice in Primary Care.

This course is equivalent to 150 hours of student effort including six teaching days & one assessment day	
Teaching Dates: Day 1 & 2 – Tuesday 15 th & Wednesday 16 th Nov 2022 Day 3 & 4 – Tuesday 13 th & Wednesday 14 th Dec 2022 Day 5 & 6 – Tuesday 17 th & Wednesday 18 th Jan 2023 Sessions are taught on-line with selected sessions also available in-person (on campus) or live streamed. Student attendance is required either on-line or in-person for all sessions.	Assessment Information: x1 15-minute on-line VIVA (30%) Tuesday 14 th March 2023 x1 2500 word written assignment (70%) submitted electronically on Tuesday 28 th March 2023

First Contact Practitioner Stage 2 (FCP2): 30 Credits at Level 7

Course aims

On successful completion of this short course students should be able to apply and progress existing knowledge and understanding of the FCP role and evidence capabilities required for an MSK FCP role, whilst working alongside the multi professional healthcare team within Primary Care to provide high quality services.

This course is equivalent to 300 hours of student effort including seven on-line synchronous teaching days & one assessment day	
Provisional Teaching Dates: TBC Sessions are taught on-line, with student attendance required.	Assessment Information: x1 Personal Development Plan (Pass/Fail) submitted electronically x2 station on-line OSCE (70%) x1 narrated presentation (30%), submitted electronically

FCP2 Assessment

The assessment is a combination of a Personal Development Plan developed collaboratively between the student, clinical mentor and academic tutors, an online practical exam and VIVA, and an on-line narrated presentation. Students will need to complete 75 hours of mentored clinical practice as part of FCP2 (for assessment purposes students must be able to video and audio record 2 x patient consultations following local policy and GDPR requirements).

Course Enquiries

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Booking Enquiries

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