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

Updated February 2019
Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

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Introduction

The MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice was first validated in 2009, with the aim to enhance the knowledge and skills of physiotherapy graduates in the three core areas of physiotherapy practice (cardiorespiratory, musculoskeletal and neurology), and contribute to their professional development. The course was developed in response to market research undertaken nationally and internationally. Firstly, in the national context, the course was developed to offer UK physiotherapy graduates the opportunity to progress their professional development immediately following completion of their undergraduate programme. This was in direct response the drop in number of available graduate jobs because of the economic climate. Secondly, in the international context, there was a large increase in the amount of interest from international applicants for physiotherapy master’s courses. Many applicants wished to undertake a postgraduate programme immediately following graduation and the physiotherapy master’s courses that were available at Coventry University at the time, required applicants to have a period of post-graduation work experience. Because of this, the clinically focussed MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Programme was developed, which aimed to meet the needs of graduate physiotherapists with minimal postgraduate work experience. The course content is aligned with Coventry University’s Corporate Plan to meet the needs of individuals and employers at a local, national and international level, and to offer a course which supports practitioners’ development in the changing health and social care landscape.

The subject matter for the MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice has been developed in response to market demand. Three core modules were developed in which the learning outcomes focused on the development of assessment, clinical reasoning and treatment skills in the three core areas of physiotherapy practice. The philosophy underpinning the course recognises the importance of research and critical evaluation. The course structure supports this ethos by scheduling the theoretical and research focused modules early in the course, allowing students to embark on the clinically focussed modules, with a more critical approach and more able to use an evidence based approach to practice. In addition, this structure aims to prepare the student for the dissertation stage of the Master’s degree. The programme is made up of 180 credits: six 20 credit modules, a 10 credit CMI module and a 50 credit dissertation module. The programme aims to enhance students’ employability by producing therapists who have strong clinical skills, based on a sound understanding of evidence-based practice and who will be able to contribute to service development and facilitate the professional development of colleagues within the multidisciplinary team.

The course has been subject to critical review by stakeholders and students and their views have been taken into consideration in the development of this revised programme – please see Critical Review document for details.
Part 1: Programme Specification for
MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice

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<th>Mode of attendance</th>
<th>UCAS Code</th>
<th>FHEQ Level</th>
</tr>
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<td>Level 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1 year Full Time 2 years Part Time</td>
<td></td>
<td>Level 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postgraduate Certificate in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice</td>
<td>1 year Full Time 2 years Part Time</td>
<td></td>
<td>Level 7</td>
</tr>
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</table>

2 Awarding Institution/ Body
Coventry University

3 Collaboration

4 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery
Coventry University Campus

5 Internal Approval/ Review Dates
Date of first approval: March 2009
Date of review: March 2014

6 Programme Accredited by
Not applicable

7 Accreditation Date and Duration
Not applicable

8 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors
QAA Descriptor for a qualification at Masters (M) level: Masters Degree (QAA 2010) FHEQ level 7 [http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/FHEQ/EWNI08/FHEQ08.pdf](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/FHEQ/EWNI08/FHEQ08.pdf)

9 Date of Programme Specification
February 2019

10 Programme Manager/ Course Tutor
Course Director: Jackie Shanley
11 Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to provide a coherent programme of study relevant to current physiotherapy practice which aligns with the University's Corporate Plan to meet the needs of individuals and employers at a national and international level and to offer a course that explores and supports individuals to extend their knowledge and professional expertise in physiotherapy. The programme incorporates a 10 credit CMI module. Students who successfully complete this module and meet the CMI evidence requirements with gain a Certificate in Strategic Leadership and Management and an Award in Professional Consulting. This will enable students to apply for Chartered Manager status via the qualified route once the other entry criteria are met.

Postgraduate Certificate
Students will acquire:

- skills, concepts and knowledge related to advanced physiotherapy practice to strengthen a career in Physiotherapy;
- effective written and oral communication skills;
- the ability to evaluate clinical practice;
- appropriate intellectual skills, in order to meet the demands of a more advanced professional role;
- recognition of the importance of research and the evaluation of clinical outcomes in the development of professional knowledge and practice;
- the ability to contribute to the continued professional development of clinical colleagues.

Postgraduate Diploma
In addition to the aims of a Postgraduate Certificate, students will acquire:

- an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the theory underpinning evidence based physiotherapy;
- the ability to reflect and apply theoretical knowledge to physiotherapy practice;
- the ability to critically analyse relevant literature.

Masters Award
In addition to the aims of a Postgraduate Diploma, students will acquire:

- the ability to plan, conduct, write up and justify an in-depth project relating to a specific area of academic and clinical interest.

12 Intended Learning Outcomes

This programme satisfies the QAA Descriptors for a qualification at Masters (M) level; Masters Degree (QAA 2008) benchmark statements and Coventry University’s Code of Practice for Academic and Professional Skills Development.

Section 21 maps the intended learning outcomes as described in the next section to the programmes mandatory modules (as listed in section 20)

Section 22 shows the capabilities that students will be taught, given the opportunity to practise and will be assessed in.

The principal teaching, learning and assessment methods normally used on the programme to achieve these learning outcomes are identified in the next section.
12.1 Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of the programme a student should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

**Postgraduate Certificate in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**

KU1 the current issues and developments within contemporary physiotherapy practice;
KU2 the theory underpinning physiotherapy practice;
KU3 clinical reasoning within physiotherapy practice;

**Postgraduate Diploma in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**

in addition to KU1-KU3 as above:
KU4 the development of expertise in physiotherapy;
KU5 research and the ability to apply to clinical practice;

**Masters in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**

in addition to KU1-KU5 as above:
KU6 the application of research methodology to clinical problem solving;
KU7 the principles of consultancy and practices found in leadership

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching and Learning</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<td>Individual written coursework, oral presentations, vivas</td>
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<td>KU2 Lectures, seminars, practical workshops, published literature, student led presentations, case studies and module webs</td>
<td>Individual written coursework, oral presentations, vivas, dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>KU3 Lectures, seminars, practical workshops, published literature, student led presentations, case studies and module webs</td>
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<td>KU4 Lectures, seminars, tutorials, published literature and module webs</td>
<td>Individual written coursework, dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>KU5 Lectures, seminars, tutorials, published literature, student led presentations and module webs</td>
<td>Individual written coursework, oral presentations, dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>KU6 Lectures, seminars, tutorials, published literature, student led presentations, case studies and module webs</td>
<td>Tutorials, dissertation</td>
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<tr>
<td>KU7 Workshops, online tutorials, cross-disciplinary group work, debates, CMI online resources, textbooks, journals, module webs</td>
<td>Portfolio</td>
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</table>

12.2 Cognitive (thinking) Skills

On successful completion of the programme a student should be able to:

**Postgraduate Certificate in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**

CS1 critically analyse, evaluate and interpret knowledge and practice with regard to physiotherapy;
CS2 evaluate the relative merits of various approaches within physiotherapy;

**Postgraduate Diploma in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**
in addition to CS1-CS2 as above:
CS3 utilise and show evidence of reflective practice;
CS4 demonstrate originality in the application of new knowledge;

**Masters in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**
in addition to CS1-CS4 as above:
CS5 critically review existing literature as part of a research study in a physiotherapy related subject.

The principal teaching, learning and assessment methods normally used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated are identified below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching and Learning</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>CS4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS5</td>
<td>Tutorials, dissertation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**12.3 Practical Skills**

On successful completion of the programme a student should be able to:

**Postgraduate Certificate in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**
PS1 demonstrate effective and efficient patient-centred physiotherapy;
PS2 formulate and present a critical argument using a variety of methods (e.g. report, presentation, essay, patient examination) that would stand up to critical review and scrutiny in academic and professional settings;
PS3 communicate clinical reasoning effectively, justifying physiotherapy management, treatment strategies and context of delivery, as one aspect of multidisciplinary rehabilitation;

**Postgraduate Diploma in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**
in addition to PS1-PS3 as above:
PS4 demonstrate creativity and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks;
PS5 use information and communication technology competently to locate, access, retrieve and present data;

**Masters in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**
in addition to PS1-PS5 as above:
PS6 Design and execute a research study in a physiotherapy related subject area.

The principal teaching, learning and assessment methods normally used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated are identified below.
### Teaching and Learning

| PS1 | Lectures, seminars, practical workshops, published literature, student led presentations, case studies and module webs | Individual written coursework, oral presentations, vivas |
| PS2 | Lectures, seminars, practical workshops, published literature, student led presentations, case studies and module webs | Individual written coursework, oral presentations, vivas |
| PS3 | Lectures, seminars, practical workshops, published literature, student led presentations, case studies and module webs | Individual written coursework, oral presentations, vivas |
| PS4 | Lectures, seminars, published literature, student led presentations, case studies and module webs | Individual written coursework, oral presentations, vivas |
| PS5 | Lectures, seminars, published literature, and module webs | Individual written coursework, dissertation |
| PS6 | Lectures, seminars, published literature, student led presentations, and module webs | Individual written coursework, dissertation |

### 12.4 Transferable Skills

On successful completion of the programme a student should be able to:

**TS1** engage confidently in academic and professional communication, reporting on action clearly, autonomously and competently;

**TS2** critically evaluate own professional practice and/or academic performance;

**TS3** manage own learning independently, making appropriate use of resources as required for own continuing professional development;

**TS4** competently undertake research tasks with minimum guidance;

**Masters in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**

**in addition TS1-TS4 as above:**

**TS5** Design and execute a research study.

Transferable/key skills are generally incorporated within modules (see annex 3) and related to relevant assessments as appropriate. Self-directed learning forms an element of all modules and the necessity to work within tight deadlines is an essential requirement across the curriculum. The ability to communicate orally and in writing will be developed across the range of modules.

The wide range of assessment techniques will ensure that students are given every opportunity to demonstrate their skills in these areas.
### 13 Programme Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

#### 13.1 Course Structure

**Postgraduate Certificate in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**  
60M level credits

- 7017SOH Advancing Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Practice  
20M level credits
- 7018SOH Advancing Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Practice  
20M level credits
- 7019SOH Advancing Neurological Physiotherapy Practice  
20M level credits

**Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education**  
60M level credits

Any combination of three 20 credit modules from the programme  
(which does not comprise 7017SOH, 7018SOH and 7019SOH)

**Postgraduate Diploma in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**  
120M level credits

- 7017SOH Advancing Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Practice  
20M level credits
- 7018SOH Advancing Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Practice  
20M level credits
- 7019SOH Advancing Neurological Physiotherapy Practice  
20M level credits
- 7016SOH Developing Expertise in Therapy Professionals  
20M level credits
- 7006SOH Research Methodology, Design and Methods  
20M level credits
- 7005SOH Evidence Based Practice  
20M level credits

**Masters in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice**  
180M level credits

The requirement for a Postgraduate Diploma in Physiotherapy  
120M level credits

- 7020SOH Masters Dissertation Physiotherapy and Dietetics  
50M level credits
- 7002CRB Global Professional Development - Consultancy  
10 M level credits

Masters with merit is awarded for an overall mean mark of more than 60% but less that 70%. Masters with distinction is awarded for an overall mean mark of 70% or higher.
14 Support for Students and their Learning

Student support mechanisms are as detailed in the University Code of Practice on the Personal Support of Students. Students will benefit from the expertise of the course team in supporting students from diverse backgrounds. Learning support groups, led by the course director, facilitate students’ development of Masters level academic skills. Tutorials and personal tutor system organised by individual module leaders support students with learning and assessment. Pastoral support is provided by the course director and individual module tutors. The following written support materials are provided:

- HLS Student Handbook (Postgraduate) containing the University Regulations
- Course Handbook
- Module guides
- Dissertation Handbook

An induction programme provides background information regarding key services such as library, CU-Online, computing, student services student union and support with enrolment, writing and presenting at Masters level and making the transition from undergraduate to postgraduate education. Additional support for maths and statistics is available at the SIGMA centre, and for writing skills at the Centre for Academic writing. An extended induction programme is provided for all international students to support their transition to masters level study in the UK.

All teaching takes place in Coventry University and students will benefit from excellent facilities such as the well-equipped clinical skills laboratories, movement analysis suite, library, and on-line support. Clinical relevance is assured by the use of clinical experts in teaching, case studies, videos and demonstrations with service users.

Reasonable adjustments can be made to the teaching, learning, assessment and support of the course(s) to maximise accessibility to students with disabilities. Students may discuss their needs with the Programme Manager, Course Director, HLS Learning Support Coordinator, or any other member of HLS staff with whom they feel comfortable.

15 Criteria for Admission

The general requirements for admissions are in line with University policy. Students whose first language is not English are required to have at least IELTS 6.5 with no component lower than 5.5 (or equivalent).

Applicants must hold a Degree or diploma in physiotherapy as recognised in the country of study/origin and achieve a successful interview with the Course Director.
16 Method for Evaluating and Enhancing the Quality and Standards of Teaching and Learning

The Programme is managed by the Department of Applied Science and Health Board of Study of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Board of Study which contributes modules to the programme. The External Examiners report annually on the programme and their views are considered as part of the Course Quality Enhancement and Monitoring (C-QEM). Details of the C-QEM process can be found on the Registry’s web site.

Informal feedback on the quality and standards of teaching and learning within the Master’s programmes is facilitated by the on-going dialogue between students and the course team, proving invaluable in identifying issues and quickly addressing them. In addition student reps are nominated to formally represent the views of their cohort through the Postgraduate Physiotherapy Student Forum which normally meets five times per year, and Board of Study which normally meets three times per year. In addition views are sought from students through module and course evaluation questionnaires.

The Postgraduate Programme Assessment Board (PAB) for Physiotherapy is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations.

All programmes are subject to a major review involving subject experts external to the University, normally on a five or six yearly cycle. The views of stakeholders, which includes current and former students, managers of occupational therapy services are actively sought to inform this process.

Details of the University’s quality monitoring processes can be found at: https://cuportal.coventry.ac.uk/C4/Registry/default.aspx

17 Regulation of Assessment

University policy requires the internal moderation of all assessments.

External Examiners are appointed for all named University awards. The role of the External Examiner at module level is to ensure that academic standards are in line with national norms for the subject. External Examiners undertake the moderation of examination papers and assessment tasks, and view representative samples of work for the modules for which they have responsibility. At programme level, External Examiners help to ensure fairness in the consideration of student progression and awards. They have the right to comment on all aspects of the assessment system and participate as full members of the assessment boards.

The Pass mark for all modules is 40%. This overall module mark may comprise more than one component (e.g. coursework and exam). The individual module descriptors give the precise pass criteria and the weighting of the component marks that contribute to the overall module mark.

Awards for Taught Master programmes may be made with Distinction or Merit (i.e. achievement of an average mark of at least 70% or 60% respectively).
18 Indicators of Quality and Standards

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for Higher Education reviews have been consistently positive. The Institutional Audit undertaken in November 2008 confirmed that confidence can be placed in the soundness of the institutions current and likely future management of the academic standards of its awards. More specifically, the outcome of QAA Major review of healthcare programmes in 2006 reported confidence in all the programmes under the purview of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

External examiner’s comments have been consistently positive. Any minor issues highlighted by the external examiner have been addressed by the course team.

Feedback from stakeholders was sought in June 2013, which confirmed their satisfaction with the current mode of delivery and content of the programme.

Student feedback is sought in the form of module and course evaluation, informal feedback and through focus groups. Students have been consistently positive about the course structure, content and with the support they receive from the course team.

19 Additional Information

Key sources of information about the course and student support can be found in
- Faculty Handbook
- Student Handbook
- Module Guides
- Dissertation Handbook
- Module Information Directory (http://mid.coventry.ac.uk/)

Study Support information is accessible from student services home page.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme 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.

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.
# Mandatory and Option Modules

## Postgraduate Certificate Advancing Physiotherapy Practice

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<tr>
<th>Module code</th>
<th>Module title</th>
<th>Credit value</th>
<th>Pre/ Co requisite</th>
<th>M/ O</th>
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<td>7018SOH</td>
<td>Advancing Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Practice</td>
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<td>Advancing Neurological Physiotherapy Practice</td>
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**Key**
- M = Mandatory (i.e. must be studied and passed for the named award)
- O = Option

## Postgraduate Diploma Advancing Physiotherapy Practice

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<td>Advancing Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Practice</td>
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<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>7018SOH</td>
<td>Advancing Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>7019SOH</td>
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<td>7016SOH</td>
<td>Developing Expertise in Therapy Professionals</td>
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<td>7006SOH</td>
<td>Research Methodology, Design and Methods</td>
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<td>None</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>7005SOH</td>
<td>Evidence Based Practice</td>
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**Key**
- M = Mandatory (i.e. must be studied and passed for the named award)
- O = Option

## MSc Advancing Physiotherapy Practice

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**Key**
- M = Mandatory (i.e. must be studied and passed for the named award)
- O = Option
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### 22 Capabilities (Skills) Map

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<th>Module codes</th>
<th>Learning to Learn</th>
<th>Working with Others</th>
<th>Problem Solving and Innovation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
<th>IT and Online Learning</th>
<th>Communication</th>
<th>Career Management</th>
<th>Information Management</th>
<th>Personal Development Planning</th>
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Key: T=Taught, P=Practiced, A=Assessed

The Code of Practice for Academic and Professional Skills Development requires that each of the capabilities be demonstrated at least once during the programme.

**Capability Outlines (from the Code of Practice for Academic and Skills Development)**

**Learning to Learn** - Students should be ready to accept responsibility for their own independent learning. They should also be able to reflect on their learning and appraise their capabilities and achievements. Students should also be able to identify their individual needs for effective learning.

**Working with Others** – Students should be able to work effectively as part of a group, and respect the dignity, rights and needs of others.

**Problem Solving and Innovation** – Students should be able to use problem-solving skills in a variety of practical situations. They should be able to demonstrate creativity, flexibility, perception, decisiveness, confidence and an awareness of values.

**Numeracy** – Students should be able to interpret, analyse and present numerical data.

**IT and Online Learning** – Students should be able to use computer-based systems for learning, communicating, collaborating with peers and tutors, and working with data.

**Communication** – Students should be able to communicate effectively in appropriate forms in a wide variety of situations.

**Career Management** – Students should appreciate the values, culture, structure and process of work organisations relevant to their area of study. Students should also appropriately match their experience and academic achievements to employer expectations.

**Information Management** – Students should be able to carry out research relevant to their field of study by retrieving and using information drawn from a variety of resources.

**Personal Development Planning** – Students should be able to demonstrate self-awareness, set personal goals and record achievement.