Programme Specification for BSc(Hons) Physiotherapy 2009/2010

Teaching Institution:
London South Bank University

Accredited by:

Health Professions Council (HPC) - validated
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy - accredited

Faculty of origin:
HSC

Highest Award within the Programme:
BSc(Hons) Physiotherapy

Other Awards within the Programme:
No other awards.

Reference Points:
Internal:
LSBU Mission Statement and Strategic Plan
LSBU Core Skills Policy
LSBU Academic Regulations

External:
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (QAA, 2001)
Subject Benchmark Statement for Physiotherapy
HPC: Standards of Proficiency Physiotherapy (2005)

Rationale & Aims:
As part of a widening access initiative to encourage more diverse entry into Physiotherapy, London South Bank University (LSBU) was commissioned in 2002 by South East London Workforce Development Confederation (SELWDC) to establish the current 4 year part-time programme of study for therapy assistants/technicians, who are currently employed and working within the NHS, and who aspire to be Chartered Physiotherapists. Thus, this flexible and clinically–orientated programme is intended to provide an educational route which enables (i) physiotherapy and other health care assistants/technicians; (ii) students employed part-time in a (non-NHS) health and well-being environment and (iii) other suitably qualified applicants, to build on their knowledge and experience and develop the competences to qualify and practise as Chartered Physiotherapists. The programme has a strong emphasis on practical skills, clinical reasoning and reflection on practice in both inter-professional and profession specific, academic and clinical environments and ensures the development of a physiotherapist equipped to work in contemporary health care.

Aims of the programme:

- To provide inter-professional learning opportunities both within the taught and clinical components of the programme
- To provide a route to physiotherapy qualification using a mode of course delivery which recognises the needs of the sponsoring authorities and widening access to physiotherapy.
- To ensure the development of a Chartered Physiotherapist able to use physical approaches in the promotion, maintenance and restoration of an individual’s physical, psychological and social well-being.
- To develop the clinical reasoning, reflective and practical skills required by a physiotherapist to optimise an individual’s functional ability and potential.
- To facilitate the development of an autonomous professional practitioner.
- To develop a physiotherapist able to work independently or as a member of a multidisciplinary team in a range of settings.
- To facilitate students’ awareness of physical, psychological, cultural and social factors and their influence on an individual’s functional ability.
- To ensure the development of a physiotherapist who provides an holistic and coherent approach to patient management taking into account the needs and perspective of the individual, carers and other health professionals
- To enable students to reflect upon their own personal and professional experience via the process of continuing professional development (CPD).
- To develop an awareness of the structure, culture and function of the National Health Service and other appropriate settings.
- To ensure awareness of contemporary evidence based practice.

Programme Outcomes
The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

A. Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of:

A1 the biological, physical and behavioural sciences which underpin physiotherapy.

A2 physiotherapy assessment techniques.
A3 therapeutic exercise, manual therapies and electrotherapeutic modalities.

A4 the role of the physiotherapist in the prevention of illness and injury.

A5 individual and team-working practices.

A6 IT and information management systems sufficient to maintain patient records.

A7 the role of other associated professions.

A8 the ethical, moral and legal issues in relation to physiotherapy practice and the profession of physiotherapy.

A9 evaluation and research processes.

A10 the performance standards and quality assurance mechanisms within physiotherapy practice.

A11 the complexities of health care systems within which physiotherapy is delivered.

A12 the social and economic factors that impact on health and delivery of care.

A13 the philosophical foundations of policy and practice in physiotherapy.

**Teaching and learning**

Theory classes and/or workshops and/or practical classes

A1, A2, A3, A4, A13

Seminars and/or tutorials and/or lectures

A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12, A13

**Assessment:**

Written examinations, viva and/or observed structured practical (Clinical) examination (OSP(C)E) and/or coursework

A1, A2, A3, A9, A12
Clinical assessment forms and professional CPD portfolio
A2, A5, A6, A8, A11, A12

Poster and/or seminar presentation
A4, A7, A12, A11, A13

**B Students will develop their intellectual skills such that they are able to:**

B1 discuss the knowledge base of the physiotherapy profession.

B2 analyse and interpret the information gained from the assessment process, apply problem solving and clinical reasoning to plan, prioritise and implement physiotherapy effectively taking into account physical, psychological and cultural needs.

B3 use evaluation and research processes, to find and use available evidence, in order to choose and evaluate the outcomes of treatment interventions.

B4 recognise the complexities of the health care systems within which physiotherapy is practised.

B5 reflect and learn in order to identify personal and professional goals and CPD.

B6 discuss the role of the physiotherapist in the overall management of the patient.

B7 discuss the legal, moral and ethical issues relevant to physiotherapy practice.

**Teaching and learning strategies**

Theory classes and/or workshops and/or practical classes
B1, B2

Seminars and/or tutorials and/or lectures
B3, B4, B5, B6, B7

**Assessment**

Written examinations, viva and/or OSP(C)E and/or coursework
Clinical assessment forms and professional CPD portfolio

Poster and/or seminar presentation

C Students will acquire and develop practical skills in physiotherapy such that they are able to:

C1 apply appropriate physiotherapy assessment techniques taking into account physical, psychological and cultural needs.

C2 use therapeutic exercise effectively and safely.

C3 use therapeutic techniques effectively and safely.

C4 use electrotherapeutic modalities effectively and safely.

C5 work effectively and safely both as an individual and as a member of a team.

C6 use IT and information management systems.

C7 demonstrate communication skills.

Teaching and learning

Theory classes and/or workshops and/or practical classes

C1, C2, C3, C4

Seminars and/or tutorials and/or lectures

C5, C6, C7

Assessment

Written examinations, viva and/or OSP(C)E and/or coursework
Clinical assessment forms and professional CPD portfolio

D Students will acquire and develop transferable skills such that they are able to:

D1 gather and evaluate evidence and information from a wide range of sources.

D2 research to collect and interpret data.

D3 demonstrate logical and systematic thinking.

D4 justify decisions.

D5 demonstrate effective skills in communicating.

D6 work as an effective member of a multidisciplinary team.

D7 demonstrate an ability to understand, manage, interpret and present numerical data.

D8 use IT resources appropriately.

D9 demonstrate the skills to undertake life long learning and continuing professional development.

Teaching and learning

Theory classes and/or workshops and/or practical classes
D3, D6, D8, D9

Seminars and/or tutorials and/or lectures
D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D7

Assessment

Written examinations, viva and/or OSP(C)E and/or coursework
Entry Requirements

An overview of the recruitment requirements and AP(E)L process are detailed in the Generic Document (Document B).

Target Audience: This includes any students who meet the entry requirements and wishes to study for a BSc(Hons) Physiotherapy degree on a part-time basis. Priority will be given to appropriately qualified applicants who are (i) in-service therapy assistants or technicians, currently employed within the NHS and (ii) students employed in a (non-NHS) health and well-being environment.

The admission and selection procedure outlined are based on the following principles:

• fitness for practice on registration,
• an imperative to ensure flexibility of entry in accordance with the Department of Health guidance,
• the course teams commitment to facilitate equal opportunities at the point of entry and throughout the course.

The University operates an equal opportunities policy where there is no discrimination in view of age, gender, race, marital status, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, disability or religious beliefs.

All offers of places on the programme are conditionally based on

(i) satisfactory outcome of interview

(ii) satisfactory completion and submission of a medical report which is screened by Occupational Health

(iii) completion of a police check via the Criminal Records Bureau.

Admission is by direct application to LSBU. All prospective students will be required to attend for interview as part of the selection process.

In order to be considered for entry to the programme in-service applicants should discuss their application with their line manager and obtain their agreement. Students will be currently working under supervision of a Chartered Physiotherapist, be prepared to work at degree level and have a good standard of English literacy.
Applicants whose first language is not English must have certification of proficiency in English (IELTS score of 6.5 or above or equivalent) at the time of application. In addition it should be noted that prospective students are normally at least 18 years of age at the time of their first practice placement in year 2 of the programme.

CSP registration: On admission to the programme students are strongly advised to register as a student member of the CSP.

In-service applicants must demonstrate evidence of at least one of the following: possess one or more of the following:

- 4 A/S Levels at C or above (180 points) including Biology
- 2 A Levels at C or above (180 points) including Biology
- AVCE science double award at C or above or two single awards at C or above
- Access (Healthcare/Science) 48 credits at level III (16 credits from Access Courses started before Sept 04)
- Advanced GNVQ: distinction (14 points)
- Ed Excel/BTEC: National Pass with 2 merits
- NVQ level 3
- Open University degree level foundation (or similar) pass
- A portfolio of work presented to given criteria

Potential students may also apply for Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning (AP(E)L) whereby they may be granted exemption from certain modules. (See Generic Document – Document B) Applications from candidates with disabilities are considered and assessment of abilities and needs undertaken sensitively. The safety of potential students is an important consideration.

Programme Structure
The programme comprises 22 compulsory units taken part-time over 4 years in a sequential order. The programme runs over four academic years, consisting of two semesters per year. Each cohort of students joins in February, at the beginning of the second semester of the academic year, hence for each year of the programme semester 2 precedes semester 1.

Within the four year programme there are three different levels of study; Certificate (C) level (level 1); Intermediate (I) level (level 2) and Higher (H) level (level 3) which contribute to a total of 360 credit points. The Units in the BSc(Hons) Physiotherapy programme are as follows:

The units are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Year 1

Foundations for Health and Social Care

15