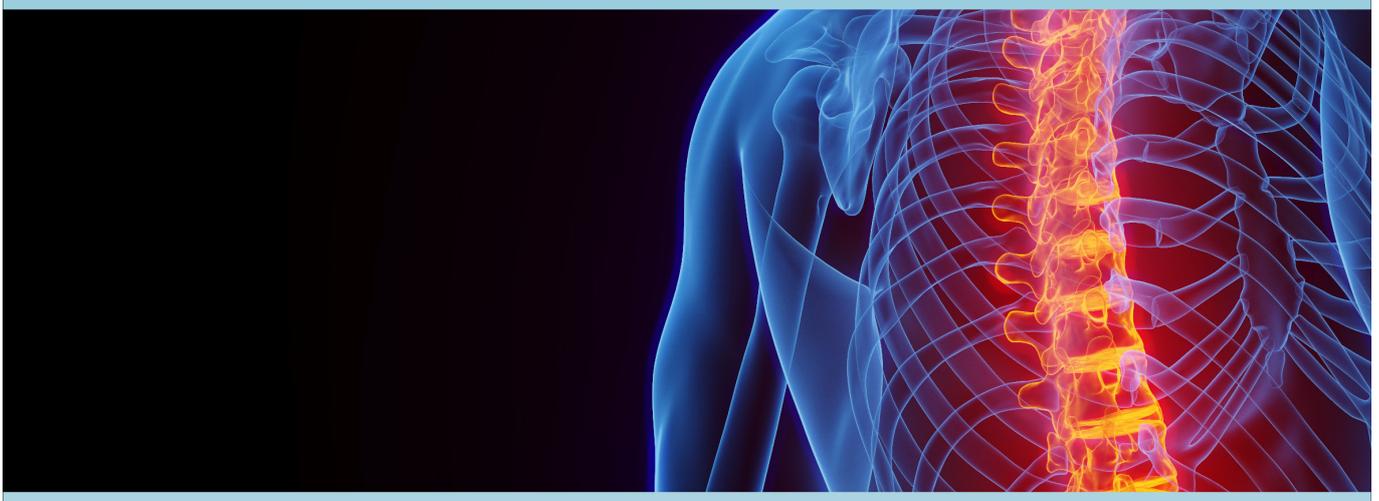


Advancing Skills in Musculoskeletal (MSK) Practice (First Contact Practitioner)

Delivery: 8 days face to face | Start date: September 2026



Course Aim

To develop advanced clinical reasoning skills in the assessment and management of complex, undifferentiated and undiagnosed conditions in MSK practice.

During this 20 credit UK Level 7 module students will develop advanced clinical reasoning skills in the assessment and management of complex, undifferentiated and undiagnosed conditions in MSK practice. There will be a focus on evidence-based decision making in diagnosis and managing risk, including radiology, blood tests, neurophysiology, clinical examination of multiple systems and pharmacology. Students will enhance their skills in communication, behaviour change and exercise prescription in the context of person centred care in a variety of clinical settings and consider how health inequalities and population health can influence decision making. Students will be introduced to concepts and theories of leadership and education and consider their role as leaders and educators within an organisation.

This First Contact Practitioner course is recognised by The Centre for Advancing Practice as meeting the FCP Roadmap Stage 1 and 2 requirements and evidence of successful completion meets current requirements for First Contact Practice.

Learning Expectations

- Demonstrate verbal, nonverbal, written, and technological communication skills in person-centred management of patients with MSK conditions.
- Understand the health care needs in their patient population and critically discuss the use of health promotion and preventative management in MSK patients and other groups whilst considering application of knowledge of psychological, social and behaviour change theory.
- Critically apply advanced clinical reasoning skills in the assessment and management of complex and undifferentiated MSK conditions to ensure optimal management, patient safety and early diagnosis and referral in different healthcare environments.
- Understand the role of the four domains in advanced practice and critically discuss their integration and application in the management of MSK conditions.



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Delivery

Delivery will be 1 day per week for 8 weeks at our Hope Park campus and will comprise (per week): lectures, tutorials, practical workshops and elearning.

Assessment

Assessment will comprise a reflective clinical case report (50%) and a portfolio of evidence (must include 75 hours mentored clinical practice in primary care for FCP) (50%). Upon successful completion, students will receive 20 credits at Masters Level (UK Level 7).

Dates and Duration

Starts September 2026 with 8 weeks of taught sessions. Final assessment to be submitted at the end of March 2027.

Entry requirements

Standard Entry Requirements:

- Normally a First or Second Class Honours Degree in a relevant healthcare profession such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, podiatry, medicine, osteopathy, British Association of Sport Rehabilitators and Trainers (BASRaT) approved sports rehabilitation.
- Students whose first language is not English are normally required to have an IELTS 7 or other equivalent recognised English language qualification. In certain circumstances the University also permits study that students have already carried out at Postgraduate level to be taken into account.
- Interview may be required.
- Students should be qualified healthcare professionals and normally have at least 3 years post registration experience in Musculoskeletal Health.
- Applicants should be working in a musculoskeletal setting with a suitable mentor in clinical practice.
- Applicants should hold an active registration with the HCPC (Health and Care Professions Council) and CSP (Chartered Society of Physiotherapy) or equivalent professional registration.
- Students with the relevant entry requirements who are not registered with the relevant professional body in the UK and are not currently working in the UK may complete this module but will not receive FCP status on completion.

- Students building towards Musculoskeletal Association of Chartered Physiotherapists (MACP) must be qualified physiotherapists registered with the HCPC.

Additional Entry Requirements for students building towards an MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice:

- Applicants should be working in the NHS or equivalent and have an assigned mentor in practice.

Progression

Successful participants may be able to progress to further 20 credit modules, either taken as stand-alone Professional Learning and Development (PLD), or built towards a Postgraduate Certificate Musculoskeletal Practice (FCP) (60 credits), an MSc Musculoskeletal Practice (180 credits) or an MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice (180 credits). Progression to the MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice is dependent on meeting the Additional Entry Requirements.

A route to membership of the MACP may be available to physiotherapists with HCPC registration. Students wishing to gain MACP membership must be qualified physiotherapists registered with the HCPC.

Cost

Home Students:

£1,110

International Students:

£1,944

How to apply

To apply or for more information please contact:

Tel: 0151 291 3006

Email: healthsciences@hope.ac.uk

www.hope.ac.uk/healthandsportsciences/studywithus/

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