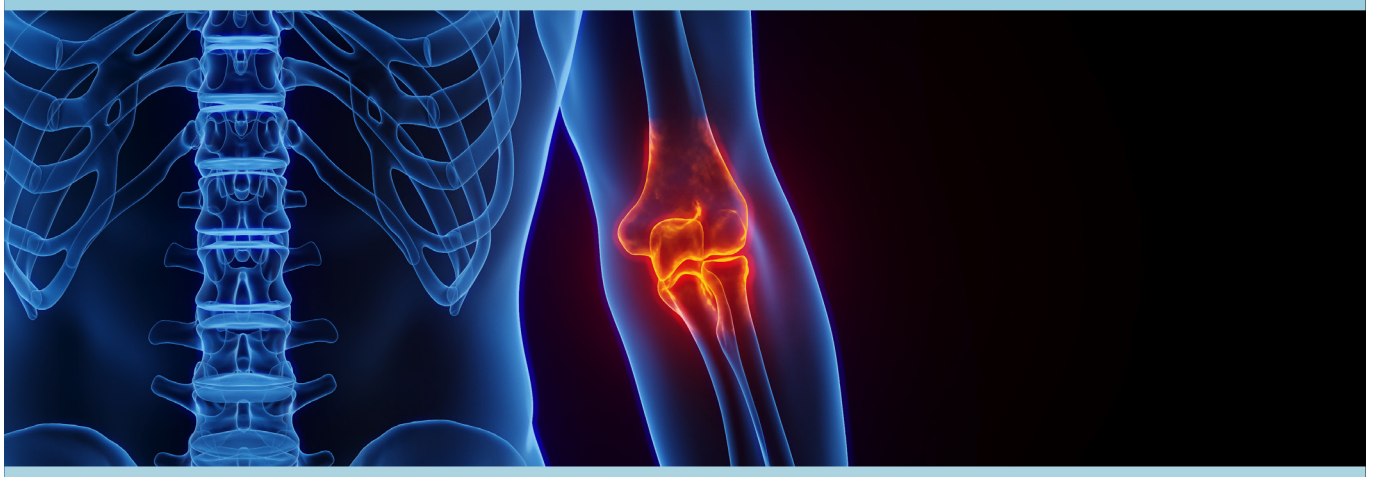


The Spine and Upper Limb: Developing Advanced Assessment and Management Skills

Delivery: 9 days face to face | Start date: March 2026



Course Aim

To develop expert clinical reasoning skills in the assessment and management of Musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions relating to the spine and upper limb.

This clinically focussed 20 credit UK Level 7 module focuses on the cervical and thoracic spine, shoulder, elbow, wrist and hand. Students will develop expert clinical reasoning skills in the holistic assessment and management of MSK conditions considering the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and person-centred, individualised care. Students will critically explore the evidence base and apply to practise using a problem based learning approach. Students will work with clinical experts to consider the application of learning to different clinical settings such as rehabilitation, first contact practice and advanced practice.

Students will apply advancing knowledge of MSK practice to support complex decision making in uncertain and undifferentiated conditions, managing risk and integrating advanced communication skills and behaviour change interventions into practice. Students will consider their role as a leader and educator within an organisation and apply their theoretical learning to developing skills to promote the translation of evidence to practise to enhance multi-disciplinary patient care.

Learning Expectations

- Demonstrate a critical understanding and application of knowledge in the development and adaptation of multi professional MSK services in order to meet the population health needs of different communities.
- Critically discuss the structure and function of the upper quadrant including pathological processes, pain neuroscience and potential non MSK masqueraders of MSK conditions.
- Critically apply advanced clinical reasoning skills and demonstrate precise and adaptable practical 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.
- Demonstrate verbal and non-verbal, written and technological communication skills in the gathering, sharing and documentation of information relating to the assessment and person-centred management of patients with MSK conditions.



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Delivery

Delivery will be 1 day per week for 9 weeks at our Hope Park campus and will comprise (per week): lectures, tutorials, practical workshops and elearning.

Assessment

Assessment will comprise a written case education article (group work) (50%) and a practical skills assessment and viva (50%). Upon successful completion, students will receive 20 credits at Masters Level (UK Level 7).

Dates and Duration

Starts March 2026 with 9 weeks of taught sessions. Final assessment to be submitted in July 2026.

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.
- Students should be qualified healthcare professionals and normally have at least 2 years post registration experience in Musculoskeletal Health.
- Interview may be required.
- 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 at least 3 years qualified as a healthcare professional.

- 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.

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:

£1,056

International Students:

£1,889

How to apply

To apply or for more information please contact:

Tel: 0151 291 3061

Email: pld@hope.ac.uk

www.hope.ac.uk/pld/healthandsportsciencespld

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