



**World  
Physiotherapy**

# **World Physiotherapy accreditation service**

**Abbreviated version**

---

**PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS FOR  
ACCREDITATION**

---

**June 2023**

---

## Contents

Background information.....	3
Requirement 1: The educational institution .....	4
Requirement 2: Academic staff .....	5
Requirement 3: Resources .....	6
Requirement 4: Academic programme .....	7
Requirement 5: Practice education programme .....	8
Requirement 6: Outcomes .....	9
Bibliography .....	10
Glossary .....	11

---

## Background information

This is an abbreviated version of the original document, Programme requirements for accreditation, produced by the World Physiotherapy accreditation service. This abbreviated version is publicly available on World Physiotherapy's website.

This document should be read in junction with the [Guidance for developing a curriculum for physiotherapist entry level education programme](#), also available on World Physiotherapy's website.

The complete version of this document is available through World Physiotherapy's staff for those physiotherapy entry level education programmes seeking World Physiotherapy accreditation.

For more information about the World Physiotherapy accreditation service, please contact [accreditation@world.physio](mailto:accreditation@world.physio).

---

## Requirement 1: The educational institution

### Element 1.1: Organisational structure

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that the structure of the educational institution is appropriate for the delivery of a physiotherapist entry level programme.

### Element 1.2: Programme and degree nomenclature

#### Criterion

The title of the programme and the title of the degree delineate the profession of physiotherapy.

### Element 1.3: Duration of programme

#### Criterion

The programme provides opportunities for the personal and professional development required for the entry level practice of physiotherapy according to the advances in the profession and the reference [framework for education](#) (available in multiple languages) at the entry level in physiotherapy by World Physiotherapy.

### Element 1.4: Policies

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that it has in place appropriate policies for programme development, approval, delivery, assessment, evaluation, and review to ensure that standards of education are maintained.

### Element 1.5: Procedures

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that it has in place appropriate procedures for programme development, approval, delivery, assessment, evaluation, and review to ensure that standards of education are maintained.

### Element 1.6: Academic environment

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that it provides a strong academic environment supportive of academic staff, students, and support staff.

### Element 1.7: Research Environment

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that it fosters and explicitly supports research and scholarship in the physiotherapy programme.

---

## Requirement 2: Academic staff

### Element 2.1: Programme head/administrator/leader/dean

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that it has the necessary and appropriate level of academic and research leadership to provide an entry level physiotherapy programme in an environment that fosters research and scholarship. (Note: educational institutions that are newly developed must provide evidence that they are in a position to appoint academic and research leaders and that a full professorial appointment in physiotherapy will be advertised.)

### Element 2.2: Core academic staff

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that it has appointed core academic staff (the people who are employed as academic staff to teach in the physiotherapy professional education programme) at a level that enables provision of an entry level physiotherapy programme that satisfies all of the recognition requirements. (Note: educational institutions that are newly developed must provide evidence that they are in a position to appoint core academic staff with appropriate qualifications and experience in each of the key areas of physiotherapy practice to assist in the development and delivery of the programme.)

### Element 2.3: Practice education coordinator/director

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that it has a practice education coordinator/director, who is a physiotherapist and an academic member, who is responsible for the practice education component of the physiotherapist entry level programme that is normally delivered by physiotherapists in the practice settings.

### Element 2.4: Practice education supervisors

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that students within the programme have access to practice education supervisors (may also be known as practice supervisor/practice educator), who are physiotherapists practising in placement sites. They supervise and evaluate the skills of the student physiotherapist while on placement and report to the educational institution and who have adequate experience to provide a comprehensive practice education experience for the students. Practice education supervisors facilitate and mentor the students to enable them to achieve a practice level commensurate with their academic training. (Note: educational institutions that are newly developed must provide evidence that they have access to practice education site instructors with appropriate qualifications and experience in each of the key areas of physiotherapy practice.)

### Element 2.5: Associated academic staff

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that it has appointed associate academic staff (the people whose employing academic staff is not the physiotherapy academic staff (for example physicians and nutritionists), who teach their subject in physiotherapist professional entry level education programmes at a level that enables the programme to satisfy all of the recognition requirements. (Note: educational institutions that are newly developed must provide evidence that they are in a position to appoint associate academic staff with appropriate qualifications and experience to assist in the development and delivery of the programme.

---

## **Requirement 3: Resources**

### **Element 3.1: Students**

#### **Criterion**

The educational institution must provide evidence that the student cohort is consistent with the physiotherapy profession's need for competent practitioners.

### **Element 3.2: Student services**

#### **Criterion**

The educational institution must provide evidence that the level of services provided for students is adequate to meet the needs of the students.

### **Element 3.3: Support staff**

#### **Criterion**

The educational institution must provide evidence that the level of administrative, secretarial, and technical support staff is adequate to meet the needs of the students and the academic staff.

### **Element 3.4: Financial support**

#### **Criterion**

The educational institution must provide evidence that the level of financial support is adequate to meet the programme's goals and expected student outcomes and to support the integrity and viability of the programme.

### **Element 3.5: Library**

#### **Criterion**

The educational institution must provide evidence that the library system and associated learning resources are adequate to meet the needs of students and academic staff.

### **Element 3.6: Facilities**

#### **Criterion**

The educational institution must provide evidence that the level of classroom, laboratory space, office, and other space is adequate to meet the teaching and learning needs of the students and the academic staff.

### **Element 3.7: Equipment, technology, and materials**

#### **Criterion**

The educational institution must provide evidence that the equipment, technology, and materials are adequate to meet the needs of the students and the academic staff, the goals of the programme, and the student outcomes.

---

## Requirement 4: Academic programme

### Element 4.1: Pedagogy

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that the programme is based on philosophical pedagogy that facilitates attainment of graduate attributes through the progressive development and integration of knowledge, clinical skills, independent thinking, ethical and value analysis, communication skills, clinical reasoning, and decision-making.

### Element 4.2: Curriculum

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that the curriculum addresses the [Physiotherapist education framework](#) and that there are appropriate processes in place to develop and improve the curriculum.

### Element 4.3: Curriculum content

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that the curriculum contains content and learning experiences in line with the Physiotherapist education framework.

---

## **Requirement 5: Practice education programme**

Formative practice education programme encompasses both clinical and non-clinical practical learning experiences.

### **Element 5.1: Practice education in clinical settings/clinical education**

#### **Criterion**

The educational institution must provide evidence that the programme includes clinical education that has sufficient breadth, depth, and comprehensive coverage to ensure that the learning outcomes of the programme are met.

### **Element 5.2: Practice education in non-clinical settings**

#### **Criterion**

The educational institution must provide evidence that the programme includes practice education in non-clinical settings where physiotherapists practice that has sufficient breadth, depth and comprehensive coverage to ensure that the learning outcomes of the programme are met.

### **Element 5.3: Practice education placements**

#### **Criterion**

The educational institution must provide evidence that the practice education programme includes placements in clinical and non-clinical settings where physiotherapists practice that provide opportunities to develop competence in the key areas of physiotherapy, exposure to a range of settings (acute, rehabilitation and community) and to patients/clients of all ages.



---

## Requirement 6: Outcomes

### Element 6.1: Programme outcomes

#### Criterion

The philosophy and learning outcomes of the programme are clearly stated and are consistent with the professional practice of physiotherapy and the [Physiotherapist education framework](#).

### Element 6.2: Benchmarking

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence of undertaking comparative analysis of the programme including systematic benchmarking with comparable accredited/recognised physiotherapist entry level education programmes and also evidence of an evaluative commentary.

### Element 6.3: Assessment

#### Criterion

The educational institution must provide evidence that the academic staff and practice education supervisors use a range of appropriate assessment methods to report whether students know and understand theoretical material and are competent and safe to function in the practice setting according to the World Physiotherapy education framework.

### Element 6.4: Graduate outcomes

#### Criterion

The educational institution undertakes the collection and evaluation of longitudinal assessment data that indicate that graduates of the programme demonstrate the specific attributes defined in the [Physiotherapist education framework](#) in conjunction with the graduate attributes defined by the educational institution.

---

## Bibliography

1. World Physiotherapy, Physiotherapist education framework. 2021: London, UK. Available from [Physiotherapist-education-framework-FINAL.pdf \(world.physio\)](#)
2. World Physiotherapy, Guidance for developing a curriculum for physiotherapist entry level education programme. 2022: London, UK. Available from: [Curriculum\\_framework\\_guidance\\_FINAL.pdf \(world.physio\)](#)
3. World Confederation for Physical Therapy. Policy statement: Description of physical therapy. 2019; Available from: <https://world.physio/policy/ps-descriptionPT> .
4. World Confederation for Physical Therapy. Policy statement: Education. 2019. Available from: <https://world.physio/policy/ps-education>
5. World Confederation for Physical Therapy. Policy statement: Ethical responsibilities of physical therapists and member organisations. 2019. Available from: <https://world.physio/policy/ps-ethical-responsibilities>
6. World Confederation for Physical Therapy. Policy statement. Standards of physical therapist practice. 2019. Available from: <https://world.physio/policy/ps-standards>
7. World Physiotherapy, Guideline for standards of physiotherapy. 2023.

---

## Glossary

Definitions of the following terms could be found at the [World Physiotherapy Glossary](#)

- Accreditation
- Assessment
- Associate faculty (Associated academic staff)
- Bachelor's degree
- Client
- Competence
- Core academic faculty (Core Academic staff)
- Curriculum development
- Guidelines
- Interprofessional
- Intervention
- Learning outcomes
- Member organisation
- Patient
- Physiotherapist
- Physiotherapy
- Practice settings