

New providers and models of UK physiotherapy education: The CSP's role and expectations

Introduction

This position statement sets out the approach that the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) takes to new providers and new models of pre-registration physiotherapy education. As the UK's professional, educational and trade union body for physiotherapy, the CSP holds, shapes and develops the body of knowledge and skills that define the profession's practice and its contribution to service delivery and patient care.

The CSP has key roles to play in UK physiotherapy education, exercised through our accreditation of programmes and process of annual quality review. We ensure

- High standards of physiotherapy education are upheld
- Pre-registration education programmes are responsive to changing patient, service and workforce needs
- Curricula evolve in line with developments in the profession's evidence base and scope of practice.

The statement is intended for

- Education providers looking to develop a physiotherapy programme for the first time
- Existing education providers, including those looking to develop new programmes or to re-model their existing provision
- The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), as the UK statutory regulator for physiotherapy
- Current and prospective physiotherapy students
- Other professions and organisations with an interest in how the CSP sets and maintains high educational standards for the UK physiotherapy profession.

The statement should be read in conjunction with CSP's *Quality Assurance and Enhancement Role* resource. This explains how the CSP supports and advises on programme delivery and our programme accreditation requirements and expectations.

The position statement will be kept under review to ensure its currency and updated as necessary.

The CSP's approach

With significant current shortfalls in physiotherapy workforce supply, there is a pressing need to grow the physiotherapy profession. The CSP is committed to securing and sustaining an increase in physiotherapy student numbers to meet the current workforce shortfall. A minimum of 500 additional student places per year up to 2020 are needed to address this.

While focused on increasing physiotherapy student numbers to meet patient and service need, the CSP is strongly committed to safeguarding the following across the UK:

- Entry to the profession from all parts of society

- Physiotherapists' delivery of high-quality patient care
- The quality of physiotherapy education, including practice-based learning as a key part of physiotherapy students' learning experience.

The CSP actively welcomes new pre-registration physiotherapy programmes and innovation in programme design and delivery. We seek to work alongside stakeholders to ensure new proposals for pre-registration education programmes achieve the following:

- Are responsive to changing needs
- Responsibly and creatively address current shortfalls in physiotherapy workforce supply
- Build on existing good practice in physiotherapy education, and contribute to UK physiotherapy education's high reputation (nationally and globally)
- Optimise fresh thinking on how physiotherapy education can and should develop
- Uphold entry to the profession as being at first-degree level (or above), recognising the potential for this to be achieved through a range of delivery routes.

The CSP promotes a collaborative approach to programme development and delivery. We work with stakeholders to ensure physiotherapy education provision achieves high academic and professional standards and prepares students for contemporary and future physiotherapy practice. This includes new models of care, changing workforce requirements, and emerging job roles.

Given the CSP's unique role in leading and shaping UK physiotherapy education, we actively seek to work with providers as soon as they start planning a new programme. This will ensure that a programme's development is:

- Contextualised within wider developments in physiotherapy
- Informed by CSP expectations, support and advice
- Best prepared to fulfil CSP requirements for accreditation.

CSP staff and senior physiotherapy educators appointed as CSP representatives can provide detailed, bespoke advice throughout the process.

CSP programme accreditation recognises excellence in programme design, delivery and physiotherapy content. Any provider seeking CSP accreditation is required to demonstrate that they meet these standards. We expect that a programme will:

- Enable students to develop and demonstrate the professional knowledge, skills and attributes set out in the CSP's knowledge and skills framework for new graduates (as well as the HCPC standards of proficiency)
- Provide students with at least 1000 hours of practice-based learning, undertaken through a mix of placements that develop students' understanding and professional skills across population groups, patient pathways, clinical specialties, areas of professional growth, healthcare environments and models of service delivery
- Widen participation to enable entry to the physiotherapy profession from all parts of society

- Be well-resourced and have a firm place within the provider's business plans
- Be developed, delivered and reviewed in close collaboration with stakeholders, including students, service/practice education providers, other disciplines, patient representatives and other physiotherapy education providers.

The CSP's approach encourages continuous improvement and a sharing of learning and good practice. This is a central focus of how we exercise our QAE role, including through our annual quality review process and re-accreditation of programmes.

Key references and further reading

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Learning and development principles. 2011. URL: <http://www.csp.org.uk/professional-union/careers-development/career-physiotherapy/learningprinciples>

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. QA expectations 2010. URL: <http://www.csp.org.uk/documents/csp-accreditation-qualifying-programmes-physiotherapyquality-assurance-processes>

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The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Ensuring sufficient practice placement capacity for Physiotherapy Students. 2014. URL: <http://www.csp.org.uk/documents/ensuring-sufficient-practice-placement-capacity-physiotherapy-students>

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The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Practice Education Information, Support and Guidance e-resource. 2014. URL: <http://www.csp.org.uk/publications/practice-education-%E2%80%93-information-supportguidance>

Royal National Institute of Blind People, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Into Physiotherapy: welcoming and supporting disabled students. 2010. URL: <http://www.csp.org.uk/publications/physiotherapy-welcoming-supporting-disabled-students>

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