

## CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

### PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data				
Awarding Institution	University of the West of England			
Teaching Institution	University of the West of England			
Delivery Location	Hartpury College			
Faculty responsible for programme	Hartpury College			
Department responsible for programme	Equine Science			
Modular Scheme Title	Postgraduate			
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy			
Highest Award Title	MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy			
Default Award Title	Not applicable			
Fall-back Award Title	Not applicable			
Interim Award Titles	Postgraduate Diploma Veterinary Physiotherapy Postgraduate Certificate Specialist Practice			
UWE Progression Route	None			
Mode(s) of Delivery	Part time			
Codes	UCAS: D391		JACS: D300	
	ISIS2: D39112		HESA:	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Veterinary Science Master's Degree Characteristics			
CAP Approval Date	30 May 2013 (HLS), 11 June 2013 (HAR)		CAP review date	V3.1-12 December 2016
Valid from	September 2013		Revision with effect from	01 September 2016
Valid until Date	September 2019			
Version	3.1			

## Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme is designed to optimise the demands of veterinary physiotherapy services by enhancing the competencies of Chartered Physiotherapists. Individuals will be encouraged and supported through critical reflection on the similarities and differences relating to practice in the human field of physiotherapy. The initiative strives to develop technically competent, effective and safe veterinary physiotherapy practitioners in line with current professional standards. In particular the programme promotes the philosophy of life-long learning and encourages students to develop their skills in critical thinking. They will be encouraged to critically analyse research and evidence and apply their findings to practice.

The programme aims to facilitate participants' recognition of their roles and responsibilities in the field of veterinary physiotherapy and animal welfare. It will enhance the student's clinical skills as well as their capacity to deal with complex relationships between animals, their owners/handlers and other healthcare professionals. The programme will also introduce participants to the legal, ethical and financial issues involved in veterinary physiotherapy/private practice. The programme will provide a stimulating, supportive and sensitive learning environment which will enable students to maximise their learning and facilitate their development as self-directed and reflective learners.

### Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

Not applicable.

## Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

### Learning Outcomes:

	UIEXKW-15-M Preparation for Clinical Practice	UIEXKV-15-M Comparative and Applied Anatomy, Physiology and Biomechanics	UIEVX4-30-M Understanding Veterinary Diagnostics and Physiotherapy Assessment	UINXKT-15-M The Research Process	UINXKU-15-3 Applied Business Management	UIEVX5-30-M Veterinary Physiotherapy Rehabilitation	UINVL5-60-M Postgraduate Dissertation
<b>A) Knowledge and understanding of:</b>							
1 The theoretical basis underpinning a wide range of veterinary physiotherapeutic skills.	✓	✓	✓			✓	
2 Issues that affect and change veterinary physiotherapy practice and roles.	✓	✓	✓			✓	
3 The legal, professional and ethical frameworks within which they practice.			✓	✓		✓	
4 The roles and responsibilities of the inter-professional health care team.			✓			✓	
5 The implications of research evidence for veterinary physiotherapy practice.			✓	✓		✓	✓
<b>(B) Intellectual Skills demonstrating:</b>							
1 The ability to evaluate and critically reflect upon veterinary physiotherapeutic interventions.			✓	✓		✓	✓
2 The ability to critically evaluate a range of evidence to support practice.			✓	✓		✓	✓
3 The synthesis of evidence from a variety of perspectives in order to contextualise practice.			✓		✓	✓	✓
4 Independent learning and a contribution to peer learning and support.	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
5 The ability to disseminate and communicate findings.				✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>(C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills. Graduates from this programme should be able to:</b>							
1 Assess the needs of the individual animal.	✓	✓	✓			✓	

<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>		UIEXKW-15-M Preparation for Clinical Practice	UIEXKV-15-M Comparative and Applied Anatomy, Physiology and Biomechanics	UIEVX4-30-M Understanding Veterinary Diagnostics and Physiotherapy Assessment	UINXKT-15-M The Research Process	UINXKU-15-3 Applied Business Management	UIEVX5-30-M Veterinary Physiotherapy Rehabilitation	UINVL5-60-M Postgraduate Dissertation
2	Undertake skilled, competent, safe, evaluative and reflective veterinary physiotherapy within a legal and ethical context.			✓			✓	

<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>		UIEXKW-15-M Preparation for Clinical Practice	UIEXKV-15-M Comparative and Applied Anatomy, Physiology and Biomechanics	UIEVX4-30-M Understanding Veterinary Diagnostics and Physiotherapy Assessment	UINXKT-15-M The Research Process	UINXKU-15-3 Applied Business Management	UIEVX5-30-M Veterinary Physiotherapy Rehabilitation	UINVL5-60-M Postgraduate Dissertation
3	Communicate effectively with clients, inter-professional groups and the general public establishing professional and ethical relationships.	✓		✓			✓	
4	Develop empowering practice with service users.	✓	✓	✓			✓	
5	Utilise appropriate strategies in order to solve problems that may be complex in nature.			✓			✓	
6	Demonstrate enhanced leadership skills in order to enable others to lead and work collaboratively to enhance the profession.			✓			✓	
7	Recognise and take appropriate action in situations where the limits of their skills or knowledge are being approached.	✓	✓	✓			✓	
8	Select and employ appropriate research methodologies for the retrieval and production of data and demonstrate the ability to analyse and report the outcomes.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>(D) Transferable skills and other attributes.</b>								
Graduates from this programme should be able to:								
1	Demonstrate effective personal and business management skills.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
2	Demonstrate an enhanced ability to respond effectively to the needs of clients.	✓	✓	✓			✓	
3	Critically reflect and evaluate own academic and professional progression in the context of life-long learning.					✓	✓	
4	Reflect and evaluate their own academic, professional and clinical performance.			✓			✓	

#### Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy programme teaching is a mix of scheduled, independent and placement learning.

Practical skills sessions are a core component of the programme and form a key component of the award. These are linked directly to clinical reasoning and problem solving and provide the foundations that are then built on during professional practice placements.

##### **Scheduled Learning**

May include lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and work based learning (observational days).

##### **Independent Learning**

May include hours engaged with essential and supplementary reading, case study preparation, practical skills, reflection and assessment preparation. These sessions constitute an average time per year as indicated below:

Year 1; 300 hours  
Year 2; 300 hours  
Year 3; 300 hours

## Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

### **Placement Learning**

This includes supervised practice placement hours occurring as part of the professional practice modules (occurring both internally and externally to the College); this constitutes an average per year as indicated below:

Year 1; 12 days

Year 2; 20 days

Student support will be offered in a number of ways:

- An induction programme for all students
- A policy on student support and guidance; clear guidance to students on who/where they should seek support
- Through a clinical co ordinator to support practice components of the course
- Through the support of a suitably experienced clinical supervisor when on placement
- Provision of a Programme Handbook and Module Guides
- Access to UWE and Faculty wide information.
- Access to UWE and Faculty student support systems.

The Programme Leader and key members of the programme and module teams will be available to offer continued support and guidance via email, telephone or face to face.

### **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)**

This programme is supported by a VLE where students will be able to find all necessary programme/module information. Direct links to information sources will also be provided from within the VLE.

To support learner's career preparations, UWE careers personnel visit Hartpury on a regular basis and the students can use all the UWE Careers on line resources as well as see Careers staff at Frenchay and other campuses. Tutors will also offer subject specific careers advice through module sessions or individual tutorials. Careers Fairs are arranged periodically to allow students to engage directly with employers from the industry sector.

## Description of any Distinctive Features

Learning will be based on a student-centred approach, where students are encouraged and empowered to take responsibility for their own learning both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learned. Active research, exploration, feedback, teamwork and case studies are expected in all aspects of the programme, and will develop skills such as critical analysis, autonomy, communication, creative thinking, problem solving and reflection. This is facilitated by the use of students' own experience and practice to interrogate theory.

Key lectures from experts will be incorporated to encourage the student to consider innovative approaches in clinical practice, and keep abreast of current research. Experts will be drawn from a range of professions including physiotherapy (including Category A members of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy), Veterinary Surgeons, Animal Nutritionists and Animal Psychologists.

There will be a strong inter-professional interaction, with sharing of ideas and experiences to resolve animal health and welfare issues. This approach should ultimately enhance responsiveness to the 'service user' perspective and promote best possible care.

Through self directed learning and outcomes driven clinical practice students will develop intellectual, professional, practical and report writing skills. The formulation of case scenarios of evidence during clinical learning will promote the student to reflect on their clinical learning experiences and develop a culture of reflective practice and life-long learning. Completion of a portfolio of practice-based evidence enables the student to maintain a record of their professional practice education and to develop their ability to reflect critically on situations that have contributed to their personal and professional development.

Significant emphasis will be given to health, safety and risk assessment in the handling of animals as part of the preparation for professional practice. Handling, recognising dangerous situations and assessing risk,

#### Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

both for the animals and humans, will be key embedded elements of the theory, practice and assessment of the programme.

The External Examiner for the Veterinary Physiotherapy specific modules should be on the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy register.

#### Part 5: Assessment

Approved to [University Regulations and Procedures](#)

##### Assessment Strategy

The MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy programme assessments have been designed to best test the learning outcomes of the modules and programme, to be appropriate and fair, and also to discriminate ability amongst students. Furthermore, formative as well as summative assessment opportunities are provided and feedback on assessment throughout the programme is designed to support students ongoing learning and development.

A range of assessment approaches are used as detailed in the assessment map below acknowledging that learners have differing strengths and preferences.

In line with the College's commitment to facilitating equal opportunities, a student may apply for alternative means of assessment if appropriate. Each application will be considered on an individual basis taking into account learning and assessment needs. For further information regarding this please refer to the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

##### Assessment Map

The programme encompasses a range of **assessment methods** including; oral/practical examinations, written assignments, presentations, clinical practice portfolio, portfolio of evidence, reports, dissertation. These are detailed in the following assessment map:

##### Assessment Map for MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy

		Type of Assessment*									
		Unseen Written Exam	Open Book Written Exam	In-class Written Test	Practical Exam	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral assessment and/or presentation	Written Assignment	Report/Project	Dissertation	Portfolio
Compulsory Modules Level 1	UIEXKW-15-M Preparation for Clinical Practice				A (50)						B (50)
	UIEXKV-15-M Comparative and Applied Anatomy, Physiology and Biomechanics	A (100)									
	UIEVX4-30-M Understanding Veterinary Diagnostics and Physiotherapy Assessment					A (P/F)		B (100)			
Compulsory Modules Level 2	UINXKT-15-M The Research Process						A (25)	B (75)			
	UINXKU-15-3 Applied Business Management						A (100)				
	UIEVX5-30-M Veterinary Physiotherapy Rehabilitation					A (P/F)	B1 (50)	B2 (50)			


		Type of Assessment*									
		Unseen Written Exam	Open Book Written Exam	In-class Written Test	Practical Exam	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral assessment and/or presentation	Written Assignment	Report/Project	Dissertation	Portfolio
Compulsory Modules Level 3	UINVL5-60-M Postgraduate Dissertation									A (100)	

\*Assessment should be shown in terms of either **Written Exams**, **Practical exams**, or **Coursework** as indicated by the colour coding above.

### Part 6: Programme Structure

The award route will be via a part-time course. The post-graduate diploma can be completed within two years, with a further year for the Masters component of the course.

Students should normally complete within 6 years of enrolment on the programme.

ENTRY		Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
	Year 1	1 UIEXKW-15-M Preparation for Clinical Practice 2 UIEXKV-15-M Comparative and Applied Anatomy, Physiology and Biomechanics 3 UIEVX4-30-M Understanding Veterinary Diagnostics and Physiotherapy Assessment	None	<u>Postgraduate Certificate in Specialist Practice</u> Credit requirements: 60 credits at level 3 or above with not less than 45 credits at level M.  <u>Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy</u> Credit requirements: 120 credits at level 3 or above with not less than 90 credits at level M – must include all modules from Years 1 and 2.  Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy gives eligibility to apply for Category A membership of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy.
	Year 2	1 UINXKT-15-M The Research Process 2 UINXKU-15-3 Applied Business Management 3 UIEVX5-30-M Veterinary Physiotherapy Rehabilitation	None	<u>MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy</u> Credit requirements: 180 credits at level 3 or above with not less than 120 credits at level M.
	Year 3	1 UINVL5-60-M Postgraduate Dissertation	None	
GRADUATION				

### Part 7: Entry Requirements

The University's Standard Entry Requirements apply with the following additions:

- Health and Care Professions Council registration as a Physiotherapist.
- Membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.
- Category B membership of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy needs to be in place at the start of the programme and for the duration of the programme for insurance purposes.
- Experience of working (paid or unpaid) with a range of animals.

A minimum of one year post graduate experience of working as a human physiotherapist is desirable.

We also welcome applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds who do not have the entry requirements outlined above. The university will consider applicants on the basis of evidence of personal, professional

### **Part 7: Entry Requirements**

and educational experience which indicates an applicant's ability to meet the demands of an undergraduate degree programme. Applicants with non-standard entry criteria will be reviewed on an individual basis. This will take the form of an individual interview with members of the programme team and possibly the completion of a set task such as a written assignment. Where appropriate experience or learning has been gained prior to enrolment on the programme AL/AEL may be possible.

Applicants whose first language is not English must have a minimum IELTS score of 7 overall with a minimum of 6.5 in any section, (or equivalent).



## Part 8: Reference Points and Benchmarks

The MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy Programme was first validated in 2009 when QAA Veterinary Science Benchmarks (QAA, 2002) were used in the design of the programme. The QAA Master's degree characteristics (QAA, 2010) were published after the initial validation of this programme but have been considered as part of ongoing review of the programme. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy criteria and expectations related to Master's programmes and post-qualifying physiotherapy education (CSP, 2003) has also informed the programme.

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (2003), Master's Level Programmes Within Post Qualifying Physiotherapy Education: CSP Criteria and Expectations. CSP, London.

Quality Assurance Agency (2002), Subject Benchmark Statement: Veterinary Science. The QAA for Higher Education, Gloucester.

Quality Assurance Agency (2010), Master's Degree Characteristics. The QAA for Higher Education, Gloucester.

What methods have been used in the development of this programme to evaluate and improve the quality and standards of learning? This could include consideration of stakeholder feedback from, for example current students, graduates and employers.

The programme has developed through ongoing evaluation and feedback provided by students, staff, external examiner and stakeholders/clinical educators; this has resulted in improved quality and standards of learning. The programme underwent a formal periodic curriculum review in February 2013; present and past students, internal and external reviewers, and professional body representation were involved in this review of the programme and its fitness for purpose, recommendations have been incorporated into this programme specification.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications, available on the [University's website](#).