

Physiotherapist

You'll help people improve their mobility and regain their independence after an injury or operation, or as a result of ageing or a disability.

"A highlight was walking a Covid-19 survivor off the ward, to a guard of honour. He had spent over ten weeks in hospital and could now return home to his family."

[Read David's story \[1\]](#)

Working life

As a physiotherapist, you'll focus on identifying and maximising movement to improve the health and wellbeing of your patients.

Your role is vital in treating a variety of conditions such as:

- neurological (stroke [2], multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's).
- neuromusculoskeletal (back pain, whiplash associated disorder, sports injuries, arthritis).
- cardiovascular [3] (chronic heart disease, rehabilitation after heart attack).
- respiratory [4] (asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis).

You'll work with people on a daily basis, recommending exercise, carrying out massage, and using high-tech ultrasound [5] equipment or even hydrotherapy pools, depending on your patients' needs.

Once a patient's movement problem has been diagnosed, you'll work with them to determine a treatment plan. You'll also promote good health and advise people on how to avoid injury.



You may work alone, or as part of a team, and you'll have plenty of choice when it comes to places to work. In the NHS, you're needed in nearly every hospital department such as outpatients, women's health, paediatrics and occupational health. Physiotherapy is also provided in the local community, so you could be based in health centres or treat patients in their own homes, day centres, nursing homes or schools.

Entry requirements

A university degree is the most popular way to become a physiotherapist. A full-time degree can take three years and a part-time course will take six years. A two-year accelerated Masters course is also an option if you already have a relevant degree. Once you've successfully completed your degree you'll need to register with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC [6]) before you can start practising. The other option is to apply for a degree apprenticeship.

Entry requirements for an undergraduate course are typically:

- two or three A levels, including a biological science and/or PE.
- five GCSEs (grades A-C [7]), including English language, maths and at least one science.

Or the equivalent qualifications:

- a BTEC, HND or HNC, including biological science.
- a relevant NVQ.
- a science-based access course.
- equivalent Scottish or Irish qualifications.
- a previous degree or a full practicing qualification in a related area.

Each university sets its own entry requirements, so it's important to check with them directly. In most cases, the results of an interview and other selection processes are taken into account as well as academic qualifications. It's also a good idea to spend some time with a registered physiotherapist to get some firsthand experience of what the role's really like.

When applying for a physiotherapy degree, you'll be asked to show how you think the NHS values apply in your everyday work.

New annual payments

You'll receive at least £5,000 a year to help fund your studies, through the NHS Learning Support Fund. The best part? You won't have to pay a penny back.

Degree apprenticeship

A degree apprenticeship with a healthcare provider is another way to become a physiotherapist. Apprenticeships give you the chance to earn a living while gaining your qualification. Your employer and the government will pay the tuition fees, so apprenticeships aren't eligible for student grants.

Must-have skills

Whichever route you take, you'll also need to be a good communicator who can be hands-on and explain conditions and treatments easily to clients. Having a caring and calm nature is equally important. Physiotherapy can be physically and mentally strenuous so you should also be physically fit with strong

organisational and planning skills too.

Training and career development

Once you've qualified, you'll have annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) check-ins, where we'll discuss your career aspirations and plan how we can help you to achieve them, so you're always moving forward. You'll also be encouraged to join the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy where you'll be able to continually update your skills and training.

As a physiotherapist, you could specialise in a particular area such as sports injuries, critical care, or work with the elderly, children or cancer patients. Teaching, research and management roles are other options.

Outside the NHS, you could work with sports coaches or personal trainers, be based in a clinic or open your own practice.

Pay and benefits

Your standard working week will be around 37.5 hours and may include a mix of shifts, such as nights, early starts, evenings and weekends. As a physiotherapist, you'll be paid on the Agenda for Change (AFC) pay system [8], typically starting on band 5.

You'll also have access to our generous pension scheme and health service discounts, as well as 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays.

- [Live vacancies](#) Expand / collapse
 - View Vacancy [9]

Junior Physiotherapist

Macclesfield, SK11 8DW

- **Salary:**
Band 4 / 5
- **Type:**
Permanent
- **Employer:**
Spire Healthcare Ltd

- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [10]

Junior Physiotherapist - Buckinghamshire

High Wycombe, HP12 3QL

-

Salary:

£26k - £30k depending on experience

-

Type:

Permanent

-

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

- [View Vacancy](#)

- [View Vacancy \[11\]](#)

Physiotherapist

Scarborough, YO12 4AD

-

Salary:

£31,365 - £37,890 pro rata

-

Type:

Fixed term

-

Employer:

York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

- [View Vacancy](#)

- [View Vacancy \[12\]](#)

Physiotherapist

Mitcham, CR4 4BG

-

■ **Salary:**

£34000.00 to £42000.00 a year

■ **Type:**

Permanent

■ **Employer:**

Central Advertising - Other

- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [13]

Physiotherapist

St. Neots, PE19

■ **Salary:**

£34,000 - £35,000 + Benefits

■ **Type:**

Permanent

■ **Employer:**

Elysium Healthcare

- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [14]

Physiotherapist

Scarborough, YO12 6QL

■ **Salary:**

£24,907 - £30,615 per annum

■

Type:

Permanent

■ **Employer:**

York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

■ View Vacancy

•

Expand / collapse

Find your course to become a physiotherapist

Region

- Any -

Type of qualification

- Any -

Full or part time

- Any -

Search

Displaying 1 - 5 of 72 matches

MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration)

Birmingham, University of

View course Opens in a new window
[15]

Region **West Midlands**

Type of course

Postgraduate/accelerated programme

Full or part time

Full time

Duration

2 years

Contact details

pgt-physio@contacts.bham.ac.uk [16] **0121 414 8327**

Course webpage <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/sport-exercise/physio-p...> [15]

Admissions address

Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT

Course webpage <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/sport-exercise/physio-p...> [15]

Accelerated courses are for graduates with a relevant degree. See our FAQ for more information [17].

BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

Birmingham, University of

View course Opens in a new window
[18]

Region **West Midlands**

Type of course
Undergraduate

Full or part time
Full time

Duration
3 years

Contact details
physio-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk [19] **+44 (0)121 414 3344**

Course webpage <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/sportex/physiotherapy.aspx> [18]

Admissions address

Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 2TT

Course webpage <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/sportex/physiotherapy.aspx> [18]

MSc Physiotherapy (pre-registration)

Teesside University

View course Opens in a new window
[20]

Region **North East**

Type of course

Postgraduate/accelerated programme

Full or part time

Full time

Duration

2 years

Contact details

shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk [21] **01642 384110**

Course webpage

http://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Profession... [22]

Admissions address

Middlesbrough

Tees Valley

TS1 3BA

Course webpage

http://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Profession... [22]

Accelerated courses are for graduates with a relevant degree. See our FAQ for more information [17].

BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

Teesside University

View course Opens in a new window

[23]

Region **North East**

Type of course

Undergraduate

Full or part time

Full time

Duration

3 years

Contact details

shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk [21] **01642 384110**

Course webpage http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm [24]

Admissions address

Middlesbrough
Tees Valley
TS1 3BA

Course webpage http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm [24]

BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

UCLan, University of Central Lancashire

View course [Opens in a new window](#)
[25]

Region **North West**

Type of course
Undergraduate

Full or part time
Full time

Duration
3 years

Contact details

cenquiries@uclan.ac.uk [26] **01772 892400**

Course webpage http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bsc_hons_physiotherapy.php [25]

Admissions address

Preston
Lancashire
PR1 2HE

Course webpage http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bsc_hons_physiotherapy.php [25]

◦ [Load more](#) [27]

Register for your guide to becoming a physiotherapist

We'll email you a step-by-step guide to help you on your way to joining us

Let's go [28]

Other roles that may interest you

- Physiotherapy assistants/support workers [29]
- Occupational therapist [30]
- Osteopath [31]
- Occupational therapy support worker [32]

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/physiotherapist>

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/physiotherapist/real-life-story-david-williams>

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Stroke>

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Cardiovascular>

[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Respiratory>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Ultrasound>

[6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#HCPC>

[7] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Grades_A-C

[8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates>

[9] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916461139>

[10] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916469774>

[11] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916475709>

[12] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916456453>

[13] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916471803>

[14] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916480981>

[15] <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/sport-exercise/physio-pre-reg.aspx>

[16] [mailto: pgt-physio@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:pgt-physio@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

[17] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/looking-course/faqs-about-our-course-finder>

[18] <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/sportex/physiotherapy.aspx>

[19] [mailto: physio-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:physio-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

[20]

[http://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professions/MSc_Physiotherapy_\(Pre-registration\).cfm](http://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professions/MSc_Physiotherapy_(Pre-registration).cfm)

[21] [mailto: shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk](mailto:shlsadmissions@tees.ac.uk)

[22]

[http://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professions/MSc_Physiotherapy_\(Pre-registration\).cfm](http://www.tees.ac.uk/postgraduate_courses/Nursing_Midwifery_&_Health_Professions/MSc_Physiotherapy_(Pre-registration).cfm)

[23] http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm?courseid=147&fos=9&fossb=25

[24] http://www.tees.ac.uk/prospectus/ug/UG_course.cfm?courseid=147&fos=9&fossb=25

[25] http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/bsc_hons_physiotherapy.php

[26] [mailto: cenquiries@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:cenquiries@uclan.ac.uk)

[27] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/printpdf/213?page=1>

[28] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/allied-health-professionals-registration>

[29] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/physiotherapy-assistantssupport-workers>

[30] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/occupational-therapist>

[31] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/osteopath>

[32] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/occupational-therapy-support-worker>