

The Birmingham International Academy
Applications for BSc Physiotherapy (Hons)
2019-2020

Information for Applicants

Foundation Pathways students, aspiring to progress to BSc Physiotherapy (Hons) are expected to meet the academic requirements for progression from the Foundation year to the undergraduate programme **and** meet other 'non-academic' requirements, including a successful interview. Therefore, when applying for the Foundation year at Birmingham, you should consider the following information.

Non-academic condition of entry

If you are accepted on to the Foundation year on the understanding that you wish to progress to Physiotherapy, you will be guaranteed an interview. This interview will take place during your Foundation year. At interview, the Physiotherapy admissions team are looking for candidates who can enable effective patient care through their personal experience and evaluation of that experience. This is informed by the NHS Constitution for England which are principles that guide the NHS and provide its values framework. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-constitution-for-england/the-nhs-constitution-for-england#nhs-values>)

1. Work/Shadowing experience

Candidates are required to have completed three distinct episodes of care experience. These periods of work experience could take place either before or during the Foundation year but no later than the start of the summer term. You will not be interviewed until you have completed three episodes of care experience. The admissions team are aware of the difficulty in securing direct physiotherapy work experience so only one work experience session with a qualified physiotherapist is required. The other two care related experiences could be drawn from other care settings.

The list below is not exhaustive, but gives an indication of the types of care experience that can be offered

- a. Care homes for the elderly
- b. Nursing homes
- c. Helping at a day care centre for elderly or people with disability
- d. 'Befriend the elderly' <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/loneliness-in-the-elderly-how-to-help/>
- e. Working with homeless
e.g. <https://www.birminghamcitymission.org.uk/help-the-homeless/>
- f. Working with refugees
https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/how_you_can_help_us/volunteer
- g. Helping at disability sports events
- h. Mental health charities <https://www.bsmhft.nhs.uk/about-us/join-us/become-a-volunteer/>
- i. Caring for a disabled relative / significant other (this can represent only one episode of care). You must demonstrate how you have engaged in their care / rehabilitation.

Work experience duration

There is no stipulation regarding the length of time over which work experience is undertaken. A few days in each care setting is normally sufficient. However, work experience alone does not guarantee an offer to the programme. The admissions team is interested in a reflective account of what has been learnt from experience as part of the interview process. You may find it useful to keep a reflective diary of your work experience that you can refer to when preparing for your interview.

2. Demonstration of Core values

Core values are an important component of healthcare delivery within the United Kingdom. The following values will be explored at interview.

- a. Compassion
- b. Respect & dignity
- c. Everyone counts

3. Communication skills

Communication is essential to safe, effective and high quality healthcare. Candidates need to demonstrate their ability to communicate appropriately and clearly.

For further details please see:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/sportex/physiotherapy.aspx?OpenSection=EntryRequirements>

Other Requirements

In addition to meeting the academic progression requirements and completing a successful interview, you will also need a health check and a criminal record checks from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). These will be organised through the University. You will also need a IELTS score of at least 7.0 with at least 6.5 in all skills (in addition to your mark in the English modules). If you do not have this score when you start your Foundation year, you will need to re-take your IELTS test during the Foundation year. Please ensure you are familiar with these additional requirements and seek advice from the Foundation Team if you are unclear on any of the points above.

Useful resources:

You should make sure you attend talks, Open Days or Applicant Visit Days held by the Physiotherapy department throughout your Foundation year. You can also refer to online resources to help you understand the profession and prepare for your interview:

- UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs/job-profile/physiotherapist>
- National Health Service: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/physiotherapist>
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy: www.csp.org.uk
- Health and Care Professions Council: www.hcpc-uk.org