

Programme Specification

Part 1: Basic Data			
Awarding Institution	Hartpury University		
Teaching Institution	Hartpury University		
Delivery Location	Hartpury		
Study abroad / Exchange / Credit recognition	None		
Department responsible for programme	Equine		
Programme Title	MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy		
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	Chartered Society of Physiotherapy Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy RAMP		
Highest Award Title	Master of Science in Veterinary Physiotherapy		
Default Award Title	None		
Interim Award Titles	Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy Postgraduate Certificate in Specialist Practice		
Mode(s) of Study	Accelerated Full Time / Full Time / Part Time		
Codes	UCAS: n/a	UNIT-E: MST EVPXX	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Veterinary Nursing Master's Degree Characteristics		
Most recent Validation Date	V3.0 - 08 November 2018 V2.1 – 31 August 2018	Due for re-validation by:	01 September 2025
Amendment Approval Date	V3.1- 26 June 2019	Amended with effect from	01 September 2019
Version	3.1		
Review Due By	1 September 2025		

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.

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

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)

MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy graduates will have the ability to undertake competent, safe, evaluative and reflective practice supported by high levels of critical evaluation skills. Using clinical reasoning they will be able to assess and treat an animal with a wide range of veterinary physiotherapeutic interventions. They will have knowledge and understanding of animal behaviour and welfare, comparative anatomy, physiology and biomechanics as well as veterinary diagnostics, physiotherapy assessment and rehabilitation. Key skills of graduates include recognition of the legal, professional and ethical frameworks within which they practice and effective communication with clients, inter-professional groups and the general public. Graduates will be able to critically analyse a range of research paradigms, conduct relevant enquiry and contextualise evidence to practice.

Part 3: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Enrolment through to Graduation for a typical **full time student**, including:

- level and credit requirements
- award requirements that are in addition to those described in the Hartpury Academic Regulations
- module diet, including compulsory, core and optional modules

The programme includes some professional practice modules, indicated in the table below with a star, and these are subject to variant academic regulations (see part 6).

	Core/ Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Awards
Year 1	HEQXKW-15-7 Preparation for Clinical Practice	None	Postgraduate Certificate in Specialist Practice Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy
	HEQXKV-15-7 Comparative and Applied Anatomy, Physiology and Biomechanics		
	HEQVX4-30-7 Understanding Veterinary Diagnostics and Physiotherapy Assessment*		
Year 2	HANXKT-15-7 The Research Process	None	
	HANXKU-15-6 Applied Business Management		
	HEQVX5-30-7 Veterinary Physiotherapy Rehabilitation*		
Year 3	HANVL5-60-7 Postgraduate Dissertation	None	

Part time:

The part time student journey from Entry through to Graduation is individually negotiated with the student.

Part 4: 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:	Preparation for Clinical Practice	Comparative and Applied Anatomy, Physiology and Biomechanics	Understanding Veterinary Diagnostics and Physiotherapy Assessment	The Research Process	Applied Business Management	Veterinary Physiotherapy Rehabilitation	Postgraduate Dissertation
A) Knowledge and understanding of:							
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) Intellectual Skills							
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.				✓	✓	✓	✓
(C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills							
1. Assess the needs of the individual animal.	✓	✓	✓			✓	
2. Undertake skilled, competent, safe, evaluative and reflective veterinary physiotherapy within a legal and ethical context.			✓			✓	
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.	✓	✓	✓			✓	

Part 4: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

8. Select and employ appropriate research methodologies for the retrieval and production of data and demonstrate the ability to analyse and report the outcomes.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(D) Transferable skills and other attributes							
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 5: Student Learning and Student Support

Teaching and learning strategies to enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

This contact time encompasses a range of face: face activities as described below. In addition a range of other learning activities will be embedded within the programme which, together with the contact time, will enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated.

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

Placement Learning

This includes supervised practice placement hours occurring as part of the professional practice modules (occurring both internally and externally to the institution); 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 institution wide information.

Access to 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.

To support learner's career preparations, institution careers personnel visit the institution on a regular basis and the students can use all the institutions Careers online resources as well as see.

Description of the teaching resources provided for students

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

Part 5: Student Learning and Student Support

the VLE.

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

Part 6: Assessment

This programme will be assessed according to the approved Academic Regulations.

The distinctive module used by the Programme Examination Board to inform recommending differential awards for students when considering borderline performance profiles will be Postgraduate Dissertation.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment strategy to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:

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 institutions commitment to facilitating equal opportunities, a student may apply for alternative means of assessment if appropriate. Each application will be considered on an individual

Part 6: Assessment

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** and these are detailed in the following assessment map:

		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 7	HEQXKW-15-7 Preparation for Clinical Practice				A (50)						B (50)
	HEQXKV-15-7 Comparative and Applied Anatomy, Physiology and Biomechanics	A (100)									
	HEQVX4-30-7 Understanding Veterinary Diagnostics and Physiotherapy Assessment*					A (P/F)		B (100)			
	HANXKT-15-7 The Research Process						A (25)	B (75)			
	HANXKU-15-6 Applied Business Management						A (100)				
	HEQVX5-30-7 Veterinary Physiotherapy Rehabilitation*					A (P/F)	B1 (50)	B2 (50)			
	HANVL5-60-7 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.

*Professional Practice modules are indicated with a star in the table above.

Part 7: Entry Requirements

Applicants will have achieved entry criteria appropriate for the year of entry, which can be found through the Hartpury website (www.hartpury.ac.uk).

Applicants must provide evidence which demonstrates that they can benefit from study on this programme and are likely to achieve the required standard.

We also welcome applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds who do not have the entry requirements outlined above. Applicants will be considered on the basis of evidence of personal, professional and educational experience which indicates an applicant's ability to meet the demands of an undergraduate degree programme. Applicants with non-standard entry criteria maybe reviewed on an individual basis. This may 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, Hartpury will consider applications for advanced entry, e.g. into year two or three of a programme. More details on how to apply for this can be found through the Hartpury website.

Applicants whose first language is not English must also gain a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 prior to entry onto the programme.

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 through Hartpury's website.



Programme Amendment Log

Programme Title:	MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy
Programme Code:	MST EVPXX
Initial Approval Date:	01 September 2018

Changes: *Most recent at the top of the page*

Current version number: 3.0	
Outline Change Details: Addition of an asterisk to highlight which modules are subject to PSRB requirements.	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: To improve clarity.	
Approval Committee and Date:	26 June 2019
Change approved with effect from:	1 September 2019
Resulting new version number:	3.1

Current version number: 2.1	
Outline Change Details: The Veterinary Physiotherapy programmes have been through their Periodic Curriculum Review on 8 th November 2018, all of the curriculum has been re-validated. The version number has been increased to 3.0. The most recent validation date been updated to 8 November 2018. The review due date has been updated to 1 September 2025.	
Update to HEAR Statement Inclusion of the distinctive module for the Programme examination board	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: Re-validation at the Periodic Curriculum Review on 8 th November 2018	
Approval Committee and Date:	PCR 2018 11 08
Change approved with effect from:	1 September 2019
Resulting new version number:	3.0

Changes:

Rationale: After the successful application for University Title, amendments were required to all specifications.	
Material Alteration: Yes and Course Information Sheet amended appropriately: Not required	
Outline Change Details: 1. Part 1: Basic Data requires the Awarding Body to be amended from Hartpury College to Hartpury University. 4. Subject Benchmark Statements updated where required.	
Change requested by:	Academic Registrar
CVC approval date:	31 August 2018
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2018
New version number:	2.1

Version v1.1

Rationale: Investigating Equestrian Research is a broader equine science module that better fits the overall ethos of the programme. The Rider Performance module which is more specialist and would be better placed as an optional module where those who do want to focus on the rider are able to take it, but those who have no interest or experience in this specific field are able to choose an alternative .

Material Alteration: No	
Outline Change Details: Investigating Equestrian Research HEQV6Y-15-7 moved from optional to compulsory and Rider Performance HEQXKR-15-7 moved from compulsory to optional.	
Change requested by:	Kirsty Lesniak
CVC approval date:	01 March 2018
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2018
New version number:	V1.1