

## Programme Specification

Part 1: Basic Data			
<b>Primary Programme Title</b>	MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy		
<b>Target Award Titles</b>	<b>Mode and Typical Duration of Study</b>	<b>Professional Accrediting Body Links</b>	<b>Study Abroad / Exchange / Credit Recognition</b>
<b>MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy</b>	Part time, 3 years	<b>Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy, Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Interim Award Titles</b>	Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy Postgraduate Certificate in Specialist Practice Postgraduate Award in Animal Health Studies		
<b>Teaching Delivery Method</b>	On-site		
<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Hartpury University		
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Hartpury University		
<b>Delivery Location</b>	Hartpury		
<b>Department Responsible for Programme</b>	Equine		
<b>Unit-E Code</b>	<b>MST EVPXX</b>		
<b>Entry Criteria Information</b>	Applicants will have achieved entry criteria appropriate for the stage of entry, which can be found through the Hartpury website ( <a href="http://www.hartpury.ac.uk">www.hartpury.ac.uk</a> )		
<b>Most Recent Validation Date</b>	21 March 2022	<b>Due for Re-validation By</b>	01 September 2027
<b>Amendment Approval Date</b>	V5.0 - 09 February 2024 V5.1 - 25 November 2025	<b>Approved With Effect From</b>	V4.0 - 01 September 2022 V5.0 - 01 September 2024 V5.1 - 01 September 2026
<b>Professional Accrediting Body Approval Date</b>	30 January 2024	<b>Date for Re-accreditation</b>	January 2029
<b>Version</b>	5.1		

## Part 2: Programme Overview

Graduates of the MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy programme will be competent, effective and safe veterinary physiotherapy practitioners that work in line with current professional standards (<https://www.csp.org.uk>). As a Veterinary Physiotherapist, understanding of their role and responsibility in regard to animal health and welfare will underpin the application of evidence based clinical skills. Students will be introduced to the legal, ethical, financial and sustainable development issues involved in veterinary physiotherapy / private practice, as well as their position within the wider veterinary industry. Hartpury University provides a stimulating, supportive and sensitive learning environment which enables students to maximise their learning and facilitate their development as self-directed and reflective learners. Graduates are able to design, implement and evaluate a personal project in a contemporary area of horse rider therapy and rehabilitation. Upon completion of stage 1.2 students are eligible for membership of The Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy and Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners.

### Part 3: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from enrolment through to graduation for a typical **part time student on the primary programme**, including:

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

Please note:

\*PAB – these modules are subject to additional and variant regulations as part of an accreditation by a professional accrediting body

+ core modules marked + are not eligible for compensation

<sup>1</sup> these modules are accredited by a professional awarding body, but are not subject to variant regulations

<sup>AV</sup> these modules are subject to additional and variant regulations but are not accredited by a professional awarding body.

	Core Modules	Optional Modules	Target and Interim Awards
Stage 1.1	HEQXKW-15-7 Preparation for Clinical Practice  HEQXKV-15-7 Comparative and Applied Anatomy, Physiology and Biomechanics  HEQVX4-30-7 + Understanding Veterinary Diagnostics and Physiotherapy Assessment*	None	<u>Postgraduate Award in Animal Health Studies</u>  <u>Postgraduate Certificate in Specialist Practice</u>
Stage 1.2	HVNVPY-15-7 Applied Research in Veterinary Practice OR HANXKT-15-7 The Research Process <i>pre 2024 only</i>  HEQVXP-15-6 Applied Business Management OR HANXKU-15-6 Applied Business Management <i>pre-2026 only</i>  HEQVX5-30-7 + Veterinary Physiotherapy Rehabilitation*	None	<u>Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy</u> Must include all core modules in stage 1.1 and 1.2.

<b>Stage 1.3</b>	HANVL5-60-7 Postgraduate Dissertation	None	<u>MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy</u> Must include all core modules.
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## Part 4: Programme Learning Outcomes

Modules in bold are core modules and modules not emboldened are optional modules.

A denotes a module that assesses a learning outcome and B denotes a module aligned with a learning outcome.

	Preparation for Clinical Practice	Comparative and Applied Anatomy, Physiology and Biomechanics	Understanding Veterinary Diagnostics and Physiotherapy Assessment	Applied Research in Veterinary Practice	Applied Business Management	Veterinary Physiotherapy Rehabilitation	Postgraduate Dissertation
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>							
<b>A) Knowledge and Understanding of:</b>							
1. The theoretical basis underpinning a wide range of veterinary physiotherapeutic skills.	B	A				A	
2. Issues that affect and change veterinary physiotherapy practice and roles.	A	B	A			A	
3. The legal, professional and ethical frameworks within which veterinary physiotherapists practice.			A	B	A	A	
4. The roles and responsibilities of the inter-professional health care team.			A			A	
5. The implications of research evidence for veterinary physiotherapy practice.			B	A		A	A
6. Sustainable business practices within the remit of the Veterinary Physiotherapy.					A		
<b>B) Intellectual Skills</b>							
1. The ability to evaluate and critically reflect upon veterinary physiotherapeutic interventions.			A	B		A	B
2. The ability to critically evaluate a range of evidence to support practice.			A	A		A	A
3. The synthesis of evidence from a variety of perspectives in order to contextualise practice.			A		B	A	
4. Independent learning and a contribution to peer learning.	A	B				A	

5. Analyse, evaluate and interpret the evidence underpinning veterinary Physiotherapy practice, proposing and testing new hypothesis to initiate change in practice appropriately.	B		A	A		A	A
6. The ability to disseminate and communicate findings to multi-disciplinary team members and clients.				B	A	A	A
<b>C) Performance and Practice</b>							
1. Assess the needs of the individual animal.	B	B	A			A	
2. Undertake skilled, competent, safe, evaluative and reflective veterinary physiotherapy within a legal and ethical context.	B		A			A	
3. Communicate effectively with clients, inter-professional groups and the general public establishing professional and ethical relationships.	B		A			A	
4. Develop empowering practice with service users.	B	B	B			A	
5. Utilise appropriate strategies in order to solve problems that may be complex in nature.	B		B			A	A
6. Demonstrate enhanced leadership skills in order to enable others to lead and work collaboratively to enhance the profession.			B			A	
7. Recognise and take appropriate action in situations where the limits of their skills or knowledge are being approached.	B		A			A	
8. Select and employ appropriate research methodologies for the retrieval and production of data and demonstrate the ability to analyse and report the outcomes.				A	A		A
<b>D) Setting, Personal and Enabling Skills</b>							
1. Demonstrate effective personal and business management skills.	B	B	B		A	B	
2. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to respond effectively to the needs of clients.	B		B		B	A	
3. Critically reflect and evaluate own academic and professional progression in the context of life-long learning.					B	A	
4. Reflect and evaluate their own academic, professional and clinical performance.			B			A	

## Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

### Learning, Teaching and Assessment Journey:

On the MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy programme teaching is a mix of scheduled and independent learning. For this programme practical skills are a core component, underpinned by clinical reasoning, and directly linked to ACPAT and RAMP professional practice requirements.

This programme may include onsite and online learning for theory-based content, and onsite for clinical content. Scheduled learning may include lectures, seminars, tutorials, demonstration, practical classes and workshops and external speakers. Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion. The programme is supported by a virtual learning environment (VLE) where the students will be able to find programme and module information. Direct links to information sources will also be provided from within the VLE. Placement learning includes supervised clinical placement hours occurring as part of the professional practice module, both internally and externally (with accredited ACPAT Category A clinical educators) to Hartpury University and consists of 12 days in year one (stage 1.1) and 20 days in year two (stage 1.2).

The delivery mode encompasses a flexible approach, incorporating study weekends, designed to meet the needs of the part-time student and make accessible specialist resources and specialist external consultants / academics. The Master of Science in Veterinary Physiotherapy will be delivered during blocks throughout the academic year during which attendance at the institution will be required. Teaching blocks will encompass theory and practical sessions with horses and dogs. This programme is designed with a practical orientation, towards the application and evolution of theory to practice in varied settings. Examples of Hartpury University's outstanding teaching facilities used include the equine yard and arenas, horse simulators, classrooms / lecture rooms, laboratories, equine therapy and canine hydrotherapy centres.

Students disclosing additional learning needs are able to access their additional support requirements, or gain advice on how to do so, via our Learning Support team. All students can access the Achievement and Success Centre (ASC) which offers one to one tutorials, group workshops, and online guidance to support the development of study skills and facilitate academic achievement.

The assessment strategy is designed to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated. A range of assessment techniques are used throughout the programme to support students' assessment for learning and progression through their postgraduate study. Professional therapists need to communicate both verbally and in a written format, therefore assessments have been selected to allow students to demonstrate key skills in these areas. In addition the range of approaches acknowledges that learners have differing strengths and preferences and have been designed to test the learning outcomes of the modules in an appropriate and fair manner, as well as to be able to discriminate ability amongst students. Furthermore, formative as well as summative assessment opportunities are provided throughout the programme to support the students ongoing learning and development.

## **Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment**

This programme will be assessed according to the approved Academic Regulations and subject to variant regulations AV2 and AV4.

Students registered on this programme will have access to the Hartpury University support services.

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

Professional Accrediting Body documents to which this programme is mapped and or aligned: Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Animal Therapy Course Accreditation Document and the Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners Educational Criteria





Assessment Map									
		Type of Assessment*							
		Coursework	Report	Portfolio	Written Examination	Written Test	Practical Skills Examination	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral Assessment
Core Modules Stage 1.1	Preparation for Clinical Practice							B (50) Practical Skills Logbook	A (50) Oral Assessment
	Comparative and Applied Anatomy, Physiology and Biomechanics					A (100) Written Test			
	Understanding Veterinary Diagnostics and Physiotherapy Assessment	B (100) Essay						A (P/F) Practical Skills Logbook	
Core Modules Stage 1.2	Applied Research in Veterinary Practice	B (60) Coursework							A (40) Oral Presentation with Questions
	Applied Business Management								A (100) Oral Presentation with Questions
	Veterinary Physiotherapy Rehabilitation	B2 (50) Essay						A (P/F) Practical Skills Logbook	B1 (50) Oral Presentation with Questions
Core Modules Stage 1.3	Postgraduate Dissertation		A1 (75) Project Report						A2 (15) Poster Defence A3 (10) Oral Presentation
*Indicative assessment types for new students enrolling on this programme after the date this specification takes effect (Part 1) are shown in terms of either <b>Coursework</b> , <b>Written Examination</b> , or <b>Practical Examination</b> as indicated by the colour coding above.									
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 they take 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 ( <a href="http://www.hartpury.ac.uk">www.hartpury.ac.uk</a> ).									

## Approved Programme Amendment Log

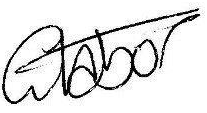

<b>Primary Programme Title:</b>	MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy
<b>Programme Code:</b>	MST EVPXX
<b>Initial Approval Date:</b>	01 September 2018

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


<b>Current version number: 5.0</b>	
<b>Outline Change Details:</b> Part 3: Programme Structure – module code for Stage 1.2 core module Applied Business Management changed from HANXKU-15-6 to HEQVXP-15-6, in line with module amendment. The learning outcomes and assessment for this module have not been altered.	
<b>Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No</b>	
<b>If yes, please provide the details of the changes:</b>	
<b>Material Alteration: No</b>	
<b>Rationale:</b> To ensure accuracy following module re-coding. This programme will no longer contribute to any Animal programmes, and has therefore been moved to the Equine department.	
<b>Change requested by: Emma Davies</b> I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b> 11.11.25
<b>Name of Head of Department: Catherine Porter</b> I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b> 02/10/25
<b>Approval Committee and Date:</b>	CVC 2025 11 25
<b>Change approved with effect from:</b>	01 September 2026
<b>Resulting new version number:</b>	5.1 (2023 intake onwards)


**22/05/2024:** correction of typographical error – current version added to change log, as previously omitted in error.

<b>Current version number: 4.0</b>
<b>Outline Change Details:</b> Replacement of The Research Process (which remains as a transition module) with Applied Research in Veterinary Practice HVNVPY-15-7 The change affects parts 3, 4 and 5. The assessment to reflect the new module. After successful reaccreditation by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapist of the programme Part 1 has been updated with a revised accreditation date
<b>Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No</b>

<b>If yes, please provide the details of the changes:</b>  N/A	
<b>Material Alteration: Yes and is accompanied by the relevant course information document.</b>	
<b>Rationale:</b> PG Veterinary Physiotherapy students currently enrol in The Research Process module however with ongoing student feedback including PTES comments it is apparent that a more bespoke and applied module would be beneficial to this specialised cohort. Similar to Vet Nursing, Vet Physios work within the veterinary industry and therefore focusing on the research, albeit from a wide range of sources and relevant methodologies, would meet the needs of the students more appropriately. There is no change to the programmes LOs The assessments for the proposed module are the same as the one it would replace – coursework and an oral presentation with questions.	
<b>Change requested by:</b> I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report  <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span><b>Signature:</b></span> <span><b>Date:</b> 27/11/23</span> </div>	
<b>Name of Head of Department: Catherine Porter</b> I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department;  <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span><b>Signature:</b></span> <span><b>Date:</b> 12/01/24</span> </div>	
<b>Approval Committee and Date:</b>	CVC 2024 02 09
<b>Change approved with effect from:</b>	01 September 2024
<b>Resulting new version number:</b>	5.0 (2023 intake onwards)

<b>Current version number: 3.2</b>	
<b>Outline Change Details:</b> Programme narrative amended to fit the new refresh template LOs A6 and B5 added Teaching, learning and assessment strategy revised. Part 5 – Assessment types. HEQXKW-15-7 changed to Practical Skills Assessment from Coursework. Parts 1 and 3 – interim awards updated to include the new 30 credit Postgraduate Award in Animal Health Studies.	
<b>Material Alteration: No</b>	
<b>Rationale: In line with the new refresh framework</b>	
<b>Change requested by: Gillian Tabor</b> I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span><b>Signature:</b> G. Tabor</span> <span><b>Date:</b> 28/10/2021</span> </div>	

<b>Name of Head of Department: Catherine Porter</b> I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department	
<b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> 01/11/2021
<b>Approval Committee and Date:</b>	Refresh Approval Panel action 2022 03 21
<b>Change approved with effect from:</b>	01 September 2022
<b>Resulting new version number:</b>	4.0

<b>Current version number: 3.1</b>	
<b>Outline Change Details:</b> Part 6 – Assessment Map – weighting changed for Postgraduate Dissertation to Oral Assessment/Presentation A25, Dissertation A75. Part 5 careers support re-worded.  Part 7 wording has been edited making it more accurate for the programme.	
<b>Material Alteration: No</b>	
<b>Rationale:</b> <b>Change made to weighting of Postgraduate Dissertation module assessment to reflect module change.</b>	
<b>Change requested by: Gareth Knox</b> I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change I can confirm that colleagues impacted by this change have been consulted I have retained evidence of these consultations, which will be summarized within the Programme Enhancement Report	
<b>Signature:</b> G J Knox	<b>Date:</b> 20/01/2021
<b>Name of Head of Department: Catherine Porter</b> I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department	
<b>Signature:</b> 	<b>Date:</b> 28/01/2021
<b>Approval Committee and Date:</b>	CVC 2021 02 22
<b>Change approved with effect from:</b>	01 September 2021
<b>Resulting new version number:</b>	3.2

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

<b>Current version number: 2.1</b>
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**Outline Change Details:** The Veterinary Physiotherapy programmes have been through their Periodic Curriculum Review on 8<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> 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