

Programme Specification

Part 1: Basic Data			
Primary Programme Title	MSc Sports Therapy (Conversion)		
Target Award Titles	Mode and Typical Duration of Study	Professional Accrediting Body Links	Study Abroad / Exchange / Credit Recognition
MSc Sports Therapy	Full time, 18 months Part time, 30 months	The Society of Sports Therapists (SST)	None
Interim Award Titles	Postgraduate Diploma in Sport Studies Postgraduate Certificate in Sport Studies Postgraduate Award in Sport Studies		
Teaching Delivery Method	On-site		
Awarding Institution	Hartpury University		
Teaching Institution	Hartpury University		
Delivery Location	Hartpury		
Department Responsible for Programme	Sport		
Unit-E Code	MSTSSTXX		
Entry Criteria Information	Applicants will have achieved entry criteria appropriate for the stage of entry, which can be found through the Hartpury website (www.hartpury.ac.uk).		
Most Recent Validation Date	12 February 2025	Due for Re-validation By	01 September 2030
Amendment Approval Date	V1.1 - 15 July 2025 V1.2 - 02 December 2025 V1.3 - 08 July 2026	Approved With Effect From	V1.1 - 01 September 2025 V1.2 - 02 December 2025 V1.3 - 01 September 2026
Professional Accrediting Body Approval Date	1 February 2025	Date For Re-accreditation	31 January 2030
Version	1.3		

Part 2: Programme Overview

Hartpury MSc Sports Therapy graduates are skilled, evidence-informed practitioners with robust theoretical knowledge and hands-on competencies in sports therapy. Eligible for full professional membership with The Society of Sports Therapists (SST), these graduates stand out for their ability to integrate prior sports and exercise science knowledge with essential sports therapy skills, including injury prevention, clinical assessment, therapeutic interventions, rehabilitation, acute care, and professional practices.

Hartpury University graduates have benefitted from an immersive learning experience, starting with unique on-campus opportunities in the student-led therapy clinic and Sports Academy. This foundational experience, enhanced by external placements and a practice-based research project, prepares graduates to excel in the industry with confidence and competence. Hartpury's applied, professional programme fosters critical graduate skills, through the completion of a practice-informed research project, ensuring readiness for a successful career in sports therapy upon graduation.

Part 3: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from enrolment through to graduation for a typical **full 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

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

^{AV} these modules are subject to additional and variant regulations but are not accredited

Full Time pathway – 18 months

	Core Modules	Optional Modules	Target and Interim Awards
Stage 1	HSPVT5-30-7 + Clinical Examination and Assessment for Sports Therapists * HSPVUP-15-7 + Contemporary Treatment Skills for Sports Therapists * HSPVTV-45-7 + Developing the Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practitioner * HSPVSQ-45-7 + Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practice ¹ HSPVTH-15-7 + Fundamental Treatment Skills for Sports Therapists * HSPVUB-30-7 + Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation for Sports Therapists *	None	<u>Postgraduate Award in Sport Studies</u> <u>Postgraduate Certificate in Sport Studies</u> <u>Postgraduate Diploma in Sport Studies</u> <u>MSc Sports Therapy</u> Must include all core modules

Part time pathway - 30 months

	Core Modules	Optional Modules	Target and Interim Awards
Stage 1.1	HSPVT5-30-7 + Clinical Examination and Assessment for Sports Therapists * HSPVTV-45-7 + Developing the Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practitioner * HSPVUB-30-7 + Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation for Sports Therapists *	None	<u>Postgraduate Award in Sport Studies</u> <u>Postgraduate Certificate in Sport Studies</u>
	Developing the Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practitioner is a run that is specific for part time students and crosses Stage 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3		
Stage 1.2	HSPVUP-15-7 + Contemporary Treatment Skills for Sports Therapists * HSPVTV-45-7 + Developing the Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practitioner * HSPVSQ-45-7 + Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practice ¹ HSPVTH-15-7 + Fundamental Treatment Skills for Sports Therapists *	None	
	Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practice runs across Stage 1.2 and 1.3		
Stage 1.3	HSPVTV-45-7 + Developing the Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practitioner * HSPVSQ-45-7 + Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practice ¹	None	<u>Postgraduate Diploma in Sport Studies</u> <u>MSc Sports Therapy</u> Must include all core modules

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.

	Clinical Examination and Assessment for Sports Therapists	Contemporary Treatment Skills for Sports Therapists	Developing the Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practitioner	Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy practice	Fundamental Treatment Skills for Sports Therapist	Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation for Sports Therapists
Learning Outcomes:						
A) Knowledge and Understanding of:						
1. Key concepts, theories and contemporary insights underpinning all Graduate Sports Therapist competencies.	A	A		B	A	A
2. Ethical, medicolegal, cultural and sustainability considerations across all competencies and professional standards of sports therapy practice.	B	B	A	A	B	B

3. Graduate Sports Therapist scope of practice as part of an interdisciplinary team to facilitate appropriate care pathways and healthy active lifestyles.	A	B	A			A
4. Implications of research within a sports therapy context for its contribution to increase knowledge base and application to best underpin practice.		B		A		A
B) Intellectual Skills						
1. Reflect and show critical awareness of current problems and / or new insights in sports therapy practice.	B	A	A	A		A
2. Critically analyse and evaluate current research and advanced scholarship from various sources / perspectives and to advance sports therapy skillset.	B	A		A	A	A
3. Independently learn, problem-solve and make informed decisions in complex and unpredictable situations.	B	B	B	A		A
4. Disseminate findings within both an academic and a professional context to a range of audiences.			A	A		A
5. Critically evaluate, select and employ appropriate research methodologies for the retrieval, production and analysis of data to demonstrate a full research process cycle.				A		
C) Performance and Practice						
1. Consider the performance and health related needs of an individual in context of sports therapy skills set systematically and creatively.	B	A	B		B	A
2. Demonstrate professional competencies of a Graduate Sports Therapist safely and effectively to the needs and context.	A	A	A		A	A
3. Enhanced ability to communicate effectively and work with person centred care, empathy and inclusivity to demonstrate cultural sensitivity across society.	B	A	A	B	B	B

4. Engage in reflection in all aspects of professional work and to support clinical reasoning processes and lifelong learning.	B	B	A		B	B
5. Demonstrate professional integrity and awareness of ethical and medicolegal requirements within the scope of practice of a Graduate Sports Therapist.	B	A	B	B	A	B
D) Setting, Personal and Enabling Skills						
1. Take initiative and personal responsibility to work autonomously in the planning and implementation of tasks.		B	B	A		B
2. Resilience and adaptability in managing complex and challenging environments.			A		B	B
3. Proficient in written and verbal communication, including ability to present complex ideas clearly and concisely to a range of audiences from diverse backgrounds.		A	A	A		A
4. Competent in digital tools and emerging technologies within the profession.			B	B		A
5. Utilise problem solving skills in a variety of professional environments, to seek and implement sustainable strategies.	B	A	B			A
6. Work collaboratively and effectively within multidisciplinary teams with an appreciation for inclusion and building of professional relationships.			A	B		B
7. Engage in reflective practice to assess personal and professional learning needs in line with continued professional development (CPD) requirements of profession.			A	B		

Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The MSc Sports Therapy (Conversion) programme provides a rigorous and hands-on pathway for students to achieve the professional competencies required of a Graduate Sports Therapist. The programme's teaching philosophy seamlessly combines academic rigour with practical skill development, promoting an 'evidence-informed practitioner' approach. Central to this is the structured evidence-informed practice strand, which runs throughout the programme and supports the professional competency modules. This strand equips students to integrate theory, research, and practice-based learning while demonstrating how evidence shapes professional practice and aligns with industry standards. From the outset, students engage with on-campus applied opportunities, such as the student-led therapy clinic, to build foundational skills. These experiences are expanded through external placements and a practice-based research project, allowing students to apply their learning in real-world contexts. These opportunities are designed to develop critical attributes such as clinical reasoning, effective communication, teamwork, and time management—essential for success in a competitive field. Throughout this strand, students are supported through supervision from academic staff and placement providers, to build the confidence to become autonomous practitioners and researchers. The programme also emphasises self-directed learning, encouraging students to integrate their personal experiences and career goals with their academic journey, preparing them for professional excellence in sports therapy.

Delivering a curriculum that aligns with the standards of the sports therapy field is crucial, which is why the MSc Sports Therapy (Conversion) is accredited by The Society of Sports Therapists (SST). As an SST-accredited programme, it adheres to The SST's competency requirements, providing a structured pathway, without optional modules, and a range of professional competency modules to accompany the evidence-informed practice strand. Throughout these modules, students engage in critical exploration and clinical application of SST educational competencies, allowing them to integrate prior knowledge in sport and exercise science with hands-on sports therapy practice. The competencies covered include Prevent, Protect and Promote, Clinical Examination and Assessment, Therapeutic Interventions, Rehabilitation, Professional and Equitable Practices, and Acute Care in Prehospital Emergency Settings.

The course will be taught largely through on-site delivery methods with occasional online delivery. Practical workshops make full use of innovative approaches to campus-based teaching, making the most of Hartpury University's outstanding teaching and sports facilities, allowing theory to be applied to practice within a hands-on environment. Attendance at the institution is required to meet attendance requirements of the programme. The 'evidence-informed practice' strand will be delivered across the duration of the course in a similar way but with addition of internal applied opportunities and external placements. It is expected that students will be immersed in these opportunities to apply their skillset, alongside their practice related research project. Throughout the programme, it is important that students engage in independent learning to show their own proactivity to learn and reflect and develop as an autonomous practitioner.

The assessment methods for this MSc programme are designed to reflect the applied and competency-based nature of sports therapy. A combination of formative, developmental strategies and summative assessments has been chosen to challenge students academically, reinforce safe and effective practical skills, and ensure alignment with professional competencies. Given the importance of communication in sports therapy, assessments are structured to allow students to demonstrate verbal and written skills through diverse methods, including presentations, practical exams, assignments, reports, written exams, and portfolios.

Students' fulfilment of programme learning outcomes is assessed in ways that align with the standards of the accrediting professional body. While applications for alternative assessments may be considered on an individual basis, full professional membership and related insurance can only be awarded to students who meet all required competencies. The programme team collaborates with support services to accommodate students' needs throughout the admissions process, ensuring a supportive approach to learning and assessment.

Supporting postgraduate students throughout their educational journey is a top priority at Hartpury. Each student is assigned a personal tutor who provides both academic and professional guidance through regular tutorials. Additionally, Student Advisors are available to help address external factors that may impact students' academic progress. For assessments, students benefit from collaborative discussions, hands-on practice, independent research, and the opportunity to give and receive formative feedback.

Students with additional learning needs can access tailored support through our Learning Support team, who assist with navigating and obtaining necessary accommodations. The Achievement and Success Centre (ASC) also offers comprehensive academic support to all students through one-on-one tutorials, group workshops, and online resources, helping to enhance study skills and promote academic success.

Student opportunities

Student opportunities are integral to this MSc programme, with an expectation that students engage actively from the outset. Quality assurance mechanisms are in place, with the university approving placements to ensure they meet programme and The SST standards. Onsite opportunities include real-world experience in the sports therapy clinic and the Sports Academy teams, immersing students in practical sports therapy practice. Additionally, students can apply for pre-approved external placements from a dedicated hub of placement providers, overseen by academics and the providers for fair allocation when demand is high.

To prepare for these opportunities, students complete a first aid certification and DBS checks, and obtain their student SST membership and student insurance during enrolment. A minimum number of hours of practice-based learning is required within Developing the Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practitioner module, with each session formally logged and signed by an authorised representative. By graduation, students are expected to have completed at least 250 hours of practice-based learning.

As part of the SST student insurance, students are eligible for SST-recognised certificates in basic first aid and sports massage whilst still enrolled upon the degree, and on successful achievement and / or completion of:

- HSPVTH-15-7 Fundamental Treatment Skills for Sports Therapists
- Approved first aid certificate, MCQ quiz on Moodle and completion of the specified number of hours of first aid placement
- Approved as having attended and engaged with semester 2 student-led (massage) clinic, and achievement of the specified number of hours.

The Basic Pitch Side First Aid certificate and the sports massage certificate confirm that a student has been taught, assessed, and deemed competent to practice autonomously under their SST student insurance, independent of university or course requirements. Certificates are valid for two years from the date of issue, provided the student remains actively enrolled on the SST-accredited Sports Therapy programme, or until the student completes their degree, or exits with an interim award. The SST student insurance ceases immediately upon completion of the degree, or exit with an interim award.

The SST first aid certificate allows students to undertake paid work independently, using the title "first aider", providing basic life support and first aid only (recognise, remove and refer), but not in a professional sport context.

The SST sports massage certificate enables students to undertake paid work independently with non-pathological conditions, using the title "qualified sports masseur", again, this does not extend to the professional sport context.

These certificates are separate from any external placement or applied opportunity hours required within the programme to achieve the minimum number of hours required on graduation (250 hours). Upon completion of the degree, or exit with an interim award, eligibility for SST student insurance ceases immediately.

Student engagement

Active engagement is a core expectation for students on this programme, as participation in various session types is essential to professional development. In practical workshops, students will experience hands-on learning as both the therapist and model, preparing them for diverse clinical settings. Seminar sessions involve active engagement through presentations, discussions, peer learning, and group collaboration, often integrating digital tools to enhance the learning experience.

Given the professional demands of the course, students are required to meet fitness-to-study standards during enrolment and must inform the institution of any changes in their fitness status. Students may also be advised to undergo review under professional suitability regulations, if necessary, to ensure they meet the requirements for safe and effective practice in the field.

Attendance

Attendance is essential for all sessions, practical participation and active engagement is key to gaining the full benefits of the interactive learning experiences provided by each module. To meet the requirements set by the professional body, all 'Professional Competency' modules have a minimum attendance and participation requirement of 80% for students to be eligible to attempt practical assessments. Attendance will be closely monitored across all modules. Students that fail to meet the attendance requirements through absences and / or practical non-participation for the module, may be required to repeat the module.

In cases of illness or exceptional circumstances, students must follow the programme's absence procedures to ensure that their assessment opportunities are not negatively impacted. Prior to re-assessment, students will be required to attend scheduled support sessions to meet health and safety requirements, ensuring their eligibility for the re-sit. It is important to note that no alternative support sessions will be offered, and students must be available on the scheduled dates.

Teaching resources

Throughout this MSc programme, students will access a broad array of high-quality resources to enhance their learning. This includes guest lectures from industry practitioners and research scholars, providing valuable insights into current practices and advancements in sports therapy. Students will also have access to core sports therapy journals and textbooks via the library, supplemented by additional resources available through their SST student membership. The virtual learning environment (VLE) will serve as a central hub, offering key materials and support to guide students through their academic journey.

Variant regulations

This programme will be assessed according to the approved Academic Regulations including specific variant regulations associated with the programme as professional statutory regulatory body. No compensation and AV2 applies to all modules with a *

The following modules each have an attendance and practical participation requirement, student must meet the minimum 80% prior to relevant practical assessment to be eligible to sit the assessment.

Clinical Examination and Assessment for Sports Therapist

Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation for Sports Therapists

Fundamental Therapy Skills for Sports Therapists

Contemporary Therapy Skills for Sports Therapists

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

Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practice

Professional Accrediting Body documents to which this programme is mapped and or aligned:

The Society of Sports Therapists.

Assessment Map									
		Type of Assessment*							
		Coursework	Report	Portfolio	Written Examination	Written Test	Practical Skills Examination	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral Assessment
Core Modules Stage 1	Clinical Examination and Assessment for Sports Therapists					A (30) Unseen In-Class Test	B (70) Practical Examination		
	Fundamental Treatment Skills for Sports Therapists	A (40) Essay					B (60) Practical Examination		
	Developing the Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practitioner			A (50) Coursework Portfolio					B (50) Oral Presentation with Questions
	Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation for Sports Therapists						B (60) Practical Examination		A (40) Poster Presentation
	Contemporary Treatment Skills for Sports Therapists						A (100) Practical Examination		
	Evidence-Informed Sports Therapy Practice		A (25) Report B (75) Project Report						
*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 Coursework, Written Examination, or Practical Examination 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 (www.hartpury.ac.uk).									

Approved Programme Amendment Log

Primary Programme Title:	MSc Sports Therapy
Programme Code:	MSTSSTXX
Initial Approval Date:	12 February 2025

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

Current version number: 1.2	
Outline Change Details: Part 5: minor amendments to the attendance requirements to support the updated attendance and participation process within Part 5, p12 'Attendance' section.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No	
If yes, please provide the details of the changes:	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: To provide clarity on attendance requirements through practical participation to demonstrate underpinning knowledge and practical competency requirements to meet the SST attendance requirements.	
Change requested by: Danielle Parker 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	
Signature: Dparker	Date: 30/6/26
Name of Head of Department: Gareth Knox I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department	
Signature: G J Knox	Date: 06/07/26
Approval Committee and Date:	CSP action 2026 07 08 from CSP 2026 06 30
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2026
Resulting new version number:	1.3

Current version number: 1.1	
Outline Change Details: Part 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment - text added referring to accrediting body student insurance opportunities on successful achievement of required skills and competencies to gain an SST-recognised certificate for autonomous first aid and sports massage whilst continuing to complete the degree.	
Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No	
If yes, please provide the details of the changes:	
Material Alteration: No	
Rationale: These updates are proposed following the SST forum on 2 nd September, where the changes were first announced. The implementation of autonomous insurance responds to the SST concerns regarding students seeking paid pitchside and sports massage work, as other providers do not offer appropriate indemnity cover.	

After speaking to the Head of Education from the SST, agreement has been made that students would meet all required competencies on successful achievement and / or completion of: the module HSPVTH-15-7 Fundamental Treatment Skills for Sports Therapists; first aid certificate, MCQ quiz on Moodle and approval as engaged with first aid placement; approval as attended and engaged with semester 2 student-led (massage) clinic; and continued enrolment on the degree programme.

It is proposed that after PEBs and publication of the results to students, the Programme Manager will provide a list of students who have met all requirements, and Academic Registry would then issue the SST individually named certificates to students and keep a record of this.

The SST first aid certificate allows students to undertake paid work independently, using the title “first aider”, providing basic life support and first aid only (recognise, remove and refer), but not in a professional sport context.

The SST sports massage certificate enables students to undertake paid work independently with non-pathological conditions, using the title “qualified sports masseur”, again, this does not extend to the professional sport context.

The certificates are valid only whilst student is still enrolled on the degree. Upon completion of the degree or exit with an interim award, eligibility for SST student insurance ceases immediately.

Student-facing documents, including a copy of insurance document, will be provided on the course Moodle page as a reference point for students.

Change requested by: Danielle Parker

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

Signature: Danielle Parker

Date: 25/11/25

Name of Head of Department: Sarah Lee

I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department

Signature: Sarah Lee

Date: 01.12.25

Approval Committee and Date:

CSP 2025 12 02

Change approved with effect from:

02 December 2025

Resulting new version number:

1.2

Current version number: 1.0

Outline Change Details:

Part 5: Assessment Map – assessment for Component A of the module Clinical Examination and Assessment for Sports Therapists changed from unseen fixed-time test to unseen in-class test, in line with module amendment.

Part 5: Variant regulations – update to correct variant regulation number for PG. From AV3 to AV2 and remove variant regulations from Evidence informed Sports Therapy Practitioner.

Do the changes presented alter the mapping against the Hartpury University Curriculum Framework (delete as appropriate)? No

If yes, please provide the details of the changes:

Material Alteration: No

Rationale:

Assessment change: to support the maintenance of academic integrity due to advancements in AI.
AV: corrected to ensure accuracy.

Change requested by: Danielle Parker

I can confirm that student representatives have been consulted about this change NA

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

Signature: Dparker

Date: 3/7/25

Name of Head of Department: Sarah Lee

I confirm that this change does not require additional resources beyond the scope of those already present or planned for by the department

Signature: Sarah Lee

Date: 15.07.25

Approval Committee and Date:	CSP action 2025 07 15 (from CSP 2025 07 09)
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2025
Resulting new version number:	1.1

11/06/2025: correction to document

Part 3: Programme Structure - 'by exception' note removed. Following a review of the approach, it has been decided that this category of module will not be used.

Approved by CVC Chair's action 2025 06 11

Outline Change Details: New programme.	
Approval Committee and Date:	CVC Chair's action (SD) 2025 02 12 (from CVC 2025 01 28)
Change approved with effect from:	01 September 2025
Resulting new version number:	1.0