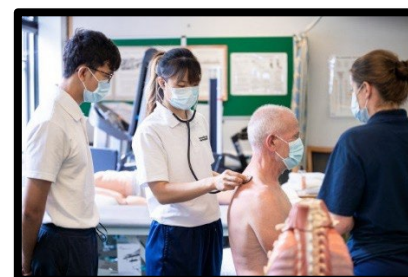
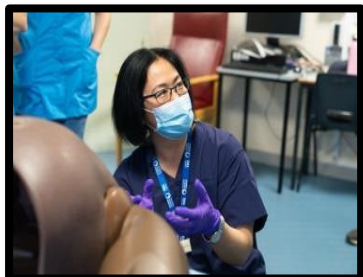


Department of Allied Health Professions, Midwifery and Social Work
**A flexible route to NHSE recognition as an Occupational Therapy First Contact
 Practitioner (FCP) in Primary Care**



With an established reputation for running successful NHS England (NHSE) approved First Contact Practitioner (FCP) short courses, the University of Hertfordshire has once again been awarded a contract by NHSE to offer **fully funded** training for registered Musculoskeletal (MSK) Practitioners, Paramedics, Occupational Therapists and Dietitians.

Why should you study?

FCP roles are integral to providing a sustainable and effective workforce, optimising patient care pathways and ensuring the right healthcare professional sees the right patient in the right place and at the right time. By 2024, all adults in England should be able to see an MSK FCP at their local GP practice without being referred by a GP. The benefits of these roles are manifold, and include facilitating timely and appropriate onward referrals, reducing imaging referral rates and enhancing patient experience and outcomes (NHS England, 2019). NHSE's 'Roadmap to Practice' sets out the training and educational pathways to FCP recognition for MSK physiotherapists (HEE, 2021). The University of Hertfordshire's flexible programme of study is approved by NHSE as fulfilling stages 1 and 2 of the FCP Roadmap and on successful completion students will be able to apply to the Centre for Advancing Practice at [NHSE](#) to register as a First Contact Practitioner. The University of Hertfordshire is one of only select few providers in England approved by NHSE to deliver this training.

What will it involve?

All applicants will initially undertake a Learning Needs Analysis to establish if they would be most suited to undertake either:

- A supported portfolio route to becoming a recognised FCP, or
- To undertake a taught short course route, consisting of:
 - First Contact Practitioner 1 (FCP1): 30 Credits at level 7
 - First Contact Practitioner 2 (FCP2): 15 Credits at level 7

FCP1 & FCP2 form part of a broader CPD framework and can contribute towards the awards of Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma (through the CATS route) or [Masters in Advanced Clinical Practice](#).

Who will I study with?

FCP1 focuses on occupational therapy, with selected shared sessions with multidisciplinary FCP professionals (physiotherapists, Paramedics, Dietetics), facilitating networking opportunities and a deeper understanding of the expansive FCP role. FCP2 is predominantly undertaken in primary care as supervised practice, supported by interdisciplinary university FCP2 study. If you are undertaking the supported portfolio route you will be working with a

named university supervisor to support the development and submission of your portfolio within a community of similar students.

How will I learn?

This programme of study has been developed to be innovative, progressive and accessible with the aim of developing high quality FCPs for the future. Students undertaking the supported portfolio route will be working collaboratively with a university supervisor and other students and meetings will normally be on-line and individual to student needs. For FCP1 & FCP2 the majority of university teaching is on-line, with some sessions available in-person (on campus) or in hybrid format (live streamed on-line) to facilitate flexible access. Teaching uses synchronous, live streamed and asynchronous activities including lectures, tutorials, workshops, group work and presentations, involving previously successful students and relevant stakeholders, use of case studies and supported peer learning via Action Learning Sets. FCP1 covers the theoretical content of the Road Map and FCP2 enables consolidation of knowledge and skills with a period of supervised practice, which is supported by the university team, clinical mentor and peer review sessions. Both these activities are supported through the use of enhanced technology, so students will require access to a PC & reliable internet connection. Varied assessment methods helps to support different learning styles.

What do our previous FCP physiotherapy students say?

"[this course] will ensure competence & quality of FCP clinicians"
"It was really good to have the module on-line, easier to fit in clinics & life without travel"
"I have already made changes to my practice"

Who teaches these on this programme of study?

Sessions will be taught by clinical and research experts in occupational therapy and in primary care.

What are the entry requirements?

Applications are welcome from qualified, experienced & highly motivated primary care occupational therapists who want to be change makers in the clinical field, working at an enhanced level of practice.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- Be an Occupational Therapist currently registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
- Have typically three years of postgraduate experience in an Occupational Therapy role in one of the prescribed areas of OT FCP practice.
- Have confirmation from the employer that the learner is working towards an Occupational Therapy FCP role.
- Evidence of successful level 7 study*.
- Confirmation of access to an appropriately qualified Clinical Supervisor, i.e. a GP, consultant practitioner, recognised advanced practitioner (recognised by the NHSE centre having completed the portfolio route to advanced practitioner or the taught ACP master's degree), or more experienced first contact physiotherapist. Supervisors will normally have completed the 2-day roadmap to practice supervision training prior to supervising student on FCP Stage 2 (note any Tier 3 Advanced Practitioner or Tier 3 GP Educational Supervisors do not need to attend the training days, but instead should be able to complete a short online resource).
- Have 75 hours of clinical supervision scheduled in workplace
- At every stage, evidence of up to date statutory and mandatory training in their area of practice (evidenced by confirmation from employer)
- Evidence (certificates to be supplied) of contemporaneous (within 6-12 months) completion of:
 1. **Eight e-learning modules** (e-learning for healthcare, E-LfH) modules as stated in the roadmap
 2. **Personalised Care Institute modules** (found at: <https://www.personalisedcareinstitute.org.uk/>)

To be signed off as a First Contact Practitioner learners must successfully complete the FCP portfolio route or achieve a pass in both short courses, therefore it is expected that successful

students from FCP1 enrol on FCP2. All applications will be considered on an individual basis. The deadline for applications is 31st January 2025. The course will close once we have received sufficient applications. You are advised to apply as soon as possible.

Cost This programme of study is fully funded by NHSE. There are a limited number of places.

First Contact Practitioner 1 (FCP1): 30 Credits at Level 7

Course aim

On successful completion of this short course students should be able to demonstrate critical knowledge and understanding of theories, principles and concepts underpinning evidence based OT practice in Primary Care.

This course is equivalent to 300 hours of student effort including ten teaching days & one assessment day

Teaching Dates (dates are currently provisional and subject to confirmation):

Tuesday 4th March 2025 & Wednesday 5th March 2025
 Tuesday 25th March 2025 & Wednesday 26th March 2025
 Tuesday 22nd April 2025 & Wednesday 23rd April 2025
 Tuesday 20th May 2025 & Wednesday 21st May 2025
 Tuesday 10th June 2025 & Wednesday 11th June 2025

Assessment dates: w/c 21st July 2025 (TBC)

Sessions are taught on-line with selected sessions also available in-person (on campus) or live streamed. Student attendance is required either on-line or in-person for all sessions.

First Contact Practitioner 2 (FCP2): 15 Credits at Level 7

Course aim

On successful completion of this short course students should be able to develop advanced clinical and evaluative skills and to critically evaluate the effectiveness of aspects of service delivery within the FCP scope of practice. To evidence capabilities required for an FCP role, whilst working alongside the multi professional healthcare team within Primary Care to provide high quality services.

This course is equivalent to 150 hours of student effort including seven on-line synchronous teaching days & one assessment day

Provisional Teaching Dates:
 Commencing October 2025 (dates TBC)

University based sessions are taught on-line, with student attendance required.

Students will need to complete 75 hours of mentored clinical practice as part of FCP2.

Course Enquiries

hsk-ahpfc@herts.ac.uk

Booking Enquiries

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