

Important information and additional costs to consider when choosing your

MSc Podiatry (pre-registration) course

Experience

Experience of interacting with members of the public from a range of backgrounds in different settings is essential when applying to the course. It is important to be able to understand and explain how your experiences relate to the activities and qualities which are required of podiatrists. The NHS values are key in the selection process. This is to ensure we recruit the right students with the right values, to ensure the delivery of excellent patient care. All aspects of the interview are aligned with the core values of the NHS constitution. These NHS values are:

- Working together
- Respect and dignity
- Commitment to quality of care
- Compassion
- Improving lives
- Everyone counts

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-constitution>

For further information on the standards required of students in the allied health professions please take a look at the Health and Care professions code of conduct and ethics.

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-conduct-performance-and-ethics/>

There are many ways you can gain experience - this might be as part of a program of study or in a paid or voluntary capacity and doesn't always need to be within a care setting. Interacting with people with different life experiences will help you develop a deeper level of understanding of the diversity of the population who access health and social care. In your personal statement please reflect upon your learning from any of these experiences demonstrating an understanding of the podiatry profession and a genuine, reasonable commitment to study.

Health education England offer range of on-line opportunities to enhance your understanding of careers in healthcare: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

Professional requirements

Before enrolling you must fully declare on the forms provided during the admissions process:

- Unfiltered criminal convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings. For further information on unfiltered offences please see the Disclosure and Barring Service

website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>

- Involvement in disciplinary proceedings during paid or voluntary employment or education establishments
- Involvement with safeguarding proceedings, social services or related organisations
- Enrolment on a health or social work professional course at another University

In addition:

Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Criminal Record Check

- You must undertake an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) criminal record check once you have accepted the offer of a place on the course and prior to enrolment week. The current cost (24/25) is £57.30.
- If you have lived outside of the UK for more than six consecutive months in the last five years you must provide an overseas criminal record check.
- If your DBS Enhanced Disclosure certificate contains any recorded information you must present this to the Admissions and Enrolments Manager.

Occupational Health Screening

- You must undertake an occupational health screening to determine your suitability to undertake the course.
- At Health Sciences University, offers are subject to satisfactory screening in terms of your health and welfare before the start of your course.

This is to ensure that you are physically and mentally suited to a career in health.

If you have any concerns about your medical suitability, you are advised to discuss this with your General Practitioner (GP) or local healthcare provider.

Immunisations:

Health Sciences University has unique multidisciplinary clinics which attract a variety of clinicians and patients, and we actively seek new opportunities for students off campus within the NHS and private sector to enrich their clinical learning. Whilst this presents great opportunities for students, there is a risk of contracting an infection whilst on placement and vaccination helps to reduce this risk to both yourself, and the public.

Further information please view the webpage <https://www.aecc.ac.uk/study/apply/how-to-apply/occupational-health-requirements/>

Applicants must meet the costs of this check (£28.50 in 2024/25) and any subsequent immunisations that are required, a pricelist will be sent with pre-clearance information.

Disability support

If you are a disabled person or have a long-term health condition, you are advised to read the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) booklet: Health, disability and becoming a health and care professional

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/resources/guidance/health-disability-and-becoming-a-health-and-care-professional/>

We strongly recommend that you tell us about any long-term health conditions, learning difficulty or disability you may have. This is so we can assess whether we can deliver the course in such a way that you can meet the HCPC standards of proficiency and take part without disadvantage both in University and on placement.

Timetable & absence

The programme is designed to be 45 weeks & four days long in each of the two academic years. Consequently, the course does not run to a standard undergraduate term/semester dates. Holiday periods and dedicated independent study periods are built in throughout the year.

For the MSc Podiatry (pre-registration) course the pass mark is 50%. Further information is available via the [policies for students](#) section on the virtual learning environment. Any absence required for an extended period should be discussed with the Course Leader

Additional Costs

Additional costs are mandatory or optional costs which students will need to meet in order to fully participate in and complete their course. Students will need to budget for these costs separately as they are not included in the overall Tuition Fee they are charged.

Unit referral

Should a student fail any assessments and be offered an opportunity to repeat a unit or units there will be a fee payable as set out below (fees quoted at 2025-26 prices): *

Home students: £2,118 per unit (20 credits)

EU/Overseas students: £4,287 per unit (20 credits)

- If a student is only sitting elements of unit due to exceptional personal circumstances, accepted by the Assessment Board, this is not considered a Repeat Unit and fees do not apply. This may impact maintenance loans from the Student Loan Company and students are advised to contact the Student Finance team on studentfinance@aecc.ac.uk for further information.

Qualification & graduation

On successful completion of the course students have the option to attend the graduation ceremony. Students choosing to attend must meet the cost of hiring academic dress for the ceremony; wearing of academic dress at the ceremony is compulsory. The academic dress is provided by an external company. In 2024 the hire cost was £39. There are no other charges to

the graduate for the graduation ceremony. However, additional tickets for family members and friends are chargeable and you will be advised of the price when you are invited to graduation.

You will be provided with transcripts for each year of study along with a diploma supplement and degree certificate upon completion of your course of study. If you require a replacement of any of these documents, there will be a fee payable.

Accommodation

Students are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements while enrolled at the HSU. The Student Services team can offer advice and assistance in finding private rented accommodation in the area.

It is recommended that students purchase a tablet or computer/laptop for their personal use, as this will enhance their learning by giving them immediate access to our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

It is recommended students have a good quality Broadband internet connection when studying at home.

Practical & clinical placement

- The locality of placements can take students across Dorset and neighbouring counties. This will incur additional costs and students need to plan for this in their annual budget. Typically, these costs are for travel and, if necessary, accommodation to access placement. The amount of money involved will depend on the site of the placement, distance from home, and the type and length of placement. Costs of several hundred pounds can be expected, and exceptionally over £1000 per year. UK students may claim placement travel expenses, and costs towards any additional accommodation that may be required in order to access placements from the NHS support fund but these costs are reimbursed to a threshold. More information about this can be found at:
<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf>
- Students on community placements or placements that require travel between site locations, who are explicitly using their car to go from one location to another for care delivery (e.g. home visits, school visits) must have Business Car Insurance coverage. We have been advised to make it clear to students that they must have Business Cover added to their cover for this type of travel. We are reminding you now as for those who are due to renew their cover between now and your placement, this can usually be done with no fee or an increase to premium – so even though you do not know if you will have a community placement yet, we would advise you adding this if you are due to renew. If you are not due for renewal and find you are going on a community placement, it can easily be added, however an admin fee is typically applied, which can vary between insurers.

Note: The NHS does not reimburse any costs associated with business insurance coverage.

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf/travel-and-dual-accommodation-expenses-tdae>

[Link to online form](#)

- All applicants are required to undergo an Occupational Health Check, this is to ensure that you are physically and mentally suited to a career in health. If you have any concerns about your medical suitability, you are advised to discuss this with your GP. The link to the questionnaire from our OH provider will be sent out in November, this forms the basis of the health screening so it is vital that all questions are answered as fully and honestly as possible. The questionnaire covers the issue of vaccinations, and it is important that students are aware that they will need to provide evidence of the vaccinations, immunity or have the full range of immunisations before they start in any clinic environment. Applicants must meet the costs of this check (**approx. £28.50**) and any subsequent costs, related to the pre-clearance stage. Any missed appointments will be charged to the student at the full price.

More information can be found on [our website](#).

Students will be expected to dress smartly and adhere to the clinic dress code when observing or working with patients in the onsite clinic. The dress code for offsite placements must be observed and in all placement settings students will be expected to maintain high standards of personal hygiene.

Students are expected to attend a minimum of 80% of all practical skills classes. We take registers of attendance at these classes and collate the results regularly

During practical classes students will be expected to practice physical examination and therapy skills using other students in their year group as subjects, and to act as a subject for other students. These are mixed gender groups. You will be required to have physical contact with other students in your cohort.

If you are unable to work with individuals of a different gender for religious or other reasons, please contact the course leader to discuss how reasonable adjustments may be made to the learning environment

Students must complete any mandatory training as a requirement before going on placement.

Practice Placements will incur costs and students need to plan for this in their annual budget. Typically, these costs are for travel and, if necessary, accommodation to access placement. The amount of money involved will depend on the site of the placement, distance from home,

and the type and length of placement. Students may claim placement travel expenses, and costs towards any additional accommodation that may be required in order to access placements. You are required to successfully complete 1000 hours of practice placement. Over the two years of the programme you will complete several assessed practice placements. You will need to budget for the additional costs of placement which may include travel and / or accommodation costs.

Currently, the NHS provides some reimbursement of additional placement costs to eligible students through the learning support fund. More information about this can be found at: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf>

Health & good character

We expect students on this professionally-based course to maintain professional standards of behaviour at all times, and to act in accordance with the Health and Care Professions Council [Standards of conduct, performance and ethics](#)

Criminal records

Students are required to declare any changes in their criminal record as soon as they occur, i.e. if they have been cautioned, reprimanded, warned, charged or convicted in relation to any criminal activity. Failure to disclose such information will result in an investigation under the institution's [Fitness to Practice Policy and Procedure](#).

Non-UK domiciled applicants are required to provide a satisfactory National Police check. Applicants must meet the costs of this check, which will vary from country to country.

Additional information

- Teaching materials are made available in electronic format on the Virtual Learning Environment. If students wish to have a printed copy they may print these materials, but at their own cost.
- Core texts are available in the library but there are limited numbers and most students buy some, but not necessarily all, text books.
- We are unable to offer any storage facilities for personal belongings of students except for a limited number of lockers. Students can rent a locker from the Health Sciences University Students' Union (SU) on payment of a single fee of £10.
- There may be other costs for activities that will enhance students' time here but are not directly related to their programme. For example, there is an annual fee (currently £70) to join our gym (gym membership is a requirement to join some SU/University College sports societies). Some SU-organised social events and activities through SU Societies will be at an additional cost.

We recommend that students join the Royal College of Podiatry as student members. The cost is currently £36 (correct as at November 2022) for the duration of the course. Please see: <https://rcpod.org.uk/membership/membership-categories>