

Important Information and Additional Costs to Consider when Choosing your Course

Course Title: MSc Podiatry (Pre-Registration)

Desirable Experience & Skills

When applying to the MSc Podiatry (pre-registration) course, it is essential that you have experience interacting with people from a variety of backgrounds and in different settings. Just as important is your ability to reflect on these experiences and explain how they have helped you develop the skills and qualities expected of a podiatrist. The NHS values are central to our selection process. We aim to recruit students who not only have the right skills but also the right values to ensure the highest standards of patient care. The core values outlined in the NHS Constitution are:

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

More information can be found here: <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, Statutory & Regulatory Body (PSRB) Requirements

All students in the allied health professions are expected to meet professional standards as set out by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). Please refer to the HCPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics for more information: [HCPC Standards](#)

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[HCPC Standards](#)

[Chiropodists / podiatrists | The HCPC](#)

[Guidance on conduct and ethics for students | The HCPC](#)

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

Occupational Health Requirements

You must undertake an occupational health screen to determine your suitability to undertake the course. At HSU offers to study 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. A link to the questionnaire from our Occupation Health provider will be sent to you and forms the basis of 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 in accordance with the UK Health Security Agency guidance - you can view more information on [our website](#). 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. If you have any concerns about your medical suitability, you are advised to discuss this with your General Practitioner (GP) or local healthcare provider.

Immunisation Requirements

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.hsu.ac.uk/study/apply/how-to-apply/occupational-health-requirements/>

Applicants must meet the costs of this check (approx. £22) and any subsequent immunisations that are required, price list will be sent with pre-clearance information.

Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service Checks

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.

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 admissions@hsu.ac.uk.

Many placement providers require students to be on the DBS Update service, so you must apply for this within 30 days of receiving your DBS certificate. There is a small cost associated with this (approx. £13); however, it will ensure you do not miss out on valuable placement opportunities.

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](#).

Disability Support

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 Royal College of Podiatry (RCoP) and HCPC requirements of the course and take part without disadvantage both in university and on placement.

You may also wish to read the HCPC guidance here: [Health, disability and becoming a health and care professional | The HCPC](#).

You are encouraged to discuss any concerns about any long-term health conditions, learning difficulty or disability you may have with us before making an application for the course or accepting an offer of a place so that we can discuss with you how reasonable adjustments can be made to enable you to study on the course, however we can only make adjustments where this will not interfere with your ability to demonstrate that you have met the learning outcomes for the course, and meet the requirements of relevant Professional Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs).

For more information, please contact admissions@hsu.ac.uk

Placement Requirements

The locality of placements can take students across Dorset and beyond, including international opportunities. We seek to place students at a location convenient for you whenever possible. You are required to successfully complete 1000 hours of practice placement. Over the two years of the course, 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. 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. Students in

receipt of NHS bursary 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 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 must complete any mandatory training as a requirement before going on placement.

Other Important Information

- 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 have concerns about working 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.
- There is an expectation of students to model/role play as patients for other students in practical classes and assessments. Any concerns about this should be discussed with the University prior to applying for the course, and where the concerns relate to issues covered by the Equality Act 2010 (such as religion, disability, gender reassignment) reasonable adjustments can be planned where this will not interfere with the your ability to demonstrate that you have met the learning outcomes for the course, and meet the requirements of relevant Professional Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs).
- Typical attendance expectations vary every semester with a mix of online and on campus learning. Typically, on-campus classes are between 9am and 5pm with 2-3 days attendance needed between Monday – Friday. This changes with assessment and resit periods, as well as placement.
- The RCoP and HCPC expect high levels of attendance and engagement for all theory, practical and placement sessions and this is closely monitored and managed, with support offered to students struggling to engage, in line with the University's [Academic Engagement Policy](#).

Accommodation

The University does not provide accommodation to students. Students are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements while enrolled at the Health Sciences University.

The Student Services team can offer advice and assistance in finding private rented accommodation in the area.

Additional Costs

Below are additional costs you will need to meet in order to fully participate in and complete your course. You will need to budget for these costs separately as they are not included in the overall Course Fee.

- It is recommended that you purchase a tablet or computer/laptop for your personal use, as this will enhance your learning by giving them immediate access to our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).
- It is recommended you have a good quality Broadband internet connection when studying at home.
- We recommend that students join the Royal College of Podiatry as a student member. The cost is currently £47 (2025 fees) for the duration of the course. Please see: <https://rcpod.org.uk/membership/membership-categories>
- Teaching materials are made available in electronic format on the Virtual Learning Environment. If you wish to have a printed copy you may print these materials at your own cost.
- Core texts are available in the library (where possible as e-books) but there are limited numbers and some choose students buy some, but not necessarily all, textbooks.
- We are unable to offer any storage facilities for personal belongings of students, except for a limited number of lockers. You can rent a locker from the Health Sciences University Students' Union (HSUSU) on payment of a single fee of £10.
- There may be other costs for activities which will enhance your time here but are not directly related to your course. For example, there is an annual fee (currently £70) to join our gym (gym membership is a requirement to join some HSUSU/Health Sciences University sports societies). Some HSUSU-organised social events and activities organised through HSUSU Societies will be at an additional cost.
- On successful completion of the course, you 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 2023 the hire cost was £38. There are no other charges to the graduate for the graduation ceremony. However, additional tickets for family members and friends are chargeable per head, you will be advised of the price before you graduate.
- 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 as set out below:
 - Transcript (per academic year): £10
 - Degree Certificate: £40
 - Diploma Supplement: £10