

Informed Choices

Further information for students considering a Physiotherapy course at Swinburne

Master of Physiotherapy



Swinburne supports students to make informed choices when applying for and enrolling in courses. In the Physiotherapy discipline, there are inherent requirements to successfully undertake and complete teaching and learning associated tasks as well as professional training. These inherent requirements are described below to assist prospective students when assessing their suitability for undertaking the Master of Physiotherapy course.

Reasonable Adjustments

Swinburne upholds inclusive academic practices, ensuring that students with disabilities and other conditions can undertake courses and participate in study. Reasonable adjustments can be implemented to support students through viable arrangements to enable students with a disability or a chronic health condition to undertake the studies while maintaining the academic integrity of core course requirements.

Students considering whether they may be eligible for reasonable adjustments should contact Swinburne's [AccessAbility Services](#) and will need to complete an [AccessAbility Registration Form](#).

1. Sensory Abilities

Some tasks in Physiotherapy courses require certain sensory abilities, including: visual ability, tactile ability and auditory ability.

Will reasonable adjustments be considered?

Yes. Please contact AccessAbility to consider reasonable adjustments suitable for your situation.

Sensory abilities	<i>What is this?</i>	<i>How is this relevant to Physiotherapy?</i>
Visual ability	The extent to which a person can see or interpret visual information. This may also include colour vision.	Physiotherapy practice requires sufficient visual acuity to learn and demonstrate a range of skills, tasks with accuracy to maintain safety. This includes the ability to conduct visual observations and examinations (e.g. analysis of movement; rehabilitation of low back pain).
Tactile ability	The sense of touch, and the extent to which a person can distinguish tactile differences and detect tactile changes.	Physiotherapy practice requires tactile ability to gather and interpret information from the findings of a physical assessment and deliver an intervention (e.g. joint mobilisation; operating electrotherapy equipment; detecting changes in temperature; palpation of joints and muscles).

Auditory ability	The sense of hearing, and the extent to which a person can be responsive to aural cues, and differentiate vocal sounds and tone.	Physiotherapy practice requires sufficient auditory ability to monitor, assess and manage an individual's health needs consistently and accurately with safety (e.g. cardiopulmonary assessment by auscultation).
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2. Communication

Some tasks in Physiotherapy require effective verbal, non-verbal, reflective and non-verbal communication skills

Will reasonable adjustments be considered?

Yes. Please contact *AccessAbility* to consider reasonable adjustments suitable for your situation.

Communication	<i>What is this?</i>	<i>How is this relevant to Physiotherapy?</i>
Cultural Sensitivity	The Sensitivity to individual and/or cultural differences and diversity	Physiotherapist engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds in a variety of settings and this requires skills and competencies in cultural capability (e.g. management of individuals of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background; care of patients following trauma; LGBTIQ).
Engages Effectively	Effective verbal, non-verbal and written communication, in English, is an essential requirement to provide safe delivery of care.	Physiotherapy requires effective communication with individuals for effective and safe practice. This includes establishing trust and rapport through verbal, non-verbal communication; engaging health professionals and carers to deliver co-ordinated clinical management.
Reflective Practice	The ability of an individual to engage in reflective practice that prompts an individual to review and adapt action according to feedback	Students participate in reflective practice in order act on constructive feedback and build their professional skills (e.g. reflective practice journals for self- reflection; clinical placements).

3. Strength and Mobility

Some tasks in Physiotherapy require strength and mobility, including: gross motor skills and fine motor skills.

Will reasonable adjustments be considered?

Yes. Please contact *AccessAbility* to consider reasonable adjustments suitable for your situation.

Strength and mobility	<i>What is this?</i>	<i>How is this relevant to Physiotherapy?</i>
Gross motor skills	The use of large muscle groups that coordinate body movements and provide strength for activities such as lifting, pushing, pulling, walking and maintaining balance.	Physiotherapy is a profession that involves physical demands and requires gross motor function to assess and treat patients and clients in a variety of health settings. Students are assessed with respect to physical competency skills that are within the scope of physiotherapy practice (e.g. mobilising and transferring individuals; cardiopulmonary physiotherapy). Students must be able to demonstrate and perform these tasks consistently

		and safely to reduce the risk of harm to self and others.
Fine motor skills	The ability to undertake precise coordinated movements of the hands for activities such as writing and manipulating small objects.	Physiotherapy is a profession that requires manual dexterity and fine motor skills to perform the required level of care and to function within the scope of practice (e.g. joint mobilisation; suctioning; massage). Students must be able to demonstrate and perform these tasks consistently and safely to reduce the risk of harm to self and others.

4. Ethical Behaviour

Physiotherapy practice requires ethical and professional conduct.

Will reasonable adjustments be considered?

Yes. Please contact *AccessAbility* to consider reasonable adjustments suitable for your situation.

Behaviours	<i>What is this?</i>	<i>How is this relevant to Physiotherapy?</i>
Ethical behaviour	Ability to comply with and be governed by quality and professional standards. Acting in ways consistent with the recognised Swinburne University of Technology Student Charter; Physiotherapy Profession Code of Conduct; values of society and avoiding activities that do harm.	Swinburne University of Technology require all students to understand and comply with the Student Charter that outlines appropriate student behaviours. Physiotherapy is a profession that is governed by a professional code of conduct , registration standards , guidelines and policies, in which physiotherapists are both accountable and responsible for ensuring safe and professional behaviour in all contexts (e.g. observing patient confidentiality; obtaining informed consent and the ability to reflect on ethical dilemmas ethically and with responsibility). This supports the physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of the SUT community and the Physiotherapy profession.
Mental Wellness and Behavioural Stability	A state of well-being in which an individual can cope with the normal stresses of life and can work productively, maintaining consistent behaviour that is ethical e and appropriate.	Physiotherapy practice requires Behavioural stability to work individually and in teams in diverse and changing environments Physiotherapy students will be exposed to diverse situations that are sometimes challenging and unpredictable requiring adaptability, stability, maturity and agility for safe and effective functioning within healthcare environments (e.g. reflecting on practice and responding appropriately to constructive feedback during assessment, training and clinical practice; coping with peers, carers patents/clients).

5. Sustainable Performance

Physiotherapy and practice requires both physical and cognitive performance at a consistent and sustained level.

Sustainable Performance	<i>What is this?</i>	<i>How is this relevant to Physiotherapy?</i>
Cognitive Skills and Consistency	The capacity and discipline to maintain a high level of cognitive and physical skills consistently performance over time.	Physiotherapy practice requires critical cognitive reasoning and problem solving skills; and performance of physical intervention tasks (e.g. clinical reasoning to develop management plans; manual therapy).
Adaptability and Time Management	The ability to perform with focus and rigour in line in a timely manner that is responsive to the demands of the healthcare setting and patients/ clients.	Physiotherapy practice requires time management and prioritisation skills when navigating clinical management in a variety of health settings (e.g. critical illness; chronic conditions).

6. Legal

Physiotherapy practice is mandated by [legislation](#) to enable the safe delivery of care.

Legal	<i>What is this?</i>	<i>How is this relevant to Physiotherapy?</i>
Professional Registration Requirements	Physiotherapy practice is mandated by legislation to enable the safe delivery of care.	Within Physiotherapy all students are required to demonstrate knowledge and compliance with Australian Law and professional regulations (e.g. student registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)).