



## *IRISH SOCIETY OF CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS*

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### **CRITERIA for RECOGNITION of PHYSIOTHERAPY QUALIFICATIONS acquired outside the REPUBLIC of IRELAND**

Physiotherapy education in the Republic of Ireland is a Bachelor of Science honours degree in physiotherapy (B.Sc. Hons. Physiotherapy). This is a level 8 qualification on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications 10 point scale. Further information on the National Framework can be found on the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) website at [www.nqai.ie](http://www.nqai.ie)

Qualifications acquired outside the Republic of Ireland need to be broadly equivalent to an accredited physiotherapy programme in terms of duration and content.

The following is a general overview of the composition of an Irish physiotherapy programme to which an applicant will be compared. Please consider this list before you begin the process of having your qualifications assessed to be recognised by the ISCP.

#### **Duration of Training**

The applicant must hold either of the following: -

- Recognised undergraduate physiotherapy qualification (honours degree); 4 years academic training or equivalent.

Or

- Recognised graduate physiotherapy pre-registration programme; 3 years academic training or equivalent.

#### **Level of Training**

- The applicant must hold a qualification from a recognised university or a similar 3<sup>rd</sup> level academic institution.

## Physiotherapy Course Content Curriculum

The applicant's course content must include the following and be equivalent in content and duration to an Irish physiotherapy programme: -

- **Academic Content**

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Biomedical Sciences:             | Anatomy, Physiology,<br>Biology, General Pathology  |
| Physical Sciences:               | Physics, Chemistry  |
| Social & Behavioural Sciences:   | Psychology, Psychiatry, Sociology   |
| Academic Physiotherapy Studies:  | Movement Studies<br>Electrotherapy & Applied Physics<br>Manipulative Procedures, Exercise Therapy   |
| Clinical Physiotherapy Studies:  | Musculoskeletal, Cardiorespiratory, Neurology<br>Age-related Disorders, Paediatrics<br>Women's & Men's Health, Oncology<br>Vascular, Mental Health, Dermatology<br>Sports Physiotherapy, Ergonomics<br>Professional & Multidisciplinary Issues<br>Disability Issues |
| Physiotherapy Research Practise: | Evidence Based Practise,<br>Research Methods and Statistics<br>Completed Research Project   |

- **Supervised Clinical Practise**

- The student must achieve successful completion of practise placement of not less than 1000 hours of regular instruction and supervised clinical practise in the management of patients. All students must work under professional supervision; the period of clinical practise must be assessed and must contribute to the student's final marks.
- Essential clinical practise experience must be gained in the core areas of musculoskeletal, cardiorespiratory and neurological rehabilitation.
- The student must also have clinical placement practise in the management of other conditions relevant to practise. These include: - age-related disorders, paediatrics, women's & men's health, vascular, oncology, mental health, dermatology and learning & physical disability.
- Throughout all placements, the student must gain: -
  - Knowledge and understanding of relevant anatomy and physiology
  - Knowledge of specific disease states relevant to each core area linking pathology to clinical presentation
  - The ability to carry out a subjective and objective assessments of patients and document findings
  - The ability to understand and interpret use of relevant outcome measures as assessment tools
  - The ability to reach a working diagnosis
  - The ability to identify a diagnosis through clinical reasoning processes
  - The ability to devise an appropriate problem list and treatment plans
  - Justification for treatment selection and modification, with evidence of clinical reasoning and evidence-base of intervention
  - The ability to recognise progress or dysfunction through assessment evaluation and reasoning
  - Appropriate handling and treatment skills
  - The ability to evaluate treatment outcomes
  - Awareness of safety issues
  - Understanding of relevant indications and contraindications to treatment

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### **Professional Recognition in Country of Qualification**

- The applicant is required to provide a statement from the registration authority, competent authority or professional body (WCPT member) in the country in which he/she qualified, which recognises that his/her qualification entitles him/her to employment as a physiotherapist in that country.

### **Independent/Autonomous Practise**

- The applicant is required to provide evidence that his/her physiotherapy qualification entitles the applicant to work as a ‘first-line’ independent/autonomous practitioner in the country of qualification. This should be acquired from the applicant’s registration authority, professional body or educational institute where physiotherapy qualifications were achieved.

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#### ***Disclaimer:***

*The contents of these pages are intended to enhance information for physiotherapists who have acquired qualifications outside the Republic of Ireland. Whilst every effort is made in the preparation of the material for publication, no responsibility is accepted by the Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages or any site to which they are connected.*

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