

Programme Specification

BSc (Hons) Podiatry (2020-21)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	3
Accreditation details	Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) College of Podiatrists (CoP)
Final award	Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc (Hons))
Name of award	Podiatry
Interim Exit awards	Bachelor of Science (Ordinary) in Health Studies Certificate of Health Studies Diploma of Health Studies
FHEQ level of final award	Level 6
UCAS code	B985
Programme code	8323
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	HCPC Standards of Proficiency for Chiropodists/Podiatrists (2012) 2012, College of Podiatry's Curriculum Framework and Competencies (CoP 2013) 2013, Subjects Allied to Medicine 2001
Programme Lead	Mark Cole

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The BSc (Hons) Podiatry is a three-year full-time programme that leads to eligibility to apply to register, as a Podiatrist, with the Health and Care Professional Council. The podiatry programme will enable you to develop skills and knowledge to provide a range of interventions for foot and lower limb complaints, including skin, soft tissue and nail treatments, the mechanical correction of gait and posture, and specific surgical techniques. You will develop diagnostic and clinical management skills which will enable you to effectively address lower limb and foot pathologies such as wound care in the high risk foot, prescribing or making corrective devices to aid mobility in the elderly population, to helping a sprinter improve their 100m time. The programme is based on the premise that you need to develop sound clinical judgment and informed interpretation from contemporary and robust evidence. The educational principles of the programme underpin the development of clinical reasoning, autonomous clinical decision-making and evaluation.

As with all our courses, the BSc (Hons) Podiatry course is a values-based programme. This means that you will be encouraged to foster empathy and compassion for your clients and their problems. We are proud to be able to provide first class learning facilities, along with tutoring from leading academics. You will benefit from the findings of our leading-edge research projects giving you the best-informed foundation for your career. The clinical experts in our School teaching team, along with educators in practice, will develop your clinical skills in dedicated skills rooms and clinics. Podiatry skills, underpinned by an evidence base, are applied and strengthened during your clinical placement experience of at least 1000 hours. We are also committed to preparing you for the evolving role of podiatrists in medicines management.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

The School has a published Learning & Teaching Strategy for all its programmes, which underlines its commitment to providing a student-centred, friendly, supportive and receptive environment in which you will be able to reach your full potential and assume responsibility for your own learning. You are supported in an experiential, problem solving, learning approach to acquire knowledge and skills in a contextual and integrated manner.

The podiatry programme uses a range of teaching and learning methods to fulfil the learning outcomes for each module. All teaching and learning align to the central principle of a research-led and student-centred approach. Active learning is encouraged by using teaching methods such as lead lectures, case-based problem solving, role-play, peer to peer learning, clinical simulations, poster presentations, project management, action learning sets, portfolio development and rolling formative assessment techniques. The podiatry programme seeks to develop your appreciation of research as underpinning all learning activities. The programme provides you with an exposure to live postgraduate research projects to experience how research impacts on practice.

Assessment

The Assessment Strategy for the School allows you to demonstrate your successful learning using fair and reliable assessment methods. These include formative and summative assessments such as: Clinical Development Record; unseen written examinations; unseen open book examinations; multiple choice questions (MCQ); Critical Analysis Technique (CAT); practical examinations; oral and poster presentations; essays and case histories.

As an integral part of the podiatry programme, you will be assessed at regular intervals. These assessments include essays, written exams, practical exams and a research project. Whilst on placement you will be continually assessed by your practice mentor. All summative practice experience is graded, and at level 5 and 6, these marks will count towards your final degree classification.

Special Features of the programme

The podiatry programme involves mandatory placements in all years. The placements are organised by the University and will take place with local healthcare providers. You will need to travel to placements and in some cases arrange accommodation. Students who are on an eligible programme may be entitled to claim travel and accommodation expenses incurred over and above daily travel costs to university. The costs must be related to essential practice placements.

Insurance for students on placement and the necessary immunisation/vaccination is provided by the University. For further information please see <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/alps>

The podiatry programme seeks to offer a limited number of international placement opportunities predominately for final year students. The podiatry programme has close links with podiatry providers in Singapore, Canada and Australia and seeks to expand the international placement portfolio. The international placement forms part of the overall placement provision provided by the programme.

The University has a dissecting room (Centre for Learning Anatomical Sciences) and you will have the opportunity to spend time examining cadavers and other anatomical specimens to facilitate anatomical learning.

Whilst on clinical placement learning is undertaken alongside other healthcare professionals, so that the you will attain an understanding of the professional role of others in the multi-disciplinary team (MDT). Shared learning with other health professional groups in theoretical studies is well embedded within the University of Southampton curricula.

As the majority of the programme team are actively involved in national and international education and research activities, you will have access to the most contemporary and leading edge knowledge in specific podiatric specialties.

Visiting professors and lecturers provide specialist teaching and learning opportunities on the programme. By experiencing firsthand interaction with the leaders and movers in the podiatry profession, the motivation to strive for increasing knowledge and to develop a career pathway is invaluable.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to: The programme fulfils the requirements of the HCPC Standards of Proficiency, HCPC Standards of Education and the curriculum guidance provided by The College of Podiatry (<https://cop.org.uk/>). The main aims of the programme are to:

- Provide you with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to equip you for a career in podiatry
- Develop your competence in applying professional skills to the practice of podiatry
- Develop key, transferable skills for general use in graduate employment so that you become competent in both autonomous practice and in team working
- Develop critical and analytical competence so that you become users and/or creators of research evidence in their professional practice
- Provide opportunities for you to learn with and from other healthcare professionals so that you develop competence in inter-professional practice
- Provide you with the capacity for life-long learning
- Provide a responsive curriculum that acknowledges service changes, national and local developments
- Develop a range of professional and interpersonal skills to work within a diverse and changing health and social care arena
- Develop reflective skills to equip you as a future Podiatrist with the skills to influence future healthcare provision

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. Normal human structure and function
- A2. How the pathological and disease processes manifest within the lower limbs
- A3. Relating psychosocial concepts relevant to patient care
- A4. The theoretical basis of podiatry practice including diagnostic, therapeutic and management skills
- A5. Assessing the evidence-based practice relevant to podiatry
- A6. The context of healthcare provision in private and public sectors including structure, drivers and policies of the NHS
- A7. Evaluating the utilisation of clinical research, audit and governance

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. Formation of reasoned judgements and arrival at a diagnosis based on physical presentation and discussion with patients, together with the results of investigation
- B2. Communication with patients, relatives, carers and healthcare professionals to establish effective therapeutic alliances
- B3. Design and implementation of appropriate and effective short- and long-term management strategies and care plans
- B4. Monitoring patient progress through evaluation of outcomes and appropriate modification of care plans
- B5. Reflection on clinical decisions in light of current evidence, accepted care protocols, and legal and statutory requirements
- B6. An understanding of health and safety at work requirements and be able to conduct risk assessments
- B7. Engaging in debate and discussion in areas of professional controversy and future professional development
- B8. Constructing reasoned argument concerning the funding and ethics of modern health and social care
- B9. Formation of a research question, a research design and implementation of the research process

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. Communicate effectively in a variety of forms to a variety of audience
- C2. Critically evaluate academic, clinical and professional performance and utilise research skills
- C3. Effectively manage time and prioritise workload to sustain efficient and effective practice
- C4. Work in both individual and team working practice situations, developing autonomy and leadership skills

- C5. Utilise problem solving, critical analysis and research skills
- C6. Respond to independent and team working environments through developing autonomy and leadership skills
- C7. Apply the skills needed for academic study and enquiry
- C8. Apply skills of numeracy, pictographic representation and manipulation of data using appropriate software
- C9. Access and acknowledge information from written and electronic sources

Disciplinary Specific Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- E1. Understand the legal responsibilities and ethical considerations of professional clinical podiatric practice
- E2. Have a detailed knowledge and understanding of the legal implications of the supply and administration of prescription only medicines available to podiatrists and the according statutory obligations and limitations
- E3. Administer or supply pharmacological agents relevant to podiatric practice (to include local analgesia, anaesthetics, topical pharmacology and prescription only medicines schedules with reference to podiatrists' access to drugs)
- E4. Understand the responsibilities associated with independent podiatric diagnosis and the use of all podiatric techniques that fall within the podiatrist's scope of practice
- E5. Conduct surgical interventions for specific foot pathologies (i.e. procedures performed under local anaesthesia, skin and nail surgery)
- E6. Demonstrate the ability to utilise safely the full scope of treatment regimens available to the podiatrist in the successful management of a patient presenting with a lower limb problem
- E7. Effectively use appropriate clinical techniques in accordance with best accepted practice
- E8. Demonstrate competency in: mechanical debridement of skin and nails; administration of prescription only and non-prescription medicines, local anaesthesia techniques, surgical procedures for skin and nail conditions; physical therapeutic modalities and use of chair-side orthoses
- E9. Demonstrate competency in the use of appropriate technologies that aid patient diagnosis and treatment
- E10. Demonstrate a competence in the recognition and adaptation of approaches to practice to meet the needs of modifying circumstances to include specific client groups and taking into consideration physical, psychological, social, environmental, cultural, occupational activity and economic factors
- E11. Demonstrate the ability to identify and respond to a range of clinical incidents, threats and psycho-social crises, e.g. violent patients, alcohol, substance and drug abuse
- E12. Demonstrate the ability to act swiftly and appropriate in the best interest of the patient and in accordance with contemporary practice for the maintenance of life in a clinical emergency, such as anaphylaxis, toxic reaction, epileptic attack, faint, hypo/hyperglycaemic attack and cardiac arrest
- E13. Provide written instructions to a patient concerning details of a podiatric treatment regime requiring patient self-treatment/advice
- E14. Obtain and record informed consent for the treatment planning
- E15. Conform to current data protection legislation
- E16. Produce a management plan and its evaluation in order to convey precise managing to the podiatrist and / or others who may be required to follow-up the treatment and to satisfy medico- legal requirement

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Part I

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HSGM1001	An Introduction to Professional Practice (BSc) 2020-21	7.5	Core
PODY1029	Applied Health Sciences for Podiatry 2020-21	7.5	Core
PODY1024	Clinical Practice 1 2020-21	7.5	Core
PODY1025	Foundations of Health Sciences for Podiatry 2020-21	7.5	Core
PODY1027	Foundations of Podiatric Practice 2020-21	7.5	Core
PODY1026	Principles of Health Sciences for Podiatry 2020-21	7.5	Core
PODY1028	Principles of Podiatric Practice 2020-21	15	Core

Part II

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PODY2034	Administration & Supply Pharmacology 2021-22	7.5	Core
PODY2035	Chronic Conditions 2021-22	15	Core
PODY2032	Clinical Practice 2 2021-22	15	Core
PODY2033	Foot and Ankle Musculoskeletal Pathology 2021-22	7.5	Core
HSGM2002	Healthy Discussions 2021-22	7.5	Core
HSGM2001	Research Methods 2021-22	7.5	Core

Part III

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PODY3019	Clinical Practice 3 2022-23	15	Core
PODY3018	Complex Clinical Management 2022-23	7.5	Core
HSGM3000	Influencing Innovation and Change (Level 6) 2022-23	7.5	Core
PODY3016	Pain: Theory and Management for Podiatrists 2022-23	7.5	Core
PODY3017	Business for Podiatrists 2022-23	7.5	Core
HSGM3001	Research Project for AHPs 2022-23	15	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes.*](#) Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in [*section VI of the University Calendar.*](#)

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up to date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides:

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

The School of Health Sciences provides:

- Access to a personal academic tutor and senior academic tutors when more specific or complex guidance is needed.
- A consistent approach to formative and summative feedback on your work.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- Support while in placement via the School support strategy for learning in practice;
- Facilities based at some of the sub-campuses;
- Access to CoP's resources (contingent on your taking up student membership).

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff/Student Liaison Committees, School Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Career Opportunities

Podiatrists treat many different groups of patients who have a wide range of systemic problems, such as: diabetes, poor circulation, rheumatoid arthritis, or skin disorders. They also look after those who have more specific lower limb disorders such as: limb length difference, Achilles tendonitis, or ankle sprains. After graduation you could end up working in a variety of employments, such as within the National Health Service or private practice. Podiatrists also find work in the commercial sector, the leisure business, as well as in education and research. Traditionally our graduates have worked as clinical practitioners and progressed through to managerial posts. However, some choose to gain further qualifications in specialist areas such as sports, diabetes, rheumatology, surgery and podo-paediatrics. In Health Sciences we are proud to have an outstanding record of giving our students excellent prospects and our graduates usually go straight into work or further study within six months.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Ruth Barn – Glasgow Caledonian University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Accommodation and Travel	This programme involves mandatory placements in all years. The placements are organised by the University and will take place with regional healthcare providers; as such students will need to travel to placements/arrange accommodation.
Approved Calculators	Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved models are Casio FX-570 and Casio FX-85GT Plus. These may be purchased from any source and no longer need to carry the University logo.
Conference expenses	Conference attendance is not normally expected as part of the Podiatry programme. If you decide to attend conferences then you will normally be expected to cover the cost of accommodation, travel and admission.
Equipment and Materials	Medical Equipment and Materials: A number of essential items for use in practical sessions will be provided to you e.g.: instrumentation, uniform and shoes; examination gloves; plastic aprons.
Insurance	This programme involves mandatory placements in all years. Insurance for students on placement and the necessary immunisation/vaccination is provided by the University.
Lab Coats	Lab Coats: You will need provide yourselves with laboratory coat for use in the Centre for learning Anatomical Sciences. These can be purchased from any source.
Laboratory Equipment and Materials	A number of essential items for use in the Centre for learning Anatomical Sciences will be provided to you e.g.: safety goggles; examination gloves; plastic aprons.
Optional Visits (e.g. museums, galleries)	Some Podiatry modules may include optional visits to specialist healthcare facilities, etc. You will normally be expected to cover the cost of travel and admission, unless otherwise specified in the module profile.
Paying for immunisation and vaccination costs before being allowed to attend placements	This programme involves mandatory placements in all years. Insurance for students on placement and the necessary immunisation/vaccination is provided by the University.
Placements (including Study Abroad Programmes)	If you have been approved to participate in an Erasmus+ Study/Work Placement you will automatically qualify for an Erasmus+ grant and details of this will be sent to you as part of the application process. Students who participate in the Erasmus+ scheme can benefit from an EU-funded grant. It is not intended to be a maintenance grant but rather a contribution towards the extra costs associated with studying abroad. The International Office will calculate your grant for you once you have given them the dates of your placement. You will be sent an Erasmus Grant Agreement confirming the amount of your grant and conditions of participation. Students who participate in the Erasmus+ scheme can benefit from insurance that is provided by the university.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not

	possible to submit online, and students will be asked to provide a printed copy.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	<p>Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source.</p> <p>Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</p>
Travel Costs for placements	This programme involves mandatory placements in all years. The placements are organised by the University and will take place with regional healthcare providers; as such students will need to travel to placements/arrange accommodation. Students who are on an eligible programme may be entitled to claim travel and accommodation expenses incurred over and above daily travel costs to the University. The costs must be related to essential practice placements.

Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.