



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

**JIT**  
JuniorTukkie

*Career focus*

*2023 study year*

## Faculty of Health Sciences

### Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPhysio)



Physiotherapy is a complementary healthcare profession that aims to restore or promote the normal physical functioning of the individual and rehabilitate individuals with injuries and those living with disabilities. Training is evidence and outcome-based. Physiotherapy students are exposed to a wide variety of patients, where they can use their examination and problem-solving skills to make a significant contribution to the health status of any patient. Physiotherapists who have qualified at the University of Pretoria are in demand in all sectors of healthcare worldwide.

The BPhysio programme requires four years of full-time study. Students are trained in physiotherapy in various areas, treating musculoskeletal, neurological, respiratory problems, and sports injuries. Training includes work in the field of paediatrics and communities. Musculoskeletal and sports therapies are used to treat problems affecting the vertebral and peripheral joints. Neurological therapy involves rehabilitation principles used to treat different conditions and diseases affecting the brain and spinal cord, and respiratory and cardiac therapy improves lung function and exercise tolerance. Students are also taught how to manage congenital and acquired paediatric conditions. Particular emphasis is placed on

community education and empowerment concerning health-related challenges.

The modalities taught in the four-year degree programme include manual therapy, soft-tissue mobilisations, electrotherapy, hydrotherapy and exercise therapy. Rehabilitation is a primary focus in all areas of physiotherapy practice.

#### Selection

- Sixty (60) students are selected annually.
- Only first-choice applicants are considered.
- Conditional selection is based on the final Grade 11 results of the two categories (Open and Designated Group) as indicated under Important faculty-specific information on undergraduate programmes for 2023 on page 1 in this brochure.
- Candidates must also comply with the minimum admission requirements provided on page 2.
- Candidates must maintain their Grade 11 averages (in terms of which they were conditionally selected) in the final school examination and ensure that the APS does not drop by more than two points.

#### What does the programme entail?



The four years of study consist of theoretical, practical and clinical training in basic medical sciences and physiotherapy. An additional community service year, which does not form part of the university training, is compulsory.

- **Clinical training:** Undergraduate student training takes place in private and government hospitals in Pretoria. Special schools and the Sports Centre based at the University of Pretoria are also used. Community-based training of undergraduate students occurs in Mamelodi, Hammanskraal, Daspoort and Eersterust, and at various homes for the aged in Pretoria.

- **Community service:** An informed community is a healthy community. Consequently, much time is spent instructing patients and those who care for them. Patients are also taught to monitor their own health and to be physically active. Community-based training of undergraduate students occurs in Mamelodi, Hammanskraal, Daspoort and Eersterust, at various homes for the aged in Pretoria, and the Sports Centre of the University of Pretoria.
- **Research:** A proactive research environment enjoys high priority at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and undergraduate students are introduced to the research process under the guidance of staff members.

#### Who is the ideal candidate?



Ideal candidates include those who have problem-solving skills and enjoy evidence-based practice. A humble, hardworking person who enjoys working with the sick, elderly and young will succeed in this career.

BPhysio enables the student to specialise in a particular area or work in all facets of the profession.

#### Structure of the programme



##### Core modules

Physiotherapy year modules from years 1 to 4 involving techniques, modalities and application of musculoskeletal, neurology and cardio-respiratory conditions. Community integrated leadership in the various areas of Physiotherapy is also added.

##### Postgraduate studies

Master's and Doctorates must be specialised in the student's area of interest and entail a full thesis degree.

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## Career opportunities

Employment opportunities for physiotherapists are available in hospitals, schools for children with special needs, mining clinics, industrial clinics and hospitals.



Opportunities also exist in private practices, the South African National Defence Force, homes for the aged, local government bodies (municipal clinics), corporate companies, sports centres, and sports teams. Should you undertake postgraduate studies, you could also consider a career in research or academia.

## Which companies employ our graduates?

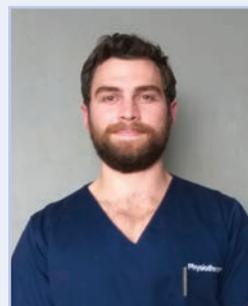
Private and government hospitals and private practices, schools for special needs, nursing homes, corporate businesses, research facilities and Universities.



‘Choosing to study at UP has been one of the best academic decisions I’ve ever made. The combination of theoretical and practical experience I have gained over the last two and a half years has built my confidence and reassured my love for my profession.’

I always knew that I wanted to study physiotherapy, but it was only once I started that I really knew that I belong here. The integration of social life and academic life made possible by the Department of Physiotherapy has made this first ride one I will not forget!’

**Kamohelo S Ratsomo – Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPhysio)**



‘When I started studying at the University of Pretoria, I honestly did not know what to expect. I was going to study at a large, well known and highly rated university. On arrival, I did not know anyone—it was very intimidating, to say the least. But when I started,

I quickly realised how inviting everyone was. Even when meeting and chatting with students and lecturers on campus, there was a good chance you would leave as friends and have the opportunity to connect outside of lectures.

Throughout the four years of the degree, I made some very close friends and got to know my whole class, with each person bringing something different and inspiring with them.

Studying physiotherapy allowed me to grow into the confident person I am today—it started as an intimidating beginning, but now, thanks to my lecturers and peers, UP has become a second home with a fantastic physio family to boot.’

**Alex des Tombe – Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPhysio)**

## Minimum admission requirements for NSC/IEB

Programme	Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2023			
	Achievement level			APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	
School of Healthcare Sciences				
<b>Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPhysio)</b> [4 years] Closing date: 30 June	4	4	4	30

For advice on a second-choice programme, please consult a Student Advisor. To make an appointment, send an email to [carol.bosch@up.ac.za](mailto:carol.bosch@up.ac.za).

Selection is based on a candidates' final Grade 11 examination results.

**Careers:** Physiotherapists, academics and researchers

## Minimum admission requirements for qualifications other than the NSC/IEB

For qualifications not indicated in the table below, refer to the conversion table in the brochure:

2023 Undergraduate programme information - Qualifications other than the National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Independent Examination Board (IEB) at [www.up.ac.za/programmes](http://www.up.ac.za/programmes) > Undergraduate > Admission information

Programme	Minimum requirements for 2023									
	Achievement level									
	Compulsory subjects	IGCSE/ LGCSE/ BGCSE/ SGCSE/ GCSE/ NSCC OL/ O Level = Gr 11*	AS Level	IB SL	IB HL	HIGCSE/ NSSC HL	KOMBI ABITUR	CGCE UCE NECO WAEC ZIMSEC O Level = Gr 11*	CGCE UACE WAEC ZIMSEC A Level	KCSE
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPhysio) Will only be considered as a first study choice.	English	D	D	2	2	3	50-59%	D	E	B
	Mathematics	D	D	2	2	3	50-59%	D	E	B
	Physics	D	D	2	2	3	50-59%	D	E	B
	Chemistry	D	D	2	2	3	50-59%	D	E	B

\* This level cannot be used for final admission alone. The compulsory subject requirements as indicated in the above table must be on A Level and/or AS Level for final admission before registration. Provisional selection is based on six IGCSE subjects. Final admission is based on two IGCSE and four A Level or AS Level subjects. The compulsory subjects as indicated in the above table, must be on A Level or AS Level.