**FAQ’s**

**SE761 – First Contact Musculoskeletal Practice**

**Which clinicians is this module suitable for?**

This module is aimed at Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) with at least 3 years’ experience of working within a Musculoskeletal (MSK) field who:

* want to explore whether a First Contact MSK Practice (FCP) role maybe something they would like to do in the future,
* have just or are about to transition to an FCP role
* are already in a First Contact Musculoskeletal Practice role but want to enhance/consolidate their understanding of First Contact Musculoskeletal Practice.

This module maps to Stage 1 of the Health Education England Roadmap to Practice for First Contact Practice. Module SE786 ‘Evaluation of Clinical Practice for First Contact Musculoskeletal Practitioners’ maps to Stage 2 of the Roadmap and requires students to be in an FCP role in order to enrol.

These two modules together lead to a Postgraduate Certificate in First Contact Musculoskeletal Practice which has been accredited by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

**What level of time commitment is needed to complete the module?**

This is a 30 credit, Level 7 module so involves 300 hours total study time, this is standard across universities.

For this module, you will complete four weeks of online learning. Each week of online content takes about 7 hours to complete and can be completed at any time during that week to fit around your other commitments.

We usually have an optional group Zoom on the Wednesday evening of week 2 or 3 to start to get to know each other and ask any questions thus far.

There are some essential tasks that need to be completed during the online learning weeks. We build on our learning form these during three consecutive teaching days on Zoom. These usually happen on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – please contact us if you need the dates to plan your time. These days run form 09:00-17:00 each day, with lots of breaks away from the screen during the day.

The remainder of the 300 hours is allocated to your independent study and completion of the coursework.

**What format does the teaching take?**

As most students are in employment and located some distance to the university, this module enables remote study using e-learning technology via our online learning platform Moodle and teaching days on Zoom (see above). The Zoom teaching days include; live lectures from various contributors, case based discussions and tasks in ‘break out’ groups.

**Do I need to be currently working in clinical practice to complete the module?**

Yes or you could manage if you were on a temporary break from an MSK clinical role eg maternity/paternity leave.

**Is it possible to fit study around work and home commitments?**

The postgraduate musculoskeletal team at The University of Essex prioritise enabling study and minimising barriers; tutors will aim to be flexible with tutorial times and responsive to individual's clinical, professional, and personal circumstances.

**Does this module contribute to a larger award, or can I complete it as a standalone?**

This module enables achievement of 30 credits at level 7 i.e. Masters level. It can be completed as a standalone module or as part of an award pathway. There are many pathways that this module may be part of including:

[Postgraduate Certificate in First Contact Musculoskeletal Practice](https://www.essex.ac.uk/courses/pg01450/1/postgraduate-certificate-first-contact-musculoskeletal-practice)

[Postgraduate Diploma and MSc in Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice](https://www.essex.ac.uk/courses/pg00438/1/msc-advanced-musculoskeletal-assessment-and-practice)

[Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and MSc in Musculoskeletal Practice](https://www.essex.ac.uk/courses/pg01500/2/postgraduate-diploma-musculoskeletal-practice)

**Is this an Health Education England (HEE) accredited route to First Contact Practice?**

Yes, our two FCP modules have been ‘Centre Recognised’. The Centre for Advancing Practice have released a self-declaration of compliance process, this has verified the alignment of our modules to The Roadmap. Clinicians who have completed our modules will be able to report this to Health Education England. Significantly, this verification provides evidence to employers that their employees have accessed appropriate training – this is a CQC requirement.

Our modules and pathways are accredited by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

**Is this module aligned with Advanced Clinical Practice?**

Yes, this module is suitable for anyone working within or towards Advanced Clinical Practice. Our MSc in Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice has been designed to align with all four pillars of Advanced Clinical Practice. We have applied to Health Education England for this MSc to be accredited as an ACP MSc. We are due to submit our full application in May 2023. This module can contribute to the ‘Clinical’ pillar of the MSc in Advance Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice.

**When does this module take place and how do I apply?**

This module takes place twice a year starting in February and October. The application form can be found in the ‘What’s Next’ tab on the [module webpage](https://www.essex.ac.uk/short-courses/se761/7/first-contact-musculoskeletal-practice).

**Registration, fees and funding**

Students can register for the module any time up to three weeks before the module start date. Sometimes modules fill up quickly so best to get your application in as soon as you can. Places are limited to a maximum of 30 students per cohort. A link to the online registration system will be emailed to all students along with other relevant information.

Module fees can be found in the ‘Fees and funding’ tab on the [module webpage](https://www.essex.ac.uk/short-courses/se761/7/first-contact-musculoskeletal-practice)

Employer funded students will need to provide full employer details when requested, there will be a form to complete and return.

Self-funded students will pay in full when registering online.

If you have further queries, please contact Sophie Young the MSK Team Administrator: [msk@essex.ac.uk](mailto:msk@essex.ac.uk) or Caroline Kerry the Module Lead: [cpkerr@essex.ac.uk](mailto:cpkerr@essex.ac.uk)

Useful Links:

Online module calendar <https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/sport-rehabilitation-and-exercise-sciences/cpd/module-calendar>

Main MSK CPD Webpage <https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/sport-rehabilitation-and-exercise-sciences/cpd>