**FAQ’s**

**SE786 – Evaluation of Clinical Practice for First Contact Musculoskeletal Practitioners**

**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:

* are employed in a First Contact MSK Practice (FCP) role in the United Kingdom
* have completed module SE761 or an alternative process for Stage 1 of Health Education England’s Roadmap to Practce
* want to further enhance/consolidate their understanding of First Contact Musculoskeletal Practice
* want to evidence their clinical capability as a FCP in the musculoskeletal specialism

This module maps to Stage 2 of the Health Education England Roadmap to Practice for First Contact Practice. Module SE761 ‘First Contact Musculoskeletal Practice’ maps to Stage 1 of the Roadmap.

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, most of your learning will be in the clinical environment and will include mentored practice. A minimum of 37 hours clinical observation is required to complete this module’s assessment. The student must have a named **clinical mentor** to register on this module, every effort has been made to **minimise the workload for this individual**. In total, the student must evidence 100 hours of clinical learning, this is likely to involve a range of activities: shadowing other practice staff, (GPs, nurses, receptionists, social prescribers), time in secondary care, peer learning (case discussions etc) and independent learning in the clinical environment. The remainder of the 300 hours is allocated to your independent study and completion of the coursework.

**Who can be a clinical mentor?**

The clinical mentor **does not need** to be Roadmap Supervisor trained. The mentor needs to be a healthcare professional employed in primary care with access to a musculoskeletal caseload. They should be a GP, an Advanced Physiotherapist Practitioner employed as a FCP, a FCP who has completed both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of The Roadmap or an alternatively qualified individual, (please contact the module lead to discuss). Students are encouraged to access more than one mentor to benefit from diverse skills and learning opportunities. The clinical mentor(s) do not undertake the summative assessment for this module, students use their mentored practice and the learning undertaken during it to inform their coursework. The coursework is assessed by the university.

**What format does the teaching take?**

The learning is predominantly in the workplace but is supported by the university. 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 discussion sessions on Zoom. The Zoom sessions are typically scheduled for Wednesday evenings, (approximately 8 sessins during the module).

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

Yes, you need to be either employed in primary care or access a placement in primary care.

**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 a 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/se786/7/evaluation-of-clinical-practice-for-first-contact-musculoskeletal-practitioners).

**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/se786/7/evaluation-of-clinical-practice-for-first-contact-musculoskeletal-practitioners)

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 or Sue Innes, the Module Lead: inness@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>