This postgraduate certificate offers the physiotherapist a range of opportunities to develop theoretical knowledge and practical skills relevant to their role in continence care and pelvic floor dysfunction, the chance to extend and enhance their clinical practice and career pathway. This award will be of benefit to physiotherapists working in the specialty of continence care in a variety of health care settings. This is currently the only programme of its kind in the UK offering this specialist area of study, and will be of benefit for those therapists seeking to add to their CPD portfolio.

The award of Postgraduate Certificate: Continence for Physiotherapists requires successful completion of two 30 credit core modules. This pathway forms part of the MSc Rehabilitation Studies programme and articulates with the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies of the University. Therefore it is possible to extend study and undertake additional modules towards the award of MSc Rehabilitation Studies with an endorsement of Continence for if this includes an extended piece of work (final stage 60-credit module) in the subject area of continence.

Members from the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Women’s Health (ACPWH) were involved with the development and design of the programme and currently provide teaching and tutorial support to students registered on the postgraduate Certificate. ACPWH is a specific interest group of the chartered society of Physiotherapy. Membership of ACPWH is on two levels – either as an associate or full member. Full membership is open to physiotherapists who have completed a recognised programme of study and completed a number of clinical components. On successful completion of this programme of study students may apply for full membership of ACPWH.

The course is delivered by means of residential blocks and in an appropriate work-based setting together with guided distance learning. The work-based learning component comprises of up to 150 hours of clinical practice, which will include the assessment, examination and treatment of patients with bladder and bowel dysfunction in the clinical setting together with visits to specialist clinics, for example urology and gynaecology out-patient clinics. Each student will be allocated both a personal tutor and a clinical mentor who is conversant with the requirements of the course and methods of education and assessment at Master's level.

A  Programme aims

This programme aims to:

A1 Provide a flexible, part time route of study for qualified physiotherapists, with a focus on continence care, and pelvic floor, bladder and bowel dysfunction.
A2 Provide opportunities for shared learning with other healthcare practitioners.
A3 Develop critical thinking and synthesis to inform and advance clinical practice and patient rehabilitation.
A4 Develop skills for clinical leadership and management in order to implement change and provide evidence-based practice.
A5 Enhance and develop a range of clinical skills, to maintain quality of continence care for service users.
A6 Develop critical appraisal skills in relation to evidence based practice (EBP).
A7 Develop learning and communication skills through reflective practice, research and clinical reasoning.
A8 Meet the requirements for membership of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Women’s Health (ACPWH).
A9 Develop the skills required for further study or research in the area of continence care and pelvic floor dysfunction.

B  Programme learning outcomes

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to
PGCert: Continence for Physiotherapists

B1 Subject Knowledge and Skills
B1.1 Critically evaluate the anatomy, biomechanics, physiology, pathology and psychology relevant to the pelvic floor, bladder and bowel dysfunction and integrate this to enhance physiotherapeutic practice in continence care.
B1.2 Adapt and modify assessment and treatment techniques to meet the specific needs of continence care spanning all stages of life, taking into account the diverse needs of the service-user in terms of socio-economic issues, culture, religion and gender.
B1.3 Act with autonomy using clinical reasoning to determine the most appropriate management and / or rehabilitation strategies related to current best available evidence.
B1.4 Synthesise knowledge and practice in order to apply specific physiotherapy techniques with respect to the relevant management and rehabilitation of normal function and dysfunction to a standard that meets the requirements of both practitioners and service users.
B1.5 With other health care professionals, employ a holistic and patient-centred approach to promote the health of the individual including educating people about modifiable risk factors, in order to promote health and well-being.

B1.6 Competently assess, plan and execute appropriate physiotherapy techniques relevant to the pelvic floor, bladder and bowel dysfunction.

B2 Core Academic Skills
B2.1 Analyse and resolve complex clinical problems.
B2.2 Generate hypotheses and formulate appropriate management plans for the patient with bladder and bowel dysfunction.
B2.3 Demonstrate an evidence - based approach to clinical reasoning through the ability to identify, analyse and interpret the current best available evidence and apply this to practice of continence care using appropriate assessment and therapeutic intervention skills.

B3 Personal & Key Skills
B3.1 Demonstrate reflective practice, time and change management, leadership and organisational skills both independently and within the multi-disciplinary team.
B3.2 Implement effective written and verbal communication skills, demonstrating advanced problem solving and Communication & Information Technology (C&IT) skills.

C The Curriculum
The course is modular and part-time in nature. You will study two core 30 credit modules (units) Continence Theory for Physiotherapists (HP-New) and Continence Practice for Physiotherapists (HP-New) amounting to 60 credits at Masters’ level.

D Learning Teaching and Assessment Strategies
A variety of learning, teaching and assessment strategies are employed including lead lectures, seminars, peer group presentations and clinical reasoning and self-directed study to encourage independence and development of critical thought.

Outcomes B1.1 – B1.2 will be addressed through critical appraisal of papers, tutorials and practical workshops in small groups and through the Virtual Learning environment (VLE) B1.2-B1.6 through practical workshops, clinical practice, discussion using case studies, reflection on practice and as a result of the synthesis of new information from clinical specialists in lead lectures. B2.1 will be core to all learning activities whether individually or through tutorials or small group activities. Outcomes B2.2- B2.3 will be facilitated primarily as a result of the 150 hours of clinical practice but also through activities such as discussion of case studies. B. 1 –B3.2 will be achieved in all teaching and learning activities covering both the theory and practice modules. B3.2 will be achieved, for example, in the assessment and examination of the patient with bladder and bowel dysfunction communication skills must be sensitive as this is often a very distressing problem for the patient and their families. Both formal and informal feedback will help guide and facilitate the development of independent learning, time management and profession-specific skills to enable the individual to influence and lead in the development of professional practice, addressing all the learning outcomes.

You will be required to undertake a considerable amount of self directed study away from the University, making use of the virtual learning environment (VLE) for teaching, learning and communication with peers and tutors via discussion.
groups. The directed study will include advanced literature searching, critical appraisal of papers, revision of relevant anatomy and physiology and preparation for all forms of assessment. The directed study hours for Continence Practice for Physiotherapists module will be used mainly for the critical discussion on how undertaking the clinical visits and observational sessions has advanced and informed the student’s practice and preparation for the clinical examinations.

The assessment strategies for each of the units are varied and will allow for the students’ differing learning styles and to assess the achievement of all the learning outcomes. B1.1 will be addressed in the presentation and in the clinical examinations, B1.2 – B1.3 will be addressed primarily in the clinical examinations. B1.4-B1.5 will be addressed in clinical practice, by the examinations and批判性讨论 of the clinical visits and observational sessions. B2.1 – B2.3 are core learning outcomes, which will be addressed in all forms of assessment. B2.2 will be particularly assessed in the clinical examinations. B3.1- B3.2 are core learning outcomes which will be developed during the theoretical and practice elements of the course as a result of both formative and summative methods of assessment.

Students will be required to undertake directed study for both modules. This will involve critical revision of relevant anatomy, pathophysiology, advanced literature searches and critical appraisal, which may be used for completion of all forms of assessment and in preparation for the clinical component.

E Admission Requirements

These are in accordance with the University of Bradford's admission requirements and you should demonstrate that you:

- Hold a relevant professional qualification normally at Bachelors degree level (Ordinary or Honours) or Level 3 equivalent.
- That you are a physiotherapist registered with the Health Professions Council (HPC) if you are intending to undertake the practice module
- Normally have two years post qualification experience
- Normally be working in the field of women’s health and / or continence care
- Have access to appropriate clinical practice whilst undertaking the module (practice module only).  
- Supply written support from your manager if supported by the Yorkshire and Humber SHA or evidence of support from an alternative sponsor where relevant.

Students from outside the UK/EU must also meet the following requirements:

- Meet the current visa and entry requirements for study in the UK.
- For Overseas students whose first language is not English you must satisfy the University that you meet the International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) overall band of at least 6.5.

F Admissions Policy

The University welcomes applications from all potential students regardless of their previous academic experience. The University of Bradford has always encouraged applications from students with disabilities, and these will be considered on the same academic grounds as are applied to all applicants. If you have some form of disability you may contact the programme leader before you apply. For more information you may also contact the disability office telephone: 01274 233739 or email: disabilities@bradford.ac.uk

You may be permitted to import specific academic credit for prior certificated and/or experiential learning (APEL or APCL), subject to the conditions and regulations of the University of Bradford.

Admission is on the basis of submission of an application form, curriculum vitae, letter of support from your physiotherapy manager and possible advisory interview. An advisory interview may be used to discuss the content and expectations of the programme. The letter from your physiotherapy manager should indicate that support will be given to undertake an appropriate period of clinical practice (practice module only).

G Progression

The assessment regulations are in accordance with the University of Bradford’s Regulations and Ordinances covering Postgraduate Taught courses. A waiver has been obtained requiring that students must achieve a minimum pass mark of 40% for all elements of the assessment.

To be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate, you must achieve at least 40.0% in all individual units. If you attain an overall average of at least 60.0% in the initial attempt in the assessments for the units concerned you will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate with Merit and if you achieve over 70.0% in the initial attempt in the assessments for the units concerned you will be eligible for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate with Distinction. After completing the Postgraduate certificate you may wish to register for the Postgraduate diploma or MSc course. In this case a maximum of 20 credits gained at level 3 can contribute to the final award.
For eligibility for membership of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Women’s Health (ACPWH) you must successfully complete all elements of the theory and practice of continence for physiotherapists modules.

H  Student Support and Guidance

The postgraduate Certificate: continence for physiotherapists has a dedicated course co-ordinator and module leaders, supported by other lecturers and experts in the field as well as support from the administrative team. There is excellent support from the Learning Support Service (LSS) within the School of Health Studies together with a well–stocked library and electronic journals. The subject Librarian and other members of the LSS provide additional support including help with literature searching. Use is made of the virtual learning environment which includes a large range of supporting electronic learning materials. Students are encouraged to make use of the Learner Development Unit (LDU) and take advantage of a range of short courses which are available to all students.

Each student is allocated a personal tutor and at induction will receive or have access to all course and module handbooks. The personal tutor and / or module leader will provide regular feedback on the students’ performance using standardised assessment feedback forms. Students will also be encouraged to complete student self assessments of their work prior to submission.

During attendance at the taught residential blocks, tutors will be available for both individual and group tutorials. At the end of each residential block students will be able to feedback on the content and organisation of the module which will help to inform future residential blocks. Each student will also be allocated a clinical mentor for the practice module who will be responsible for facilitating clinical practice, undertaking assessments as well as providing tutorial support.

Students are also able to evaluate each of the modules via unit (module) and stage (course) evaluation forms as well as informal feedback to the course team at the end of each module. This currently forms the basis for the staff student liaison committee. These comments are analysed and discussed by the course team at the end of semester and end of year review meetings. The findings are reported in the postgraduate Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

I  How to obtain further information

For application forms and further information contact the School of Health Studies Recruitment:
email: soh-recruitment@bradford.ac.uk
tel: 01274 236367.
You may be eligible to apply for funding in the form of an educational award from the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP), ACPWH or your local CSP Branch/Board.

June 2010
The details provided above are subject to change in line with developments in University policy.