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MSc Advanced Physiotherapy
Manchester Metropolitan University
MSc Award Winner 2021

I have recently completed a MSc in Advanced Physiotherapy at Manchester Metropolitan University, between 2021-2024. Being awarded a MSc bursary by the MACP was particularly appreciated as I commuted from Ireland to the UK in order to attend lectures, examinations and 2 clinical placements.

Completing this MSc, with the assistance of an MACP bursary, has significantly enhanced my clinical reasoning skills and my knowledge of evidence-based practice across musculoskeletal assessment and treatment. My learning from upper and lower quadrant taught modules was further consolidated across two corresponding clinical placements. Sharing this knowledge with my colleagues in my own workplace, through in-service training presentations, journal clubs and supervision of junior staff has also helped to enhance the clinical skills of my peers in my own workplace.

This programme has also expanded my knowledge of other musculoskeletal sub-specialities which I was less familiar with through completing the First Contact Practice and Advanced Practice module. This module exposed me to clinical areas I was less experienced in such as rheumatology and interpreting blood tests. I have also developed new knowledge of first contact practice and imaging referrals, which I gained further experience of in my clinical placements.

My own confidence in my clinical abilities has been cemented through thorough examination across written assignments, practical exams, case studies, presentations and clinical placements. During the course of this MSc programme I was successful in securing a promotion in my own workplace, I believe that completing this programme was a significant factor in securing this post.

In addition to my clinical learning, I also significantly developed my research skills in terms of knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods and critical appraisal skills. I also gained experience of completing a research proposal, a research ethics application and an empirical research study, as part of my research methods and dissertation modules. I completed an empirical research study as part of my dissertation titled 'Patients' Experiences of a Virtual Fracture Assessment Clinic (vFAC) Pathway: A Phenomenology Study'. I am currently in the process of submitting a manuscript of this study to an academic journal in the hope of publication. The support of MACP will be acknowledged in all publications and presentations associated with this study.