Information for Potential Applicants to Graduate Entry Masters (GEM) in Physiotherapy (Course Code MG-PHYTH)

Applications close on 31 August each year for entry into the course the following year. This date is non-negotiable and applications received after this date are rejected. Notification of outcome of application will be made by the end of October. We typically receive about 120-150 applications for approximately 25 places, so it is always fairly competitive. We are looking for students who have a course weighted average (CWA) that is above 70, but also take into consideration the applicant's personal statement and references. We don't distinguish between international and domestic applicants and there are no quotas. However, applicants with English as an additional language must achieve an IELTS score of 7.0 or greater with no band less than 7.0 (or equivalent, eg TOEFL total of 101), in order to enter this course. Due to the volume of enquiries received, we are unable to make individual appointments to meet with potential applicants, but are always available to answer questions during Curtin’s Open Day. If you want to learn more about the profession, the School of Physiotherapy & Exercise Science and the courses we offer, come along to the Open Day. The School will be open all day and there will be displays, activities and students and staff available to chat to potential students. I will be working the whole day to talk specifically to people about the GEM course. The Director of Entry Level Courses will also be available and we are both always delighted to meet potential students.

The application process involves the following:

1. Completion of an undergraduate degree with CWA ≥70 (or equivalent). Certified academic transcripts (both sides) are required.
2. Completion of three, BSc equivalent (ie Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) level 7), pre-requisite subjects (units) – human musculoskeletal anatomy, human biology/physiology and health research methods or evidence-based practice. Study of psychology is desirable. It is essential that excellent marks are achieved in these subjects and that the anatomy unit that you complete is solely about the musculoskeletal system, ie bones, joints and muscles, and not about cells, embryology or a general overview of the whole body. You must provide evidence in the form of University Unit Outlines, (ie not a ‘Word doc’ that is your own interpretation or condensed version), that you have studied the equivalent of a whole semester of human musculoskeletal anatomy. We will not accept applicants who have completed anatomy units that are a systematic overview of the whole body that only include two or three weeks on bones, joints and muscles or units that have been studied online with no laboratory content. Applications are rejected as incomplete if they do not contain the unit outlines that have been requested.
3. A personal statement supporting your application. This is your opportunity to provide us with an insight as to who you are as a person, what you know about the profession and why you would like to become a physiotherapist.
4. Two written references.

Applications that are incomplete will not be reviewed. Applicants with physiotherapy degrees that do not allow registration to practice in Australia, eg overseas trained physiotherapists, should apply to the abbreviated BSc program. This course is of shorter duration and therefore the total cost is lower.

It is possible to submit an application without having completed the pre-requisite subjects as long as you are enrolled in appropriate units and anticipate completion before the GEM course commences. For domestic students, one method of completing the pre-requisite units is at Curtin via the Health Sciences Graduate Entry Foundation Course (EN-GEHLTH). Enrolment in this course does not mean that you are enrolled in Physiotherapy (or any other Health Sciences degree), nor does it in any way guarantee you a place. It is also not the only method of satisfying the pre-requisite subject requirements. The units that meet the pre-requisite requirements are Functional Anatomy (HUMB1002), Human Structure & Function (HUMB1000), Evidence Informed Health Practice (CMHL1001) and Introduction to Psychology (PSYC1000). An offer of a place in the Physiotherapy GEM course would be conditional on the relevant units being completed with excellent marks. Go to the Curtin website for further details about the Foundation Course. You do
not need to satisfy the requirements for a Senior First Aid Certificate, Aquatic Rescue Award or criminal record screening at the time of application. These are required only if accepted into the program prior to enrolment into Semester 1 units of study.

Resumes are currently not required as part of the application process and are therefore not reviewed. All of the forms required for application are available via the Curtin University website. Please also use the website to find out information about the fees for this course. As this is a post-graduate course, only full domestic fee paying places are offered to domestic students.

It is not possible to defer an offer for this course unless there are exceptional circumstances. If accepted, the course will commence in the first week of January. The first unit (HUMB5000) is a pass/fail unit that it is completed in Study Period 1 and is essential to pass in order to progress into Semester 1. This unit is run within the School and is full-time for seven weeks. The GEM students then study alongside the second year students of the BSc course. The Masters course lasts for approximately two years and six months. It is only available on a full-time basis, whereas the BSc course is four years and the first year may be available on a part-time basis. The GEM students complete mandatory clinical placements during university breaks and attendance at university is required for the majority of each week, therefore the only employment that it is possible to sustain during the GEM course is that which you can achieve in the evenings and/or at weekends. Although the content between the courses is slightly different, the physiotherapy qualification is the same whether you complete the Masters or BSc course and both degrees enable you to apply for registration with the Physiotherapy Board of Australia.

Some post-graduate students who don't have the marks for the Masters course or haven't completed the pre-requisite units apply to the BSc course (B-PHYTH). If application to BSc is successful and if first year marks are outstanding, BSc students are eligible to apply to the Masters course. Hence it is worth applying for both courses if you really are serious about physiotherapy. Domestic students applying for the BSc course when a previous undergraduate degree has been completed outside Curtin apply via TISC (link available via the ‘Future Students’ page on the Curtin website). If the degree was completed at Curtin, application is via ‘course switch’. Credit for recognised learning (CRL) for both courses is assessed on an individual basis once admitted into a course. Credit for units in the Masters course will only be granted for subjects studied at Masters level (ie AQF level 9), not BSc.

We are strict about marks and don't confirm offers for the GEM course until we have seen academic transcripts. The School has learned from experience that unless students have demonstrated a high level of academic ability, they will struggle with the pace at which the material is delivered during this program of study.

Hope that helps and hasn't put you off! Please do contact me if you have any further questions.

Regards,

Kate

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