

## **Structure of the bachelor's degree course Physiotherapy (Bachelor of Science) at the University of Applied Sciences Kiel**

**The designated standard period of study is nine semesters (180 cp). On successfully completing the bachelor's degree Physiotherapy, the University of Applied Sciences Kiel awards the degree "Bachelor of Science" (B.Sc.).**

### **Qualification objectives for the bachelor's degree course Physiotherapy**

The degree course is oriented towards the acquisition of basic theoretical and methodical principles, knowledge on health care institutions, as well as principles of body structures and body functions (e.g. anatomy, physiology). The graduates are aware of theoretical models about health and diseases (salutogenesis, pathogenesis, biopsychosocial model), as well as concepts on health promotion and health prevention. Furthermore, they can properly and adequately apply physiotherapeutical methods and procedures. Additionally, they can identify and consider the professional and interdisciplinary requirements concerning the handling of patients from different cultures in their daily working practice. Correspondingly, they possess soft skills and competences in health sciences that support them in their daily working practice, e.g. in outpatient and inpatient care, in health promotion and prevention, as well as rehabilitation and palliative care.

The qualification objectives are implanted via five main study areas:

#### ***Study area 1: Physiotherapy as a subject of scientific research***

The study area "Physiotherapy as a subject of scientific research" contains principles of body structures and body functions (module 1 and 2), as well as applied physiology and physics as the theoretical foundations of movement and training (module 3). In addition to the perspective of conventional medicine, the students can take the perspective of public health sciences, and recognize physiotherapy as part of general health care provision. They are aware of opportunities and risks concerning personal factors and environmental conditions in the process of promoting health (module 6). The competences of module 1 to 3 are acquired as part of the training at the responsible vocational school. Module 6 complements the understanding of physical therapy as an independent field of applied science.

#### ***Study area 2: Physiotherapy and its reference sciences***

Physiotherapy as a scientific discipline has connections to different reference disciplines. The traditional scientific and medical approach is complemented by perspectives from the field of social sciences, thus constituting the science of applied physiotherapy. In the study area "Physiotherapy and its reference sciences", the students acquire principles of different medical sub-disciplines (specialised medicine) and fields of action (module 4). Moreover, the following reference disciplines of physiotherapy are represented: kinesiology, psychology and pedagogy (module 7), key issues of social work (module 15). In addition to the knowledge transfer of theoretical concepts and models, focus is laid on the social and personal competences, i.e. communication and conflict work and therefore, the competence of utilising theoretical knowledge.

### ***Study area 3: Professional conduct and methodology***

The study area „Professional conduct and methodology” contains the acquisition of a reflexive professionalism. Moreover, the students acquire the competence to act as multipliers in the development of concepts in health promotion for institutions, and can represent their knowledge in scientific discourses with experts from other scientific fields. Furthermore, the study area covers techniques of hypothesising and hypothesis testing of therapeutic anamnesis and intervention (clinical reasoning), the reflexion of therapeutic processes and interpersonal interactions, and competences in intra- and interpersonal communication in different fields of action (module 5, 8). Essential competences and knowledge of qualified physiotherapists are deepened via clinical work placements and stays abroad. Quality assurance is realised by different behavioural dimensions: management of therapeutic processes and evidence based approaches of therapeutic processes (EBM = evidence based medicine; EBP = evidence based physiotherapy). Findings based on scientific fundamentals can be evaluated and related to the professional practice. Structural and cultural differences (social deprivation, gender, ethnicity) are reflected and productively integrated into both, therapeutic decisions and consultations. The following modules are part of the study area: clinical work placements (module 5), professional practice and quality assurance (module 9), practical work and reflections (module 13), international physiotherapy (module 14).

### ***Study area 4: Work context and management***

In the study area „Work context and management”, students acquire knowledge about their work in different institutions (outpatient care, hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, enterprises etc.), as well as management tasks (module 8). To be capable on acting professionally in various contexts, a clear and distinct orientation is required: Relevant knowledge about legal and economical frameworks in the health care sector, as well as the consideration of ethical standards contribute to the development of a professional role (module 12). The skill acquisition aims at a concrete implementation via project and concept development, as well as interdisciplinary work (module 11).

### ***Study area 5: Academic work / thesis***

The study area „Academic work / thesis” enables the students for performing academic work by themselves (module 10). They are aware of basic methodological principles of qualitative and quantitative research. Furthermore, they possess knowledge on statistical principles, data analysis and means for the presentation and dissemination of their results. Scientific techniques can be utilised. In their bachelor thesis (module 16), the students prepare a scientific thesis in the area of physiotherapy or health promotion applying scientific methods and procedures. In a subsequent colloquium, they show their capabilities in representing their work in both, a critical and confident way. In accordance with the bachelor level (qualification framework by the KMK 2005), students can understand scientific research and, with the help of a compulsory seminar, can work on their first independent research project (bachelor thesis).

## Tabular curriculum of the bachelor's degree course Physiotherapy

Lfd.Nr.	Module number	Module		Credit points (cp)	Semester periods per week	Term
<b>Compulsory modules of the degree program <sup>1)</sup></b>						
1	4.51.00	Module P1 Principles of body structures		10 <sup>2)</sup>		1-2
2	4.52.00	Module P2 Principles of body functions		10 <sup>2)</sup>		1-4
3	4.53.00	Module P3 Principles of movement and training		10 <sup>2)</sup>		3-4
4	4.54.00	Module P4 Medical specialities		5 <sup>2)</sup>		5-6
5	4.51.00	Module P5 Clinical work placements		10 <sup>2)</sup>		5-6
6	4.56.00	Module P6 Applied science of physiotherapy		10	6	1-2
7	4.57.00	Module P7 Reference disciplines of physiotherapy		10	8	3-4
8	4.58.00	Module P8 Management in an economic-political context		10	8	5-6
9	4.59.00 <i>Vers. A</i>	Module P9 Professional practice and quality assurance		15	6	7
10	4.60.00	Module P10 Methods and procedures in physiotherapy research		15	6	7-8
11	4.61.00	Module P11 Working in organisations		15	6	7-8
12	4.62.00	Module P12 Law and ethics		5	3	7
13	4.63.00	Module P13 Practical work and reflections		15	4	8-9
14	4.64.00	Module P14 International physiotherapy		10	4	8
15	4.65.00	Module P15 <b>Electables according to §1 Abs. 3 PVO <sup>3)</sup></b>		15	6	9
			In total:	<b>165</b>		
16	4.66.00	Thesis		12	2	9
17	4.66.00	Colloquium		3		
			<b>In total:</b>	<b>180</b>		

- 1) Modules are compulsory for all students.
- 2) The first three semesters are studied in the dual vocational training system, i.e. practical training, and training at a cooperating vocational school for physiotherapy.
- 3) "Interdisciplinary teaching", obligatory, credit transfer from 5 CP according to § 4 Abs. 2 PVO.