

## The Master of Science in Physiotherapy (MSc PT) program

The Master of Science in Physiotherapy (MSc PT) program started at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) in September 2011. The program attracts ambitious students and is highly successful. The program accepts about 35 students annually with a high degree of completion. A survey covering student enrolled the first two years showed that ~45% of students co-authored research papers in international journals based on data from their master thesis, and about 20% of students have later been enrolled in PhD-programs at universities across Denmark.

To ensure we can continue to meet the expectations from our most ambitious students at the master program in physiotherapy the talent track started in September 2018.

### Overall aim

To support ambitious students in achieving some of the core competencies needed for a successful academic career.

Completion of the talent program will provide the student with the skills listed below.

Theoretical, academic skills:

- Improved understanding of what level of quality is required for publication in high impact scientific journals
- Improved understanding of the role of social and other media in disseminating research findings
- Improved strategic thinking with regards to academic life

Practical, didactical skills:

- Presentation of research data for PhD-students and staff
- Managing a submission process of an abstract for a congress or alike
- Development of strategic plan for dissemination of research results
- Managing posting of research results on social media

### *Recruitment Process*

The talent track is advertised during the introductory days at the Master in Physiotherapy. Students applying are screened (stage 1) based on a personal letter (1 page) and their CV (1 page + bachelor certificate with grades). Those deemed eligible in the screening stage submit a short written assignment (2 pages, stage 2). The best applicants, based on stage 1 and 2 will be invited for a semi-structured personal interview (about 30 minutes in English, stage 3) to further explore their motivation and work behaviour.

Responsible for the selection process is talent program lead Professor Ewa Roos, Professor Jonas Thorlund and Associate professor Carsten Juhl, Research Unit for Musculoskeletal Function and

Physiotherapy. These three senior researchers also serve as the main mentors for the students (max 3) accepted into the talent track.

*Overview of application process (specific deadlines are advertised each year)*

- Oral presentation of the talent program during the introductory days
- Stage 1: Written application deadline
- Response + Written assignment
- Stage 2: Deadline written assignment
- Response on written assignment
- Stage 3: Interviews (in English)

*Format and content*

The course language is English since this is the preferred language in the field, both internationally and in our research unit. Students will be assigned a mentor and meet regularly, individually and in groups in face-to-face or internet seminars hosted by the three mentors. These meetings have the character of mentorship sessions and achieving competencies of relevance for a successful academic career (including strategic thinking with regards to academic life). Throughout PhD-students from the Research Unit for Musculoskeletal Function and Physiotherapy (FOF) will share their experiences and serve as role models.

Academic competencies include how to successfully plan and publish research findings in high-impact medical journals (such as The British Medical Journal - BMJ) and disseminate research findings to the public. To acquire knowledge and competencies in planning and publishing research the students are required to take extra curriculum in the form of free internet resources provided by for example BMJ Author Hub (examples include planning your research, writing your paper, choosing a journal, submitting your paper, promoting your paper and reviewing manuscripts).

Students will attend a course hosted by the research unit on how to use news and social media to increase dissemination and awareness of research. Students will be required to attend relevant FOF research group meetings including our “journal club” and “science lunches”. Students will be responsible for developing plans for disseminating primarily research findings from FOF using the research units Facebook-page and Twitter account.

Finally, students will be offered to join FOF-researchers when attending relevant (national) conferences. The students are expected to be engaged, proactive and work independently. Students will collaborate with senior researchers from FOF in their ongoing projects, as opposed to developing their own projects. The overall aim of these activities is to get a flair of contemporary academic life and what is required to become a PhD-student.

*List of content (2 years)*

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| 1. | Active participation in mentorships sessions | 1 ECTS |
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2.	Active participation in Journal Clubs and FOF-meetings	1 ECTS
3.	BMJ Author Hub (including presentation in journal club)	1 ECTS
4.	Data analysis and preparation of scientific abstract	3 ECTS
5.	Presentation (PowerPoint or poster) of own results at research seminar or at a national scientific conference	1 ECTS
6.	Participation in social media course, Development of dissemination plan for a specific research project/area, Conduct of dissemination plan via social media	3 ECTS
<b>Total</b>		<b>10 ECTS</b>

### *Evaluation*

The evaluation of the students will be done on an individual basis. While the main mentor will be responsible for evaluation of his/her student, at least one of the other mentors needs to be involved in the ongoing and final evaluation. This is to protect the student from the possible bias by a single evaluator and ensure a common level for acceptance across students.

Active participation in the mentorship sessions and other relevant listed FOF-activities is required. Presentation are to be given at FOF meetings of the student media dissemination plans and results of dissemination activities. Constructive feedback will be given by PhD-students and senior researchers in FOF. Successful completion of the talent track curriculum judged by the mentor group will be credited on the Master of Science in Physiotherapy diploma.

### *Attending national conference*

We aim at supporting the annual participation of a maximum of three (3) students at a national conference. We expect students to pay for travel and food expenses themselves.