



General questions on the Physiotherapy study programme:

Where could I find employment once I qualify as a Physiotherapist? / fields of employment for physiotherapists

Physiotherapists are trained to work in a number of different medical fields. In the different medical fields within a hospital, physiotherapists work closely with doctors, nurses and other therapeutic and medical members of staff. Working in outpatient physiotherapy, they often specialise in one or more fields. Additionally, they will find stimulating employment opportunities in prevention and health promotion fields (e.g. back health programmes, ergonomics in the work place, physical activity for obese people, fall prevention programmes). Potential employers include:

- outpatient clinics
- rehab centres
- acute care facilities
- health promotion and prevention (corporate health programmes)
- administrative jobs (e.g. with health insurance companies etc.)
- research (following further qualification through a master programme)
- teaching

What does an academically trained physiotherapist do?

- patient-focused therapeutic practice
- independent work in multi-professional teams
- continue on the academic path (master, ...)
- health management including prevention and health promotion
- counselling
- top athlete support
- management positions
- prepare for self-employment in your own clinic
- university teaching (education and further education)

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How is the study programme structured?

The programme is divided into foundation level and advanced level studies. During foundation level studies you will learn basic anatomy and physiology as well as some initial pathophysiological processes within the pathology field. You will also learn the first physiotherapeutical skills and practice these. Additionally, you will further develop your sound academic practice skills during your foundation level studies.

The advanced level studies will deepen and expand upon what you have already learned. Through practical work, you will hone the physiotherapy skills learned and tailor them to different pathologies. You will also acquire extensive physiotherapeutic treatment methods, from medical data collection and treatment planning and implementation to evaluation, all on the basis of sound academic knowledge. From the third semester onwards, theoretical and practical teaching units at Furtwangen University will alternate with blocks of practical work of several weeks' length. The state examination for physiotherapists takes place in the sixth semester. This allows you to work as a physiotherapist in Germany. The study programme will be completed after the seventh semester's bachelor thesis.

What qualification will I have following my studies at HFU?

State accreditation as physiotherapist (=professional licence) in semester six + Bachelor of Science (bachelor thesis) in semester seven.

Why study physiotherapy instead of German vocational training (*Ausbildung*)?

In Germany, this qualification is currently mostly obtained via a three-year vocational training at state-approved health education centres; there are only a few, usually fee-paying private universities which offer an equivalent *primärqualifizierendes**, undergraduate study programme which includes the professional licence. In contrast to Germany, both in Switzerland and in France an academic qualification is already a requirement for the specialised profession that is physiotherapy. At Furtwangen University you will receive two qualifications in one (Bachelor of Science + state- approved physiotherapist). You will receive the complete practical education, too, when you study with us. There are no tuition fees (you will only have to pay the semester fees). Following the successful completion of the physiotherapy bachelor programme, our graduates will not only be able to use physiotherapy treatment methods, techniques and skills, they will also be able to consider them from a scientific point of view and ask critical questions.

*the German term *primärqualifizierend* refers to a study programme through which health professionals obtain the qualification (through an examination recognised by the German state) to directly work in their chosen profession.

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What is special about Furtwangen University's physiotherapy study programme?

Furtwangen University's physiotherapy study programme is a *primärqualifizierendes** study programme. This means that you can obtain the licence to practice as a physiotherapist as well as the academic Bachelor of Science title without the need for a prior technical college education (Fachschulausbildung). Study and practical education content are closely linked in our programme.

Where does teaching take place?

Currently, teaching mostly takes place in our Freiburg study centre (Konrad-Goldmann-Straße 7), occasionally also in Furtwangen (O-building). Additionally, you will be deployed to different locations for your practical study blocks. You will receive a list of our cooperation partners in good time before the start of the practical block and you will be able to name your preferences.

Where should we live?

On four out of five days each week, teaching will be in Freiburg, about one day a week it will be in Furtwangen. You will have to decide for yourself whether to live in Freiburg, in the greater Freiburg region or in Furtwangen.

Will I need a car in order to be able to study physiotherapy?

A car will make trips between campuses and practical teaching locations easier. But it is not a requirement. For trips between Furtwangen and Freiburg carpooling or carsharing models can be used. Some of those of our practical education partners which are not easily reached by public transport offer the option of staying overnight.

When do studies begin?

You can begin your studies twice a year, either in the winter semester (October) or the summer semester (March).

How many study places are available?

In winter semester 65 study places are available, in summer semester there are 40 places.

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What academic qualification for I need to study?

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You will need a *Hochschulzugangsberechtigung* (= university entrance qualification, e.g. German *Abitur*, *Fachhochschulreife*). If you did not graduate from a German school, you will need to have your grades assessed and converted by the ASK in Konstanz. Details on this can be found here: https://www.hs-furtwangen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/ze_sa/Infoblaetter/Merkblatt_von_der_Bewerbung_bis_zur_Einschreibung_engl_2024-04-30.pdf

What does the study programme cost / are there any tuition fees?

The normal Furtwangen University semester fees apply for this programme. There are no additional monthly fees. You will only have to take care of your professional liability insurance (*Berufshaftpflichtversicherung*). For the entire practical education period (1st to 6th semester) this will currently be 75€ (as of: January 2024).

When and where will the practical training take place?

From the third semester onwards, teaching units at Furtwangen University will alternate with blocks of practical work of four to eight weeks' length at cooperating physiotherapy facilities. These include a number of rehab centres, practices and acute care facilities. The practical training will largely take place in institutions based in the *Schwarzwald-Oberrhein* (Black Forest and Upper Rhine) region, but it is also possible, in individual cases, to complete a practical block abroad. In accordance with the relevant regulations (*Ausbildungs- und Prüfungsverordnung für Physiotherapeut*innen*) you will complete a total of 1600 hours of practical training (just as during the established training).

Can I / do I have to look for a practical training place myself?

No, you do not have to look for a practical training place yourself. Furtwangen has a large number of partner institutes for the practical training. Places for practical training blocks are assigned by the university to ensure that your teachers can attend regularly there. The practical training department tries to take your personal situation (do you have a car? Are you able to stay with family / friends in the location) into account when assigning practical training places.

Is it possible to complete a semester abroad?

As students have to abide by the regulations laid down by the German state (*Ausbildungs- und Prüfungsordnung für Physiotherapeut*innen*) to acquire the state license to practice as a physiotherapist, it is currently difficult to

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organise a semester abroad prior to semester seven. For this reason, many students opt for a stay abroad during semester seven during which the bachelor thesis and a number of electives are scheduled.

Where can I find additional information?

You can find additional information online at: [Physiotherapy - two degrees in one | Furtwangen University \(hs-furtwangen.de\)](https://www.hs-furtwangen.de/physiotherapy)

Who can I contact with any questions I may have?

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Jeanette Neining-Witte (email: jeanette.neining-witte@hs-furtwangen.de; phone: +49 7723 920-2987)

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