



Univerza v Novém městě  
*University of Novo mesto*

**CLEAN COPY OF THE MASTER'S STUDY  
PROGRAMME 2<sup>nd</sup> CYCLE**

**PHYSIOTHERAPY,**

**implemented by University of Novo mesto Faculty of  
Health Sciences**

**Novo mesto, October 2021**

(change of assessment methods in elective courses – March 2024)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAMME .....	2
2	FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND COMPETENCES.....	2
2.1	Fundamental objectives of the study programme.....	2
2.2	General competences .....	3
2.3	Course-specific competences.....	4
3	INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF UNM FHS.....	4
4	CURRICULUM WITH ECTS (CREDIT POINTS) VALUES.....	5
4.1	Number of learning units with ECTS .....	6
4.2	Learning units and their inclusion in the programme structure .....	8
4.3	The ratio of lectures, tutorials and other organised forms of study .....	8
4.4	Practical training within the programme, implementation and ECTS .....	9
4.5	Parts of the study programme.....	10
5	ACCESS REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES IN THE EVENT OF ENROLMENT RESTRICTIONS.....	10
6	CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION OF SKILLS AND COMPETENCES GAINED BEFORE ENROLMENT.....	10
7	ASSESSMENT METHODS .....	11
8	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAMME.....	13
9	PROVISIONS ON TRANSFERS BETWEEN STUDY PROGRAMMES.....	13
10	MODES OF STUDY .....	14
11	REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF THE STUDY .....	14
12	REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETING THE PART OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME .....	14
13	PROFESSIONAL / ACADEMIC TITLE .....	14

## 1 GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

<b>Name of the study programme:</b>	Physiotherapy
<b>Cycle:</b>	second
<b>Type:</b>	master's study programme
<b>Duration:</b>	2 years
<b>ECTS amount:</b>	120 ECTS
<b>Klasius P-16:</b>	No. 0915 – Therapy and Rehabilitation
<b>Research area (Frascati classification):</b>	medical sciences
<b>SOK (Slovene classification framework)</b>	level 8
<b>EOK (European classification framework)</b>	level 7
<b>EOVK (European higher education classification framework)</b>	second cycle
<b>Accreditation:</b>	Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (NAKVIS), decision No. 6033-11/2021/8 on 30 September 2021

## 2 FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND COMPETENCES

### 2.1 Fundamental objectives of the study programme

The study program is designed to upgrade and extend the scope of knowledge, views, professional values and skills that the students obtained at the first cycle of education. The programme's objectives are a starting point for verifying students' learning outcomes.

Master's Degree Study Programme in Physiotherapy also allows students to acquire and extend knowledge from other similar scientific branches that support the development of physiotherapy as an official scientific discipline. The programme provides access to in-depth knowledge for original and authentic scientific research, which in turn opens up new possibilities to gain more insight into the field of physiotherapy. The required level of quality research is based on the merits necessary for official scientific publication and critical judgement of the results and their implementation in an appropriate professional environment. Students develop superior traits and competences in strategic thinking, problem solving in new or unusual work environments, critical judgement, and self-reflection.

The programme prepares students for the most difficult tasks in physiotherapy, namely how to organize their work, stay on top of the workload, managing the team, and also how to react responsibly to a wide variety of events in the society (such as the ageing population, sedentary lifestyles, and exponential incline of acute and

chronic diseases that require rehabilitation). At the same time, the programme deepens knowledge in very specific fields, namely musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, and pulmonary physiotherapy. It also brings an understanding of the importance of proper physical movement, upgrading it to a multidisciplinary science and bringing together movement competences with the fields of medicine and kinesiology on the one hand, and other educational and organisational practices on the other.

The starting point of the knowledge assessment of students is based on the actual end goals of the programme. Students who finish their Master's Degree Study Programme in Physiotherapy early levels or cycles, can continue with the programme to obtain their PhD in Physiotherapy.

## **2.2 General competences**

Students develop the following general competences during their studies:

- Critical and analytical thinking, fact synthesis, foreseeing solutions in the field of physiotherapy and other educational, social, humanistic, organisational, natural, mathematical and other studies and sciences (interdisciplinary advancement of knowledge).
- Use professional means of communication with experts from other scientific fields, and the ability to work in interprofessional teams.
- Trained to perform physiotherapy in the most difficult settings and to solve complex problems.
- Creative thinking and knowledge application in a professional setting.
- Be able to practice physiotherapy in a safe and high quality manner.
- Be able to organise, stay on top of, and control work in the field of physiotherapy.
- Be able to communicate in a national and international setting.
- Autonomous and responsible decision making.
- Apply standard research methods and analysis, procedures, processes and technologies.
- Didactic educational work based on general health care.
- Understand the need for change and implementation of innovations in professional environment.
- Autonomous writing of scientific texts.
- Maintain proper work ethics.
- Practice non-discriminatory culture and respect cross-cultural differences.
- Analyse and evaluate the need for change and implementing innovations, understand adjustments, be able to make decisions and accept the necessary consequences.
- Evaluate one's own knowledge and progress, deepen and improve it and not stagnate.

Master's Degree Study Programme in Physiotherapy thus allows the students to deepen their knowledge in many different fields and disciplines. Students are trained to search for new sources of knowledge in their field and to apply scientific research methods when solving problems in new or adjusted circumstances, to take responsibility when assuming a leadership role in the workplace, and to develop critical self-reflection and social and communication competences to be able to lead a team.

## **2.3 Course-specific competences**

During their studies, the students of the Master's study programme will develop course-specific competences and will be qualified for:

- Understanding physiotherapy as a scientific discipline and using its theoretic models and concepts.
- Evaluating the consequences with proven methods and physiotherapy techniques.
- Understanding and applying guidelines in clinical practices.
- Critical judgement of their patient's health status.
- Using various methods and techniques of nursing care in physiotherapy and rehabilitation depending on the evaluation of their patient's condition.
- Understanding and using theory of motor control.
- Understanding the development of different movement competences along with functional abilities, understanding the process of obtaining motor skills and movement competences.
- Understanding of motor skills and movement competences in all stages of the patient's life.
- Trained to properly and critically evaluate and analyse treatment of the muscular system, the patient's progress in their rehabilitation, and plan any potential future physiotherapy possibilities.
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of the diagnostic mechanisms, procedures and processes in conservative and operational treatment of injuries and diseases of the motor control and movement abilities.
- Trained to evaluate different cardiopulmonary pathological conditions, based on the understanding of their pathophysiological processes.
- Understanding of the mechanics of the basic elements of how motor control and movement abilities work.
- Using proprioception stimulation and other movement and respiratory techniques.
- Understanding of the plan and evaluating goals of orthopaedic patients' rehabilitation.
- Understanding of the processes of tissue regeneration and the ability to use the knowledge to plan physiotherapy practice in the process of rehabilitation.
- Understanding of the radiology methods, their use in physiotherapy, and how it affects the patients.
- Understanding of the neurological examination and evaluation of the patient.
- Using different approaches to optimise motor and movement competences after the patient sustained neurological injuries, and using these skills while training motor and sensor deficiencies in all functional activities.
- Synthesise information relevant to the evaluation of the patient in a multidisciplinary team, communicate in such a team, develop and maintain professional relationships between staff, patients, their families, specific groups and the community, etc.
- Professional performance and decision making in accordance with ethical and moral principles.

## **3 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF UNM FHS**

In 2009, the Faculty obtained the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) document for the first time, which represented the basis for international cooperation.

The Faculty actively establishes cooperation with related institutions in Slovenia and abroad.

The Faculty develops its international activity in four areas:

- organisation of international scientific conferences: The Faculty organises a scientific conference every year. The main theme of each annual conference is Holistic Approach to the Patient.
- exchange of students and higher education teachers/staff: The Faculty promotes international mobility of students and teachers/staff. In the framework of the Erasmus+ exchange programme, a number of mobility activities for students and higher education teachers are carried out each year.
- participation in international scientific-research projects: We plan and carry out joint research with our cooperating partner institutions.
- individual contacts of pedagogical workers, researchers and associates: Higher education teachers also attend scientific and professional meetings abroad.

All activities related to international cooperation are coordinated by the International Mobility Office. As we are aware of the fact that the visibility of the Faculty in the framework of the internationalisation is urgently needed, we use various dissemination methods to expand the awareness of the importance of mobility, both locally and globally.

#### **4 CURRICULUM WITH ECTS (CREDIT POINTS) VALUES**

The 2nd cycle study programme Physiotherapy is designed in accordance with the provisions of the Higher Education Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 32/2012, 40/2012, 57/2012, 109/2012, 85/2014, 75/2016, 61/2017, 65/2017 and 175/2020) and is assessed according to the Criteria for ECTS Credit Evaluation of Study Programmes (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 67/2019).

Within the total annual student workload, 20 % of the study time is allocated to organised study work. The main part of the student workload is based on individual student work, which is in accordance with the set objectives as well as general and course-specific competences. A large part of the study programme is allocated to research work.

#### 4.1 Number of learning units with ECTS

The following table shows the list of courses with learning unit names and the number of hours by individual semester and year, number of hours of organised study work, number of hours of individual student work, annual student workload and credit evaluation according to ECTS.

*Table 1:* Curriculum with ECTS (credit points) values of individual study obligations

No.	Learning unit	L	T	OSW	ISW	ASW	ECTS
<b>YEAR 1</b>							
1.	Research Methodology	30	30	60	180	240	8
2.	Evidence-Based Physiotherapy	30	30	60	180	240	8
3.	Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy	25	30	55	155	210	7
4.	Movement Competency	25	30	55	155	210	7
5.	Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Physiotherapy	30	30	60	180	240	8
6.	Education Management	30	30	60	180	240	8
7.	Quality and Safety in Healthcare	25	30	55	155	210	7
8.	Differential Diagnosis in Physiotherapy	25	30	55	155	210	7
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1340</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>YEAR 2</b>							
1.	Proprioceptive Stimulation of Mobility	30	30	60	180	240	8
2.	Healing and Regeneration Management	30	30	60	180	240	8
3.	Elective Course 1	25	30	55	155	210	7
4.	Elective Course 2	25	30	55	155	210	7
5.	Master's Degree Seminar	5	15	20	130	150	5
6.	Master's Degree Thesis				750	750	25
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>1550</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>60</b>

Year	L	T	OSW	ISW	ASW	ECTS
<b>first</b>	220	240	460	1340	1800	60
<b>second</b>	115	135	250	1550	1800	60
<b>TOTAL in hours:</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>2890</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>TOTAL IN %</b>			<b>20</b>	<b>80</b>		

**Abbreviations:**

Study obligations: L - lectures, T - tutorials, OSW – organised study work, ISW – individual student work, ASW – annual student workload, ECTS = European Credit Transfer System points.

The study programme lasts two years, i.e. four semesters. The programme comprises 3600 hours or 120 ECTS. It is implemented as organised study work (lectures, tutorials) and individual student work. It consists of the joint and elective part. The joint part of the programme is implemented in the first and second year. It comprises 10 courses (76 ECTS) and Master's Seminar (5 ECTS), and it is compulsory for all students.

The elective part of the programme is implemented in the second year, it comprises two elective courses (14 ECTS) and Master' thesis (25 ECTS).

An important part of the programme is intended for the development of competences in the field of research activity. It comprises 1 compulsory course (8 ECTS), project papers in the work environment or fundamental, applied, development research papers at all study courses, Master's Seminar (5 ECTS) and Master's thesis (25 ECTS).

### ***Elective section of the programme***

The program allows the planning of individual studies. Students may select among the elective units, offered by the faculty (elective courses, Master's thesis), in the amount of 39 ECTS.

### ***Elective courses***

The elective courses enable students to design their own study programme according to individual needs. They can choose two elective courses (14 ECTS). The two can be chosen from the elective courses of the Master's study programme *Physiotherapy* (internal selection) or decide for the external selection, which is enabled by the faculty within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme or other student mobility programmes. Students can choose between institutions (in Slovenia or abroad), with which the faculty has signed a bilateral agreement, as well as their accredited study programmes in the second cycle.

Depending on the interest and number of students, at least two elective courses are offered annually at the Faculty. The elective courses chosen by the majority of students are implemented.

*Table 2: Elective courses*

	<b>Elective course</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>OSW</b>	<b>ISW</b>	<b>ASW</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
1.	Pain Relief Therapy	25	30	55	155	210	7
2.	Orthopaedic Rehabilitation	25	30	55	155	210	7
3.	Healthcare Psychology	25	30	55	155	210	7
4.	Health and Psychosocial Impacts of Ageing	25	30	55	155	210	7
5.	Mentorship and Educational Processes in Healt	25	30	55	155	210	7
6.	Biomechanical Analysis	25	30	55	155	210	7
7.	Intercultural Communication	25	30	55	155	210	7
8.	Healthcare Management	25	30	55	155	210	7



## 4.2 Learning units and their inclusion in the programme structure

The study programme lasts two years, i.e. four semesters. Year 1 comprises 8 common study course (60 ECTS). Year 2 consists of: two common courses (16 ECTS), two elective courses (14 ECTS), Master's seminar (5 ECTS) and Master's thesis (25 ECTS). The study program comprises a total of 12 courses (90 ECTS), Master's seminar (5 ECTS) and Master's thesis (25 ECTS).

*Table 3:* Structure of the programme according to the content areas, obligation and number of ECTS.

Year	Structure of the programme	Number of courses	Scope in ECTS			ECTS TOTAL	in %
			Total	RW	ELECT		
1.	Common obligatory section of the programme	8	52	8		60	50
2.	Common obligatory section of the programme	2	16			16	13
	Elective course	2			14	14	12
	Master's Seminar	1		5		5	4
	Master's thesis	1		25		25	21
	<b>TOTAL IN ECTS:</b>		<b>68</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>TOTAL IN %</b>		57	32	11	100	

An important part of the programme is devoted to the development of competences in the field of research activity. Students develop these competences by attending the common course *Research Methodology* (8 ECTS), and by writing and defending the basic, applied or development research papers, which are part of organised and individual work at individual learning units, including Master's Seminar and Master's theses (30 ECTS).

## 4.3 The ratio of lectures, tutorials and other organised forms of study

The programme comprises 3600 hours (120 ECTS or 100%), of which 1800 hours (60 ECTS or 50%) in each year. Organised study work comprises 710 hours (20%), 47% of which are lectures and 53% are tutorials. Individual student work represents 80% of the programme.

*Table 4:* The ratio of lectures, seminars, tutorials and other organised forms of study in hours

Year	L	T	OSW	ISW	ASW	ECTS
first	225	240	465	1335	1800	60
second	150	165	315	1485	1800	60
<b>TOTAL in hours:</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>2820</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>TOTAL IN %</b>	<b>48% OSW</b>	<b>52% OSW</b>	<b>22% ASW</b>	<b>78% ASW</b>	<b>100</b>	

### Forms of study work

Forms of study work are: lectures, tutorial and individual student work (exam preparation, study of professional literature and preparation, writing, presentation and

defence of project tasks in the work environment or basic, applied or development research assignments).

**Lectures** are an organised form of study work, performed simultaneously for all enrolled students. The course lecturer imparts the fundamental knowledge and the latest findings of their profession, encourages students to actively participate, critically reflect through the use of modern methods of teaching and learning with the support of ICT.

**Seminar tutorials** are an organised form of study work, performed in a group of 30 students. In the tutorials, students solve concrete problems using the knowledge and procedures acquired in the lectures, and through independent individual study.

In accordance with the syllabus of the individual learning unit, they prepare, present and defend individually or in teams a project paper in the work environment, or a fundamental, applied or development research paper in written form.

**Individual research work of a student**, which includes preparation and presentation of a project paper in work environment or a basic, applied or development research paper. The paper is an independent student work (ISW) conducted under the guidance of a mentor. It discusses a concrete professional problem from practice or the work environment and proposes its solution. In this way, students prove their ability to discuss and research a practical professional problem using ICT as a source of information and selected methodological tools to solve the problem.

Before defending the Master's thesis, students need to choose one of the successfully prepared project papers in work environment or basic, applied or development research papers and:

- present it at a scientific consultation, congress, conference or symposium, and publish it in a book of proceedings with a review, or
- have it published in a scientific or professional journal or other scientific or professional publication without public presentation.

**Master's Seminar** is an organised form of academic work, in which students refresh the applied knowledge of the research work methods, get acquainted with the relevant instructions for writing and defending the master's thesis, and prepare the draft of the disposition. As part of the students' independent work, they need to attend at least three master's thesis defences.

**Master's thesis** is an independent professional work written by the candidate under the guidance of a mentor. It must include the theoretical framework and its verification in the context of an independent research of the topical issues in the field of physiotherapy. In dealing with the selected topic, the candidate needs to use the relevant research instruments and systematically present the results of their research. The candidate must demonstrate the ability of written elaboration and solution of the current practical problems.

The procedure, method of preparation and defence of the master's thesis is determined by the Rules for the Procedure of Preparing and Defending the Master's Thesis at University of Novo mesto Faculty of Health Sciences.

#### **4.4 Practical training within the programme, implementation and ECTS**

The study programme does not provide for practical training.

#### **4.5 Parts of the study programme**

The study programme does not consist of individual parts.

### **5 ACCESS REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES IN THE EVENT OF ENROLMENT RESTRICTIONS**

#### ***Enrolment requirements for the first year***

A person who has completed a (as defined in Article 38.a of the Higher Education Act):

- First-cycle higher education study programme Physiotherapy (in the scope of 180 credit points (ECTS)).
- Higher education study programme in the field of physiotherapy before the amendment to the Higher Education Act (The Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 63/04).
- First-cycle higher education study programme from other professional fields within the field Klasius-P-16: 0915 – Therapy and Rehabilitation. Candidates from these study programmes must, prior to enrolment, complete the study obligations that are essential for continuing their studies in the Physiotherapy programme. Liabilities are determined according to the differences in study programmes and range from 10 to a maximum of 60 ECTS. Candidates must pass them successfully at the Faculty of Health Sciences before enrolment (by enrolling in first-cycle studies, by enrolling in advanced training programmes, or by taking exams before enrolling in a Master's Degree Study Programme in Physiotherapy).

Enrolment from other Klasius-P-16 professional fields is not possible due to the specifics of the programme.

#### ***Enrolment requirements for the second year***

Advancement to the second year is possible for students, who have completed:

- The first level studies of the Physiotherapy programme (with a minimum of 240 ECTS).

Candidates who have completed the first level of studies abroad, can enrol under the same conditions.

In case of enrolment restrictions, candidates are selected on the basis of the average grade of the first cycle study programme exams (80%) and the grade of the diploma paper at the first cycle (20%).

### **6 CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION OF SKILLS AND COMPETENCES GAINED BEFORE ENROLMENT**

On the basis of the candidate's written application, their attached certificates and other documents, the faculty recognises the knowledge, qualifications and skills acquired before enrolment in the study programme, which correspond in content and complexity, in whole or in part, to the general or course-specific competencies determined by the second-level Physiotherapy programme.

If the knowledge was acquired in formal/informal forms of education, candidates will need to demonstrate this knowledge with certificates and other documents ("atypical certificates", portfolios, documents on the completed work of the study programme, courses and other forms of education), which will clearly indicate the required scientific content of these programmes (and the student's workload). A student who enrolls in accordance with the Conditions for advancing to the next year must fulfil study obligations at the same institution in the amount of at least 60 ECTS.

A student may be recognised for an individual exam that they have previously passed, if it matches at least 60% to the content and scope of the course in the new programme. In this case, the grade obtained at the previous institution and the number of ECTS provided for this course in the new programme are taken into account.

If the knowledge was acquired through experiential learning, the student may request that their knowledge be assessed and evaluated by the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Individual documented applications of candidates for the recognition of knowledge acquired before the enrolment are considered by a special commission, in accordance with the procedures and rules for the recognition of examinations adopted by the Faculty Senate. Applications are reviewed individually. Candidates from other professional fields must, prior to their enrolment, complete the study obligations that are essential for continuing their studies in the Master's Degree Study Programme in Physiotherapy. Obligations are determined according to the diversity of the professional field and range from 10 to a maximum of 60 ECTS.

Recognition of knowledge and skills acquired before enrolment in the study programme is regulated by the Rules for the recognition of knowledge and skills, which are publicly available on the website of the faculty.

The same criterion is applied to the recognition of knowledge acquired abroad.

## **7 ASSESSMENT METHODS**

The verification and assessment of the students' knowledge is designed to provide students and higher education teachers with ongoing, high quality information about the progress and achievement of the set objectives / competences of the study programme. The study programme requires students to work regularly, therefore the assessment of knowledge is diagnostic, formative and summative. The verification and assessment process is carried out regularly during and after the completion of individual courses.

Planned methods of verifying and assessing knowledge are: exams, project assignments in the work environment or basic, applied, or development research assignments, oral presentations, solving real-life problems, written reports, articles of professional nature, contributions of professional nature, master's thesis.

These methods of verifying and assessing knowledge are performed individually.

**For students enrolled in the 1<sup>st</sup> year in the academic year 2024/25,** the obligations are the same at all courses and consist of: active participation in the lectures and tutorials, successfully prepared project paper in the work environment or basic, applicative or development research paper with presentation and defence, and completed examination.

**For students enrolled in the 1<sup>st</sup> year before the academic year 2024/25, the obligations are:**

- *in the first year* (joint part of the programme) the same at all courses and consist of active participation in the lectures and tutorials, successfully prepared project paper in the work environment or basic, applicative or development research paper with presentation and defence, and completed examination,
- *in the second year*, at the elective courses, the obligations of students consist of 100% presence and active participation in lectures and tutorials; successfully prepared project paper in the work environment or basic, applicative or development research paper with presentation and defence. If the students fail to achieve 100% presence at the elective courses, their obligations consist of successfully prepared project paper in the work environment or basic, applicative or development research paper with presentation and defence, and completed examination.

In order to receive a passing grade, students must achieve at least 55% of the required number of points. The processes and rules on verifying and assessing knowledge, as well as processes for the recognition of ECTS credit points acquired in other programmes of the same of other higher education institutions, are subject to specific rules.

*Table 5: Grading scale*

<i>Grade</i>		<i>Grade according to ECTS Criteria</i>		<i>Criteria in %</i>	<i>Description of knowledge</i>
10	odlično	A	excellent	95%- 100%	Outstanding performance with only minor errors
9	prav dobro	B	very good	85%- 94%	Above-average standard but with some errors
8	prav dobro	C	good	71%- 84%	good knowledge
7	dobro	D	satisfactory	61%- 70%	fair knowledge but with significant shortcomings
6	zadostno	E	sufficient	55%- 60%	knowledge meets the minimum criteria
5-1	insufficient	F	fail	0%- 54%	knowledge does not meet the minimum criteria
*	successful	L	successful		knowledge meets the criteria
*	unsuccessful	F	unsuccessful		knowledge does not meet the minimum criteria

The rules and procedures for the verification and assessment of knowledge and for the recognition of ECTS points, acquired in other study programmes at the same or different higher education institution are regulated in the Rules on verification and assessment of knowledge.

The methods of verifying and assessing knowledge are defined in the study plans of individual courses and are adapted to the assessment of the achieved objectives in individual courses, the expected achieved learning outcomes and the development of the general and course-specific competences. Because of the diversity of learning and teaching methods and to ensure validity, reliability, and objectivity, higher education teachers use different combinations of methods and forms of verifying and assessing knowledge based on individual courses. Assessment includes all taxonomy levels and considers the quality of the structure and organisation of knowledge.

At the beginning of the study process, each course instructor acquaints students with the course implementation plan, along with the study obligations and the portions that individual components of the examination and assessment of knowledge and skills contribute to the final grade.

## **8 PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAMME**

Progression requirements for the second year are not defined.

Before defending the master's thesis, the student must present one of the successfully prepared project papers in the work environment, a fundamental, applied or development research paper:

- at a scientific consultation, congress, conference or symposium, and have it published in a book of proceedings with a review, or
- have it published in a professional journal or other professional publication without public presentation.

In accordance with the Higher Education act, a student's status may be extended for a maximum of one year for justified reasons.

Depending on the academic achievements of the student, the student may complete the studies in a shorter time than provided by the study programme.

## **9 PROVISIONS ON TRANSFERS BETWEEN STUDY PROGRAMMES**

According to the Criteria for transferring between study programmes, transfers are possible between study programmes of the same cycle, which ensure the acquisition of comparable competences or learning outcomes after completion of the study programme, if at least half of the obligations from the first study programme related to the compulsory courses of the second study programme can be recognized as European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) credit points according to the Criteria for the recognition of previous education.

The criteria for transferring between study programmes are:

- Meeting admission requirements of the study programme,
- Number of available positions,
- Comparability of competences or learning outcomes acquired by the student in the first study programme.

Possible transitions:

- From second-cycle study programmes in the professional field Klasius-P-16 Classification 0915 - Therapy and Rehabilitation.

The same conditions apply to candidates who have completed equivalent type of education abroad.

The qualified Commission shall decide on the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions for the transfer to the study programme and on the determination of the missing or additional obligations fulfilled by the student in the previous programme.

## **10 MODES OF STUDY**

The study is carried out in accordance with the valid norms and the study calendar.

In *part-time study*, organised study work is carried out consecutively, one course after another. Each course begins with lectures, followed by tutorials in groups and examination. All courses are executed in the same order. Part-time students must complete all obligations provided for full-time study.

*Remote study (e-study) or a combined form of study:* In addition to the traditional form of study, a combined form of study is planned – a remote study for individual learning units or parts of learning units, using modern software solutions that enable audio and video communication (Skype, MS Teams, ZOOM, GoToMeeting, Webex and the online learning platform Moodle). The defence of project tasks or research assignments, knowledge assessment and defence of the master's thesis will take place at the faculty's seat with a direct communication. The extent of the implementation of the remote study in individual subjects will be up to 70% and will depend on the number of enrolled students, the number of enrolled foreign students, the distance between the students' location and the location of the education institution, and students' employment (shift work, etc.).

Remote study allow greater adaptability and flexibility, help save time and money, and provide an easy access to a modern virtual study environment.

Higher education teachers are well qualified for the implementation of the remote study, because they are already using audio and video communication in their daily work. For the online learning platform Moodle, a training will be organised for all external staff before the start of the academic year. Non-educational staff (student office, library, accounting, etc.) will not communicate with students in this way, they will have a direct communication.

## **11 REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF THE STUDY**

The condition for completing the studies according to the second-cycle study programme *Physiotherapy* is the successful completion of all study obligations prescribed by the programme and the preparation and successful defence of the Master's thesis. Students complete their studies when they collect all 120 ECTS provided by the study programme.

If a student has enrolled to the second year upon the Criteria for Transfers between Study Programmes, they must complete all study obligations stipulated by the programme and collect at least 60 ECTS. Other obligatory credit points (up to 60 ECTS) can be obtained from other educational institutions, acquired through mobility at home or abroad, or obtained through the recognition of knowledge and skills acquired before enrolment in the second-cycle study programme *Physiotherapy*.

## **12 REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETING THE PART OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME**

The study programme does not contain individual parts.

## **13 PROFESSIONAL / ACADEMIC TITLE**

Upon completion of the study, the student receives the following professional title in accordance with the Professional and Academic Titles Act:

- for women – magistrica fizioterapije, abbreviated mag. fiziot.,
- for men – magister fizioterapije, abbreviated mag. fiziot.

In accordance with Article 32 of the Higher Education Act and the provisions of the Rules on Diploma Supplement, University of Novo Mesto Faculty of Health Sciences shall issue a diploma supplement to the graduates of the second-cycle study programme *Physiotherapy*.

Marjan Blažič, PhD, Acad. Prof., Rector

