



The following list of expectations have been developed to help prospective students make informed choices about future study and professional requirements. UNSW Sydney encourages applications from students with disabilities and from diverse backgrounds.

Students with disabilities or health conditions are encouraged to register with [Equitable Learning Services \(ELS\)](#). This will enable them to have a learning plan with reasonable adjustments to support their learning/studies.

Importantly, it is a requirement of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia that any health impairment which may impact upon patient and public safety is disclosed when applying for registration following graduation.

Physiotherapy is a profession governed by a [code of conduct, standards](#), guidelines and policies, in which registered physiotherapists and physiotherapy students are both responsible and accountable for ensuring professional and safe behaviour in all context.

Physiotherapy practice is mandated by [legislation](#) to enable the safe delivery of care. Students must demonstrate knowledge and compliance with Australian Law, professional regulation and scope of practice. As a physiotherapy student, you will be required to:

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- ◁ meet ongoing immunisation requirements, including those introduced after the commencement of the program

Effective communication is a core competency for practice as a physiotherapist. You would be expected to:

- ◁ comprehend spoken English delivered at conversational speed
- ◁ respond to verbal communications accurately, appropriately and in a timely manner
- ◁ comprehend written English presented in a variety of standard formats and demonstrate a reading speed in English of at least 250 words per minute
- ◁ recognise and interpret non-verbal communication and respond appropriately to the circumstances (e.g. recognising and responding to signs of distress or pain experienced by patients)
- ◁ communicate respectfully with people of different gender, sexuality, age, and from diverse cultural, religious, socio-economic, and educational backgrounds.

- ◁ demonstrate adequate tactile function to perform physiotherapy practice safely and to undertake a diverse range of practical skills and patient assessment techniques in a timely manner.
- ◁ demonstrate adequate visual function to observe, assess and monitor patient appearance, behaviour, posture, movement, gait and your physical surroundings
- ◁ demonstrate adequate hearing/auditory function to comprehend and respond to auditory information (e.g., accurately perform cardiopulmonary assessment by auscultation).

Physiotherapy is a profession that is physically demanding and requires gross motor function, manual dexterity as well as fine motor skills. Physiotherapy students and physiotherapists are required to:

- ◁ demonstrate appropriate gross motor and fine motor function to perform first aid including if necessary cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- ◁ maintain a standing position while performing basic physiotherapy techniques safely and effectively (e.g., performing suctioning or chest percussion on a patient lying on a plinth) and must be able to perform these techniques safely to reduce risk of harm to self and others.
- ◁ apply fine motor and gross motor skills (include being able to push, pull, squeeze, grasp, turn and manipulate various objects and individual) to perform the required level of patient care and to undertake required learning, assessment (e.g., palpate bones, joints, muscles and other soft tissues to detect anatomical or movement abnormalities), treatment (e.g. perform manual therapy and soft tissue massage etc) and professional tasks
- ◁ Demonstrate the ability to appropriately position self, patients, objects and equipment to perform physiotherapy tasks reliably and safely (e.g., transferring immobile patients).