

# MSc Physiotherapy **ADMISSION GUIDELINES**

The application deadline for the September 2012 intake is **January 31, 2012**. Applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline date.

## Admission Requirements

### Undergraduate Degree

A four-year undergraduate degree or equivalent in any field of study from a recognized academic institution. Degrees that have a focus in Neuroscience, Psychology, Human Movement Science, Exercise Science, Human Physiology, Health Promotion, Ergonomics and Anatomy are favorable backgrounds for the study of Physiotherapy. The School of Physiotherapy, however, encourages applicants from diverse academic backgrounds to consider and apply for the program.

### Grade Point Average

A minimum grade point average of 3.0 or letter grade of B in the most recent 60 credit hours of an undergraduate degree for Atlantic Province residents and a GPA of 3.4 or letter grade of B+ for non-residents.

### Prerequisite Courses

The following courses or their equivalents are prerequisites for admission<sup>1</sup>:

**Human Physiology** (6 credit hours) (PHYL 2030.06<sup>2</sup> or its equivalent is the preferred prerequisite. In lieu of PHYL 2030.06, a combination of 9 credit hours of Human and Exercise Physiology may be accepted)

**Human Anatomy** (3 credit hours) (equivalent to ANAT 1010.03<sup>2</sup>)

**Physics** (6 credit hours) OR Physics (3 credit hours) AND Biomechanics (3 credit hours) (equivalent to KINE 2465 or PHYC 2610<sup>2</sup>)

**Biology** (3 credit hours) (cell or animal biology)

**Psychology** (6 credit hours)

**Statistics** (3 credit hours)

Please Note: Applicants completing prerequisite courses during the admission year must include proof of registration with their application and final transcripts for these courses must be received by June 1st. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.

**Languages and Humanities and/or Social Sciences** (6 credit hours, e.g. Classics, Contemporary Studies, Theatre, Dance, Music, Languages, Philosophy)

<sup>1</sup> in some cases a combination of courses could be considered as equivalent.

<sup>2</sup> to determine equivalent courses from other universities go to the Registrar's website <http://www.registrar.dal.ca/> for the link to Transfer Credit Equivalencies OR contact the appropriate Dalhousie Department.

### English Language Competency

As the standard language of study at Dalhousie University is English, applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate their capacity to pursue a graduate-level programme in English before admission. The preferred test for admission to the School of Physiotherapy is the TOEFL iBT (TOEFL internet-based test). A minimum score of 92 is required, plus a minimum score of 22 on the speaking section.

Applicants who complete the written TOEFL or the computer-based TOEFL must also complete the Test of Spoken English (TSE). The minimum acceptable scores for these tests are: TOEFL 600; computer-based TOEFL 237, and TSE 45.

The following tests with the minimum scores indicated will also be accepted: MELAB, 85; IELTS, 7; CanTest, average of at least 4.5 with no band score lower than 4.0; CAEL, 70 overall, with no band score lower than 60; Dalhousie's Continuing Education ESL Placement Test with scores equivalent to TOEFL. The testing requirement is waived if the applicant has completed a degree at an institution where the language of instruction is English.

### Volunteer Experience

A minimum of forty (40) hours of non-paid community volunteering experience (not necessarily in the area of physiotherapy) in the last two years is **required**. Applicants must include a letter or letters confirming the volunteer hours/work with the Supplementary Form.

## Application Procedures & Admission Forms

All applicants for graduate programmes at Dalhousie must complete the Faculty of Graduate Studies Application. Admissions Forms are available on the Graduate Studies website: <http://www.registrar.dal.ca/prospective/graduateapp.html>

In addition, Physiotherapy applicants must complete the School of Physiotherapy Supplementary Application Form available at [www.physiotherapy.dal.ca](http://www.physiotherapy.dal.ca)

The Graduate Application Form (online or print) along with the application fee (\$70.00) should be submitted to the Registrar's Office.

The following documents should be submitted to the School of Physiotherapy:

- 1) Completed School of Physiotherapy Supplementary Application Form.
- 2) Two official transcripts from **all** universities attended sent directly to the School of Physiotherapy from the Registrar of the home institution(s).
- 3) Two academic confidential reference letters. (Note: these letters must be written and submitted by academic faculty members from the university(ies) attended.)
- 4) English Language Competency test results (if applicable).

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[physiotherapy.dal.ca](http://physiotherapy.dal.ca)  
[blogs.dal.ca/ptmatters/](http://blogs.dal.ca/ptmatters/)



Faculty of Health Professions

# ADMISSION GUIDELINES **continued**

## Selection Criteria & Process

Applicants must meet all of the admission requirements by June 1st of the year of admission. Final transcripts (with proof of degree completion) must be received by June 15th. All offers remain conditional until receipt of a final transcript which indicates the degree conferred.

The initial application evaluation process is conducted by the School of Physiotherapy Admissions Committee, which makes recommendations of acceptance to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Graduate Studies makes the final decision and, if successful, a formal offer of admission is sent to the applicant by the Registrar of Dalhousie University.

In principle, all applicants from the Atlantic Provinces whose applications are complete will be offered an interview. In the event that this is not administratively possible, the Admissions Committee will rank applicants by GPA based on the most recent 60 credit hours to make the interview offers. At a minimum, 112 interviews will be offered.

Interviews will take place in April 2012. Structured and scored interviews will be conducted in the four Atlantic Provinces. Interviews will be offered via teleconference to eligible applicants who are residing outside the Atlantic Provinces.

Offers are based on the combined score of 25% interview and 75% GPA. Successful candidates will be notified by email and letter. A wait list will be created and applicants placed on the wait list will be notified by email. If an accepted applicant declines or withdraws, while keeping within the requirements of Provincial and School quotas, the first wait listed applicant will be offered a seat.

Each year, 56 students are admitted to the program. As we are the only School of Physiotherapy in Atlantic Canada, a specific number of places are held for residents of Atlantic Canada. The following guidelines are used for seat allocation:

- 16 seats for Nova Scotia residents
- 15 seats for New Brunswick residents
- 10 seats for Newfoundland & Labrador residents
- 2 seats for Prince Edward Island residents

There are also 13 discretionary seats which may be offered to (i) to affirmative action applicants (ii) to increase the seat allocations for Atlantic Canada and (iii) a maximum of 5 seats to eligible applicants who reside outside of the Atlantic Provinces.

The residency guidelines are outlined in Appendix A.

The decision of the Admissions Committee is final. Faculty of Graduate Studies regulations state, "There are no appeals on admission decisions..." (<http://www.dalgrad.dal.ca/regulations/ii/>)

## Affirmative Action Policy

The School of Physiotherapy is committed to increasing the admission of and number of graduates from underrepresented groups: Aboriginal peoples, African Canadians and Persons with (dis)Abilities.

Admission prerequisites are required for all applicants. However, applicants who apply under the Affirmative Action Policy are considered on the basis of their qualifications for graduate study in physiotherapy rather than in relation to other applicants.

The School of Physiotherapy encourages applicants who wish to apply under the Affirmative Action Policy to indicate so on the Graduate Application Form.

## Students With Special Needs

Dalhousie University has adopted a policy on accessibility for students with disabilities. We encourage applicants to indicate any special needs and/or support required for their study. Applicants are advised to contact an Advisor in writing to ascertain that their needs can be met, since the University may not be equipped to fulfil all special needs. For further information, contact the Student Office of Student Accessibility and Accommodation (OSAA) by phone 494-2836, email [access@dal.ca](mailto:access@dal.ca), drop in at the new Mark A. Hill Accessibility Centre, or visit [www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca](http://www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca)

Information will be used only to assess whether the University is able to provide the necessary support. It will not be considered as part of the admission process.

Please note that the University and/or the School of Physiotherapy may not be able to fulfil all special needs. Offers of admission may be withdrawn if special needs cannot be met.

## Pre-placement Immunization Requirements

The clinical placement requirements are detailed in the School of Physiotherapy Supplementary Application Form. Applicants must sign a Statement of Compliance regarding these requirements.

Before participating in clinical placements, students must be appropriately immunized as follows:

- Diphtheria- tetanus
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella
- Tuberculosis skin tests

# MSc Physiotherapy RESIDENCY GUIDELINES

The School of Physiotherapy at Dalhousie is the only school serving Atlantic Canada and as such, enrolment in the program is limited. A provincial quota system is in place with a specified number of seats allocated annually for residents of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia. To be eligible for competition applicants must be permanent residents as defined below. Normally a maximum of five seats will be offered to non-resident applicants.

A resident of the Province is an individual lawfully entitled to be or remain in Canada, who makes his or her home and is ordinarily present in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland & Labrador for the twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the deadline for admission (January 31). This includes an applicant living outside of the Province for the purpose of furthering his or her education, but not including a tourist, transient or visitor to the Province.

## Independent Applicants

An applicant is considered a resident of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland & Labrador if s/he has lived and/or worked in the Province for the twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the deadline for admission (January 31), excluding time spent as a full-time student at a post-secondary institution.

## Dependent Applicants

An applicant is considered a resident of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland & Labrador who lives with or is supported by parent(s), guardian(s) or sponsor(s) who resided in the Province for the twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the deadline for admission (January 31):

- If one of the parents works in another province, the applicant is a resident of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland & Labrador if the family home was in the Province for the twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the deadline for admission (January 31);
- If the parents are separated or divorced, the province or residence is the province where resides the parent with whom the applicant normally lives or received principal support for the twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the deadline for admission (January 31). If there is no custody agreement, the province of residence is that of the parent with whom the applicant has normally resided for the twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the deadline for admission (January 31), or if the applicant lives with neither parent, the province of residence is that of the parent who has been the applicant's principal support for the twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the deadline for admission (January 31);
- If the parents leave New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland & Labrador after having resided there for the twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the deadline for admission (January 31), but the applicant remains in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland & Labrador to begin or continue post-secondary studies, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland & Labrador will continue to be the province of residence;
- If the parents reside outside Canada, the province of residence will be that where the parents last resided during the twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the deadline for admission (January 31) prior to their departure from Canada.

Applicants whose parent(s), legal guardian or spouse is employed by the Canadian Armed Forces who do not meet residency requirements as a direct result of a recent military transfer either into or out of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, or Newfoundland & Labrador, would not necessarily be expected to conform to the above guidelines.

Applicants are encouraged to give complete information on their resident status at the time of application. All applicants are expected to claim the same place of residency on all applications to physiotherapy schools. Failure to do so may lead to rejection of the application. Relevant factors will be taken into account by the Admissions Committee in its determination of the residency status of each applicant. The decision of the Admissions Committee regarding the residency status of each applicant is final.

14/10/2011