

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Healthcare Professional Conversion Programme (Healthcare PCP) for Allied Health Professionals

I ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

1. What is the objective of the programme?

The Healthcare PCPs for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) aim to help local mid-career switchers receive training that would enable them to transit into healthcare as Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists or Diagnostic Radiographers upon graduation.

Social Service Agencies (SSAs) supported under the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) may also recruit Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists through the Programme.

2. What are the allied health programmes under the Healthcare PCPs?

The healthcare programmes currently offered under the Healthcare PCPs for AHPs are as follows:

- i PCP for Physiotherapists (PT)
- ii PCP for Occupational Therapists (OT)
- iii PCP for Diagnostic Radiographers (DR)

Successful applicants will undergo the relevant degree courses at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT).

3. What training do I need to undergo?

PCP	Course	Training Duration
Physiotherapists (Accelerated)	Bachelor of Science with Honours in Physiotherapy	Two-years and eight-months full-time
Occupational Therapists (Accelerated)	Bachelor of Science with Honours in Occupational Therapy	
Physiotherapists	Bachelor of Science with Honours in Physiotherapy	Four years full-time
Occupational Therapists	Bachelor of Science with Honours in Occupational Therapy	
Diagnostic Radiographers	Bachelor of Science with Honours in Diagnostic Radiography	

4. Is there funding support?

Yes, there are three funding components:

- i. **Course fees** for Singaporeans and eligible Permanent Residents will be **fully sponsored**. For full eligibility criteria please see Question 8 and/or 9.
- ii. **Training Allowance** – This will be provided for the duration of training. The monthly training allowance ranges from \$2,100 to \$2,450 per month and are pegged to the individuals' prior work experience.
- iii. **Career Transition Bonus** – This will be awarded to trainees upon graduation, to celebrate a milestone achievement in their career transition. Degree graduates will receive a one-time bonus of \$2,000.

5. Is there a bond tied to funding support?

Successful applicants who are accepted into the programme are required to sign a deed with MOH Holdings (who manages trainees sponsored by healthcare organisations) or respective sponsoring SSAs and will serve a **four-year bond** with their sponsoring organisation after graduation.

6. Are there any sureties required for the bond?

Yes, MOH Holdings or sponsoring SSAs will require two sureties for the bond. The sureties would have to be:

- i. Above 21 years of age
- ii. Not bankrupt
- iii. Gainfully employed
- iv. Not party to existing bonds or loans

7. What are the liquidated damages for breaking the bond?

A trainee who withdraws from the programme, whether during the course of study or during the service period of the bond, shall be liable for liquidated damages.

Total liquidated damages (including full course fees, training allowances and career transition bonus) at the point of training completion could amount to roughly:

PCP	Citizenship and Tuition Grant Status	Liquidated Damages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physiotherapists• Occupational Therapists• Diagnostic Radiographers (4-year Degree Programmes)	Singapore Citizens <u>with</u> full MOE Tuition Grant available	About \$162,000
	Singapore Citizens <u>without</u> MOE Tuition Grant	About \$270,000
	Permanent Residents <u>with</u> full MOE Tuition Grant available	About \$210,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physiotherapists (Accelerated)• Occupational Therapists (Accelerated)	Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents <u>with/without</u> MOE Tuition Grant	About \$214,000

This estimation excludes additional costs that may be levied by MOH Holdings or sponsoring SSAs, such as uniform costs and administrative charges.

8. What are the eligibility criteria for the four-Year Degree Programmes?

All applicants have to meet the following non-academic and academic criteria:

Non-academic:

- At least 21 years old.
- Singapore Citizen, or
- Permanent Residents who have not received Tuition Grant subsidies for studies in an Institute of Higher Learning (IHL)*
- Graduated or completed National Service for at least two years, whichever is most recent
- Able to find two sureties

* You may check with your previous IHL if you are unsure whether you have received Tuition Grant for your previous studies. For more information on Ministry of Education's Tuition Grant, please refer to MOE's TGOOnline website at <https://tgonline.moe.gov.sg/tgis/normal/index.action> and the FAQs under "Grant Information".

Academic

SIT selects candidates for this programme through a holistic approach that considers passion and suitability for the profession, academic achievement, co-curricular involvement and medical clearance. Short-listed candidates will be invited for Multiple-Mini Interviews, consisting of different stations which assess different important attributes such as communication skills. Listed below are the relevant admission criteria:

A-Level Prerequisites:

- A good pass in two of the following H2 subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics; and offered General Paper (GP) or Knowledge & Inquiry (KI) in the same sitting while satisfying the Mother Tongue (MTL) requirements.

Diploma Prerequisites:

- An approved full-time diploma from a local Polytechnic. Module exemption will be considered on a case-by-case basis. For the list of relevant diplomas, please refer to the SIT website.
- Diplomas that are not listed may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applicants will be assessed for admissions based on a holistic approach if they meet the following admission criteria:
 - Obtained a Science-related full-time local Polytechnic diploma and/or
 - Acquired relevant full-time work experience of one to two years.

International Baccalaureate Prerequisites:

- A good pass in two of the following: HL Biology, HL Chemistry, HL Physics and HL Mathematics; and one Standard Level (SL) subject while satisfying the Mother Tongue (MTL) requirements.

NUS High School Diploma Prerequisites:

- A good pass in two of the following: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for Multiple-Mini Interviews (MMIs), consisting of different stations which assess different important attributes such as communication skills. The MMIs are held on the dates scheduled by SIT. For the latest updates on MMI dates, please refer to the SIT website.

Note: Admission is based on a holistic assessment of the candidate and subject to other requirements including clearing the medical test and securing sponsorship by a participating organisation.

9. How may applicants be considered for the accelerated PCP-PT / PCP-OT Programme?

All applicants should meet the following non-academic criteria:

- At least 21 years old
- Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident
- Graduated or completed National Service for at least two years
- Able to find two sureties

Applicants who are keen to apply for the accelerated PCP-PT / accelerated PCP-OT will need to apply to WSG's PCP application portal and SIT's online application portal concurrently through the four-year Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Physiotherapy or the four-year Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Occupational Therapy. Shortlisted applicants will go through the same MMI selection process as other PCP-AHP applicants.

Successful applicants who have a Science-related honours degree from a recognised university, and who also meet the PCP's non-academic requirements, may then be offered a place by SIT in the accelerated PCP-PT / accelerated PCP-OT programme.

The accelerated course is only open to students under the PCP-AHP programme.

Examples of Science-related honours degrees include:

- *Exercise and Sports Sciences*
- *Anatomy and Physiology*
- *Allied Health*
- *Nursing and Medicine*
- *Life Sciences / Biomedical Sciences*
- *Other Health Sciences*
- *Other degrees will be considered on a case-by-case basis*

10. Why is an honours degree required to be considered for the accelerated PCP-PT / accelerated-OT programme?

Students in this programme are expected to have a strong background in research and are exempted from selected research modules. Research is an important component in a typical honours degree programme, hence an honours degree is one of the selection criteria for the programme.

II TRAINING COURSE DETAILS AND PROSPECTS

11. Where can I find information on the courses and professions?

Organisation/ Website Name	Description	Email/Link
Care To Go Beyond	MOH's website on Nursing and Allied Health professions.	http://www.caretogobeyond.sg
SIT's Allied Health Courses	Course information on the degree level allied health courses.	http://www.singaporetech.edu.sg/undergraduate-programmes Email: AcdPrg@SingaporeTech.edu.sg

12. When will the courses commence?

PCP	Course Commencement Date
Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Diagnostic Radiographers	September

13. Where will the training be conducted?

Classroom training will be conducted at the SIT@Dover campus at 10 Dover Drive. Trainees will also be posted to various hospitals for clinical attachments.

14. What are the trainees awarded with upon successful completion of the course?

Upon successful completion of training, graduates will be awarded with a Bachelor of Science with Honours in their respective field.

Graduates will be eligible for registration with the Allied Health Professions Council and will be able to practise as Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Diagnostic Radiographers respectively.

15. What is the difference between Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy?

Physiotherapists work with clients from the elite sports individual to the frail elderly. They are allied healthcare professionals with the knowledge and ability to manage and prevent problems affecting the physical functioning of the human body, and to maximise the performance of human movement. Physiotherapists focus on implementing evidence-based techniques to enable clients to achieve optimal independence in movement and function.

Occupational Therapists rehabilitate clients to perform tasks in living, working, playing and schooling. Clients may be a child with developmental problems, or have experienced a stroke, or are suffering from dementia. The work of occupational therapists includes the evaluation, intervention, consultation, supervision and education of their clients in order to overcome health-related and disability-related problems. Occupational Therapists use outcome and evidence-based practice to effect their evaluation and treatment of clients.

We recommend that candidates familiarise themselves with the similarities and differences between Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy prior to the application and interview process.

16a. How does the accelerated PCP-PT programme differ from the four-year PCP-PT programme?

The accelerated PCP-PT programme is a fast-track degree programme which provides an alternative pathway for eligible mid-career locals to complete their training in two years and eight months, compared to the existing four-year programme.

Trainees in the accelerated PCP-PT programme will be exempted from certain first-year modules. They will enter as year two students and attend the same classes as those in the four-year physiotherapy programme. Both programmes will follow a similar curriculum structure, including 30 weeks of clinical practice education as well as a two-week Overseas Immersion Programme (OIP) at Trinity College Dublin.

16b. How does the accelerated PCP-OT programme differ from the four-year PCP-OT programme?

The accelerated PCP-OT programme is a fast-track degree programme which provides an alternative pathway for eligible mid-career locals to complete their training in two years and eight months, compared to the existing four-year programme.

Trainees in the accelerated PCP-OT programme will be exempted from certain first-year modules. They will enter as year two students and attend the same classes as those in the four-year occupational therapy programme. Both programmes will follow a similar curriculum structure.

III APPLICATION TO THE COURSE

17. How do I apply for the Programme?

Those interested are encouraged to apply early to WSG's PCP application portal via <https://go.gov.sg/pcp-ahp> by the closing date of application. **Applicants must also apply to SIT at SIT's website.** Only applicants who have applied to both WSG and SIT and are subsequently offered a place in the course by SIT, will be considered for the PCP. Please note that we are unable to accommodate late or incomplete applications.

18. I submitted my online application but wish to make changes to it, or I wish to withdraw my application. How should I go about it?

Interested candidates are advised to check online applications carefully before submission as we are unable to amend an online application after submission.

19. Is it compulsory to attach documents to my online application?

It is **compulsory** to attach National Service certificates (where applicable), academic transcripts, professional certificates and any medical documentation for those with medical history. A maximum of ten documents of total size 1MB can be uploaded; hence the most relevant documents (e.g. highest qualification certificate) should be prioritised. Candidates shortlisted for an interview should also be prepared to bring along these documents, current and past employment letters (to facilitate computation of Training Allowances) and NRIC for the interview.

20. I am interested to apply for more than one occupation/programme. Can I do so?

For applications to SIT, please check with SIT admissions.

For applications via WSG's PCP application portal, applying to multiple occupations under PCP-AHP (Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Diagnostic Radiography) **does not** increase your chances in the programme and is subject to SIT's assessment of your application.

21. When will I know of the results and who will contact me?

SIT will first assess the academic eligibility of applicants; applicants who are shortlisted by SIT will be put through the MMIs which will help SIT to holistically assess applicants on various important attributes. SIT will inform unsuccessful applicants – those who were not shortlisted, and separately, those who did not pass the MMIs.

Successful applicants who have been offered a place in SIT's PT/OT/DR programmes, and who are also eligible for the PCP, will be contacted by MOH Holdings to attend an enquiry session. MOH Holdings will also match them to a participating healthcare organisation and they will be notified by the organisation to attend a compulsory one-day clinical observation with them.

Candidates who have selected SSAs as one of their choices may be invited for further interviews with participating SSAs and offered sponsorship by them directly if successful.

For enquiries on application status before SIT's MMIs have concluded, please email SIT's Admissions Team at Adm@SingaporeTech.edu.sg.

For enquiries after MMIs, please send an email to WSG_Healthcare@wsg.gov.sg, unless otherwise advised by MOH Holdings or the participating Social Service Agencies.

22. Besides having to study hard and do well in class, what other factors are important for successful completion?

In order to focus on the course, having adequate financial support throughout the training is crucial. Applicants are advised to consider their financial commitments prior to undertaking this commitment. The course is demanding and some of the training tasks, especially the clinical attachments, require physical strength, reach and mobility, and physical fitness is important. Some subjects require students to perform physical examinations on each other. Trainees may be challenged in their physical, psychological and social boundaries while undergoing training. Discipline, proper time management, good social skills and strong social support from family and friends are vital when having to manage stress and difficulties encountered during the course.

23. Do the sponsoring organisations accept candidates who are into their forties?

There is no age limit for the programme. However due to the nature of the profession, potential applicants should be mindful of physical requirements of the job. Prior to course admission, applicants will also be required to pass a medical test. Those found with physical disabilities or medical conditions such as uncontrolled hypertension, Hepatitis B and C, mobility restrictions, AIDS etc., may be denied admission.

24. I am currently in employment. When can I tender my resignation?

Applicants are advised to tender their resignation only upon confirmation of sponsorship. Applicants are deemed as official trainees only upon signing the sponsorship deed, clearance of the medical examination and upon official acceptance by SIT. This will take place at around June/July.

25. What if I become pregnant during the course of the training? Will it affect my funding?

Trainees who become pregnant during the course of the training period will not be affected in terms of funding support provided. However pregnant trainees may find it challenging to meet attendance and physical requirements of the course.

26. What will happen if I fail some of the examinations?

Trainees who fail modules may be allowed to take a supplementary examination, or re-attempt the module in the subsequent semester, in line with the respective training institution's policy, and subject to your MOH Holdings or sponsoring SSA's approval. Costs of the supplementary or retaking of the module will be borne by the trainee.

27. Am I allowed to defer my studies or bond service?

Trainees who wish to defer their studies will have to seek the permission of their MOH Holdings and the training institution. Upon graduation and commencement of the bond, those who wish to defer bond service for reasons such as furtherance of studies will have to seek approval from MOH Holdings or their sponsoring SSAs first, before applying for such courses. Permission to defer the bond service will be subject to their sponsoring organisation's manpower needs, and overall academic and work performance of the individual.

28. Will I be able to work part-time during the duration of the course?

Part-time work, without prior approval from MOH Holdings or sponsoring SSAs, is not allowed. This is a full-time high intensity clinical programme that requires commitment and significant investment of time and effort. Juggling between full-time studies and a part-time job will be challenging and may take a toll on the trainee's academic performance and health.