

Curriculum changes 2026

All information correct at point of publication

Last updated: 23 July 2026

All courses

The teaching mode, assessment, and feedback stats for many of our courses have been updated. Please check the course pages on our website for full details at www.hartpury.ac.uk.

Agriculture

BSc (Hons) Agriculture (Top Up Level 6)

- *Module updates*
 - *'Investigative Skills for the Successful Undergraduate' and 'Applied Research Project' removed*
 - *'Animal and Agriculture Dissertation' added*

Animal

Undergraduate Certificate Level 4 in Small Animal Hydrotherapy

- *New course accreditation: National Association of Registered Canine Hydrotherapists (NARCH).*

BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour and Welfare (Top Up Level 6)

- *Module updates*
 - *'Investigative Skills for the Successful Undergraduate' and 'Applied Research Project' removed*
 - *'Dissertation Project' added*

BSc (Hons) Zoology (Top up Level 6)

- *Module updates*
 - *'Investigative Skills for the Successful Undergraduate' and 'Applied Research Project' removed*
 - *Animal and Agriculture Dissertation added*

MSc/PGDip Animal Assisted Counselling and Psychotherapy

- *Course duration*
 - *Two years full-time only*

MSc Biodiversity Conservation

- *PGCert and PGDip routes now available, in addition to MSc*

Sport

BSc (Hons) Sports Business Management

- Module updates
 - 'Sport Research and Knowledge Exchange Project' changed to 'Sport Research Project'

BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Nutrition

BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Nutrition (with Foundation Year)

- Module updates
 - Level 5: "The Sport and Exercise Researcher" added

BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Sciences

- New accreditation: Chartered Association of Sport & Exercise Sciences (CASES)

MSc Sport and Exercise Nutrition

- Placement hours
 - Commitment reduced from 200 hours to 100 hours as part of the Professional Practice module

BSc (Hons) Psychology

BSc (Hons) Psychology with Sport and Exercise Perspectives

- Modules in full;

Level 4: both courses

Psychology Past and Present

Psychology Past and Present provides an engaging introduction to psychology by tracing its evolution from ancient philosophical traditions to contemporary scientific practice. This module explores how psychology has emerged as a distinct discipline, examining key studies and theoretical developments that have shaped the discipline, whilst evaluating the ethical challenges that have informed modern practice standards. Students will discover how psychological knowledge addresses real world questions and consider psychology's future in an era of technological advancement and global interconnection.

Professional Skills in Psychology

Professional skills in psychology introduces students to the professional and ethical foundations of psychology as both a scientific discipline and an applied practice. It focuses on developing key professional skills required for ethical, reflective and inclusive psychological practice. Students will explore the importance of diversity, cultural humility and communication, while also learning strategies for self-care and ongoing personal and professional development.

Introducing Cognitive and Biological Psychology

This module introduces students to cognitive and biological approaches in psychology. Supported by practical work, this module will provide students with an understanding of how cognitive processes such as perception, memory, and decision-making are supported or influenced by biological mechanisms including neural, hormonal, and neurochemical systems.

Introducing Social and Developmental Psychology

This module introduces students to social and developmental psychology, exploring how individual behaviour is shaped by social contexts and how humans develop cognitively, emotionally, and socially. Supported by practical work, students will examine key theories, classic and contemporary studies, and the methods psychologists use to investigate these areas.

Introductory Research Methods in Psychology

This module introduces the principles and practices of psychological research. This will include an introduction to qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches, enabling students to understand how psychological evidence is generated, evaluated, and communicated. Students will develop research design skills, ethical awareness, and the ability to engage with empirical literature. Students will be introduced to key research software tools used in psychology and will also gain experience in writing research reports.

Level 5: both courses**Social and Cultural Psychology**

In this module, students engage with theories, empirical research, and applied perspectives to explore how individuals are shaped by social interactions, group dynamics, and cultural contexts. Students will be supported to apply psychological principles to real-world issues and to communicate research-informed insights effectively to diverse audiences.

Brain and Behaviour

This module explores in greater depth the biological and cognitive bases of behaviour, learning about different methodological approaches, and integrating perspectives from biopsychology and cognitive psychology. Students examine how brain processes give rise to cognition, emotion, motivation, and behaviour, and how these processes vary between individuals. By engaging with and evaluating current debates, students develop their understanding of the dynamic interplay between brain, cognition, and behaviour.

Advanced Research Methods in Psychology

This module engages students with contemporary ethical principles, methodological debates, and data analysis techniques, applying these to the design and evaluation of psychological research. Emphasis is placed on developing practical competence in formulating research questions, selecting appropriate methodologies, analysing complex data, and interpreting findings within the context of existing theory and evidence, thereby preparing students for independent empirical research. The module supports interdisciplinary collaboration and co-construction through 'Think Tanks' that connect psychology students with peers and staff from other academic and professional areas at Hartpury, broadening perspectives on research application and impact.

Lifespan Development

This module provides a comprehensive examination of the processes of psychological development and continuity across the entire lifespan human, from prenatal through to the end of life. Students evaluate major theoretical frameworks and research in developmental psychology translating this into practical interventions designed to enhance development or support maintenance of functioning across different life stages.

Individual Differences

In completing this module, students will explore theoretical perspectives and empirical research underpinning individual differences psychology gaining an understanding of how psychological assessment and measurement are used to study human differences. Emphasis is placed on developing skills in the analysis and interpretation of individual differences data, as well as an appreciation of the applied and ethical considerations involved in psychological assessment.

Level 6: both courses

Professional Practice and Standards in Psychology

This module supports students in preparing to transition from undergraduate study by supporting critical self-reflection and professional identity development. Students explore diverse career pathways in psychology and the professional competencies required for effective practice. Through engagement with professional bodies' standards (BPS, HCPC) and 'meet the expert' sessions, students strengthen their understanding of what it means to be a professional psychologist in contemporary practice contexts.

Evidence-Based Practice in Wellbeing

In this module student evaluate evidence-based wellbeing practice through a critical examination of theories, research, and applied approaches within health psychology. Students explore how psychological wellbeing interacts with physical health, and consider the individual, societal, ethical, and contextual factors that should be accounted for in developing therapeutic approaches and interventions.

Positive Psychology

This module critically examines the theoretical foundations, historical development, and contemporary applications of positive psychology. Using contemporary research on human strengths, flourishing, and positive emotions, students explore the strengths and limitations of commonly used interventions.

Psychology Dissertation

This module enables students to undertake an independent psychological empirical project on a negotiated topic with supervisory guidance. Building on experiences provided at Level 4 and Level 5, students will design, conduct and report a substantial research project that critically situates their findings within the psychological literature. This module emphasises ethical practice, project management, digital competence, and the development of research skills appropriate for graduate-level study or further professional pathways.

Psychology only

Level 4

Introduction to Applications of Psychology

Students examine the application of psychological theories and principles across a range of sub-disciplines in psychology. Explore how psychological knowledge is used to address real world problems in diverse contexts, such as health, education, occupational, sport, and clinical practice. The module supports students in identifying their personal interests and aptitudes within psychology, developing an understanding of potential career pathways.

Level 5

Further Applications of Psychology

This module provides students with the opportunity to explore how psychological theories and research are applied across a range of professional and real-world contexts. Emphasis is placed on bridging the gap between theory and practice, considering how to communicate psychological concepts effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and exploring how psychological evidence can contribute to problem-solving, policy-making, and professional interventions.

Level 6

Psychology of Community and Culture

This module integrates theoretical understanding, empirical evidence, and reflective practice to develop students' capacity to recognise, challenge, and address bias, discrimination, and inequality in psychological research, practice, and real-world contexts. An emphasis of this module is on reflective practice and personal development in preparing students to apply psychological perspectives competently and ethically with diverse populations in an increasingly multicultural society. Students will engage in critical self-examination of their own beliefs, biases, and practices, developing concrete plans for ongoing EDI competence development.

Contemporary Issues in Psychology

This module provides a research-informed exploration of current challenges, debates, and emerging topics in psychology and their relevance to research, policy, and professional practice. Each issue is critically explored through different philosophical lenses, developing students' ability to construct evidence-based arguments for academic audiences.

Sport and Exercise Perspectives only

Level 4

Introduction to the Psychology of Sport and Exercise

Within this module students will examine the history and development of sport and exercise psychology as a profession. Students will explore how psychological theory and research helps understand behaviour, motivation, and performance enhancement in sport and exercise contexts, applying psychological theory to real-world scenarios. The module will support students to self-reflect on personal interests, skills, and career pathways in sport and exercise psychology.

Level 5

Applications of Psychology in Sport and Exercise Environments

Explore how psychological theories, concepts, and research are applied to enhance performance, participation, and wellbeing in sport and exercise settings. Emphasis is placed on bridging the gap between theory and practice, considering how to communicate psychological concepts effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and exploring how psychological evidence can contribute to problem-solving, policy-making, and professional interventions.

Level 6

Advances in Sport and Exercise Psychology

Critically explore contemporary theory, research, and practice in sport and exercise psychology. Students will develop their understanding of different philosophical approaches underpinning professional practice and consider the practical implications of these for intervention design and delivery. The module emphasises evidence-based problem-solving and equips students to critically

evaluate and apply psychological theory to address real-world challenges in sport and exercise settings.

Contemporary Issues in Sport and Exercise Psychology

This module provides a research-informed exploration of current challenges, debates, and emerging topics facing athletes, exercisers, practitioners, and researchers in the field. Each issue is critically explored through different philosophical lenses, developing students' ability to construct evidence-based arguments for academic audiences.

Veterinary Physiotherapy

MSci Veterinary Physiotherapy

- *New course accreditation: Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners (RAMP)*
- *Modules in full;*

Level 4

Applied Anatomy and Physiology for Veterinary Physiotherapies

This module provides an in-depth exploration of the musculoskeletal system across a variety of animal species, including equine, canine, large animals and exotics. You'll examine musculoskeletal anatomy and physiology, including cell and tissue formation, body systems, and anatomical terminology. Species-specific differences and the functional roles of systems such as cardiovascular, nervous, reproductive, and respiratory are investigated.

The module also considers physiological responses to training and exercise across different populations and life stages, as well as the processes involved in healing and recovery. You'll establish the scientific foundations required to apply anatomical and physiological concepts within veterinary and animal science contexts.

Animal Welfare, Behaviour and Management for Veterinary Physiotherapists

This module introduces the fundamental principles of animal behaviour, welfare, and handling. You'll explore animal husbandry, physiology and environmental influences across animal species, including equine, canine, large animals, and exotics. Key areas include behaviour assessment, recognition of pain and stress indicators, and the application of ethical and legal frameworks to promote optimal animal well-being. This module provides the essential knowledge and techniques to enhance animal management and welfare in the context of veterinary physiotherapy.

Introduction to Professional Practice for Veterinary Physiotherapists

This module provides a comprehensive foundation in veterinary physiotherapy across a variety of animal species. It introduces key legislation, professional standards, codes of conduct, and digital record keeping requirements. The role of the multidisciplinary team in animal healthcare is explored, alongside safe and effective animal handling and basic palpation techniques. Emphasis is placed on evidence-based problem-solving, clinical reasoning, and self-appraisal to support high-quality veterinary physiotherapy practice.

Veterinary Physiotherapy Practice One

This module delivers 132 hours of practical learning, including 60 hours of offsite industry engagement. You'll develop core interpersonal skills and professional behaviours, while developing verbal communication skills through self-appraisal. The application of knowledge across various

species, including equine, canine, and large animals is examined within a variety of professional settings.

Level 5

Animal Biomechanics, Locomotion and Function for Veterinary Physiotherapists

This module explores the science of animal movement, including biomechanics and locomotion, across a range of species and disciplines. You'll examine fundamental principles of kinematics and kinetics along with the influence of genetics, environment, and conformation on movement. The use of digital assessment tools supports the evaluation and analysis of performance and informs evidence-based biomechanical strategies aimed at optimising function and reducing risk.

Musculoskeletal Pathology and Diagnostics for Veterinary Physiotherapists

This module provides a comprehensive overview of the pathological processes, diagnostic strategies, and assessment techniques related to injury and disease across various animal species. You'll investigate long-term injury implications, pain mechanisms, and the application of diagnostic tools to inform effective treatment and management plans.

Treatment Skills for Veterinary Physiotherapists

This module develops comprehensive skills in equine, canine, and large animal musculoskeletal assessment and therapy. You'll cover detailed examination techniques, treatment planning and application of manual and electrotherapy techniques. Case progression strategies and modification of treatments to individual needs are explored, supporting evidence based rehabilitation and therapy techniques.

Veterinary Physiotherapy Practice Two

This module provides comprehensive practical experience in veterinary physiotherapy across multiple species, including equine, canine, and large animals. Through 120 hours of industry engagement; comprising onsite training and offsite observational placements, it develops practical skills, professional behaviours, and an understanding of business structures within the associated animal industries. Reflective practice underpins ongoing personal and professional development.

Level 6

In this year, you will progress to clinical placements in canine and equine settings working on your practical competencies supervised by experienced and qualified veterinary physiotherapists. When not on placement, modules will cover how to apply evidence-based treatments and rehabilitation, as well as developing your research skills.

Evidence Based Veterinary Physiotherapy

This module provides an in-depth exploration of therapeutic techniques in veterinary physiotherapy, emphasising critical evaluation, evidence-based application, and ethical considerations. Neural pathways and treatment modalities, such as thermal therapy, electrotherapy, massage, and proprioceptive techniques, are examined across a variety of species. Current research is critically analysed to inform effective interventions and rehabilitation strategies.

Research Skills for Veterinary Physiotherapists

This module develops a comprehensive understanding of research principles and methods in the context of veterinary physiotherapy. You'll research design, literature evaluation, qualitative and quantitative data analysis and ethical considerations. Academic writing, critical thinking and clinical reasoning are embedded throughout, supporting the development and implementation of robust research projects.

Applied Treatment Skills for Veterinary Physiotherapists – One

This practical-based module provides 228 hours of supervised clinical experience across equine, canine, and large animal species. You'll develop core competencies in musculoskeletal assessment, treatment planning, and the application of manual and electrotherapy techniques. Objective examination, passive and active treatment methods and gait analysis are practised, supporting the development, of clinical reasoning, professional conduct, and interprofessional skills.

Level 7

In your final year you'll advance your clinical skills and demonstrate a level of independence giving you confidence ready for clinical practice after graduation. When not on placement, modules will cover how to apply evidence-based treatments and rehabilitation, as well as developing your research skills by completing a project to fulfil the requirements for your science degree.

Applied Treatment Skills for Veterinary Physiotherapists – Two

This module provides an in-depth exploration of therapeutic techniques and clinical reasoning within veterinary physiotherapy. You'll develop hands-on skills through 216 hours of supervised practical learning. Emphasis is placed on critical evaluation of complex cases, application of diverse modalities such as electrotherapy, acupuncture, manual therapy, and collaboration within multidisciplinary teams. Through practical sessions and professional behaviour assessments, clinical reasoning, therapeutic competency, and the ability to design and evaluate effective treatment plans across various species are enhanced.

Veterinary Physiotherapy Research Project

This module develops advanced research skills tailored to veterinary physiotherapy. You'll focus on research techniques, selecting appropriate data collection and analysis methods and ensuring ethical, reliable and valid approaches in animal studies. Critical evaluation of academic writing and dissemination skills underpin the development of industry-related research outputs.

Professional Skills for Veterinary Physiotherapists

This module provides an in-depth exploration of advanced veterinary therapeutic techniques across multiple species, including equine, canine, and large animals. Complex case analysis and the development of comprehensive management strategies are central. Emphasising a multidisciplinary approach, the module covers business management, marketing, and client communication to enhance service delivery and client concordance. Practical skills include applying modalities such as Kinesio tape and hydrotherapy, as well as evaluating joint function and physiological responses. The module supports the development of both clinical proficiency and the operational knowledge required for effective practice within veterinary physiotherapy.