



— Bachelor

Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences

*The only university-based Bachelor's programme
in Physiotherapy in the Netherlands.*

Welcome to SOMT

The Bachelor’s in Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences is a university-level programme for students who do not only want to apply knowledge of human movement, but above all want to understand it. You will learn to analyse health complaints from biological, behavioural and contextual perspectives, grounded in scientific evidence and continuously connected to physiotherapy practice.

At SOMT, you study in a small-scale and highly personal learning environment. You work in fixed cohorts and receive close guidance from lecturers who know you and actively follow your development. This approach allows you to gradually develop an academic way of thinking and working: critical, thorough and always attentive to the person behind the condition.

In this brochure, you will discover how the programme is structured, what you will learn, and how theory and practice are integrated throughout the curriculum. This will give you a clear and realistic picture of what studying at SOMT requires, both academically and practically.



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Why choose the Bachelor's in Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences?

At SOMT, you combine scientific knowledge and academic depth with practice-oriented training and skills development. You do not only learn how to treat patients, but also why a treatment works and when adjustments are needed. This approach prepares you to become a physiotherapist who looks beyond symptoms and actively contributes to the healthcare systems of the future.

As **the only university-level Bachelor's programme in Physiotherapy in the Netherlands**, SOMT offers a unique curriculum in which science, healthcare and innovation come together. You study and learn in small groups, receive personal supervision, and have access to modern educational facilities such as skills laboratories and digital dissection tables. Your

individual development is central throughout the programme.

The programme is taught **in English** (with a limited number of Dutch-taught modules) and offers guaranteed progression to the connected **Master's programme in Human Movement Sciences (specialisation: Physiotherapy)** at **Maastricht University**.

Career prospects

After completing this university Bachelor's programme, you will have a strong academic foundation. Most students continue directly into the Master's in **Human Movement Sciences (Physiotherapy specialisation)** at Maastricht University. After completing this Master's programme, you are eligible for registration in the **Dutch BIG** register and may practise independently as a physiotherapist in the Netherlands.

In addition, this programme prepares you for careers in:

Healthcare and rehabilitation

As a physiotherapist, research assistant or healthcare policy advisor.

Education and research

At universities, research institutes or academic departments.

Sport and prevention

Within (elite) sports, rehabilitation centres or preventive health programmes.

International healthcare organisations

Thanks to the English-taught curriculum, you are well prepared for an international career.

An alternative pathway to Medicine

Not admitted to medical school? Disappointing, but not the end of a medical career.

The Bachelor's in Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences at SOMT, combined with additional modules offered in collaboration with other universities, provides a fully academic and meaningful alternative pathway.

*You develop an academic way of thinking and working that opens doors to **healthcare, science, innovation and a wide range of postgraduate programmes**. Your knowledge and skills contribute directly to a healthier society.*



HBO or WO: what is the difference?

HBO Physiotherapy

Strongly focused on applying existing knowledge in practice.

WO Bachelor at SOMT

Also focused on analysing, researching and innovating that knowledge.

You do not only learn what works, but also why it works and how it can be improved.



Progression & Further Study Routes

After completing the Bachelor Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences, you are guaranteed direct progression to the linked one-year Master Human Movement Sciences, specialisation Physiotherapy, at Maastricht University (UM).

After completing both the bachelor programme and the linked one-year master at Maastricht University, Dutch-speaking students (with a minimum Dutch language proficiency level of B2) may apply for registration in the Dutch BIG register.

Why this university bachelor?

The Bachelor Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences at SOMT University of Physiotherapy is the only university-level bachelor programme in physiotherapy in the Netherlands. This means you learn to think, conduct research, and treat patients at an academic level, always with a direct connection to clinical practice.



THE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Programme

Bachelor Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences

Degree

Bachelor of Science (BSc)

Duration & Format

3 years, full-time

Study Load

On average 40 hours per week, including 3 on-campus contact days.

Start Date

September

Location

SOMT University of Physiotherapy, Amersfoort

Language of Instruction

English (with the exception of a limited number of modules)

Internships & Practical Training

Introduced early and continuously integrated throughout the curriculum (skills labs, case-based learning, clinical orientation).

Admission Requirements

VWO diploma with Biology and Mathematics A or B required; please consult the SOMT website for the most up-to-date admission requirements.

Accreditation

University Bachelor's degree (EQF/NQF level 6). See the NVAO website for further information.

What makes this bachelor unique?

Science & practice

You learn to work based on evidence and research, and to translate that knowledge into effective treatment. A university programme with a strong practical focus.

Small groups & personal guidance

We know our students by name and support you in getting the very best out of yourself.

Education by leading experts

Teaching by specialists who are actively involved in research and clinical physiotherapy practice.

Modern learning environment

Skills labs, digital dissection tables, and high-tech research facilities bring theory to life.

International orientation

Preparation for collaboration within (inter)national healthcare networks.

Not admitted to Medicine?

If you were not selected for the medical programme, this bachelor is an excellent alternative.

The benefits of this bachelor programme

😊 You receive

a top-level education with a strong curriculum, delivered by passionate lecturers who are experts in their field.

😊 You study

not only theory, but also develop extensive practical skills.

😊 You make

the most of your pre-university diploma (or international equivalent), as we challenge you to deepen and extend your knowledge.

😊 You are taught

in small tutorial and practical groups, with personal attention. Large lectures are used only occasionally.

😊 You benefit

from excellent career prospects at a high professional level, thanks to the combination of academic and clinical competencies you develop.

Programme structure

The Bachelor's programme in Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences is structured across three academic years with a progressively increasing level of complexity. Step by step, you develop the knowledge, skills, and academic mindset required to function as a physiotherapist.

Year 1 – Core competencies and fundamental knowledge

In the first year, you develop the core competencies (knowledge, skills, and professional attitude) that form the foundation of a physiotherapist. Core knowledge is delivered through four main modules, preceded by a short introductory module.

After the first four weeks, the subsequent modules of 8 to 10 weeks each focus consecutively on the extremities (arms and legs), the respiratory system, the cardiovascular system, and exercise physiology.

Year 2 – Deepening and integration

In the second year, you complete four modules of 10 weeks each focusing on the spine, pain, and neurology. The year concludes with an integration module in which you bring together your knowledge and skills and work with increasingly complex patient cases. You also complete short observational internships.

Year 3 – Application and completion

In the first module of the third and final year, the complexity of the subject matter increases further. In addition, you follow modules that prepare you for the two final assessments: the bachelor's thesis and the clinical internship.

During this internship, you work under supervision in a professional clinical practice environment.



Continuous learning pathways

All modules are linked to continuous learning pathways that run throughout the three-year programme. These pathways ensure a coherent and progressively deepening learning process across the entire curriculum.

Clinical skills and clinical reasoning

Development of competencies in screening, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, and patient evaluation.

Evidence-based practice

Integration of scientific evidence, clinical expertise, and patient preferences in clinical decision-making.

Epidemiology and statistics

Insight into principles and methodologies for designing, conducting, and critically appraising scientific research.

Academic skills and reasoning

Development of an academic mindset and research skills in preparation for the bachelor's thesis.

You study anatomy in an innovative way using the **digital dissection table (Anatomage)**.

The combination of in vivo anatomy teaching and the digital dissection table creates an interactive learning experience..

Assessment & supervision

Throughout your studies, you are supported and assessed in a variety of ways. Assessment focuses not only on knowledge, but above all on your development as a future physiotherapist. This allows you to clearly understand where you stand and how you can continue to grow.

How are you assessed?

Case-based assignments and practical examinations

You apply your knowledge and skills to realistic patient scenarios and demonstrate your clinical reasoning.

Projects and presentations

You work in small groups on research or practice improvement projects and present your findings.

Research reports

You learn to analyse scientific literature and apply it to your own clinical cases.

Knowledge examinations

You demonstrate that you have mastered theoretical knowledge and can apply it in different contexts.

Clinical placement assessments

During your clinical placements, you are assessed on professional behaviour, clinical competence, and patient-centred care.



Personal guidance

You are never on your own. From the first year onward, you are assigned a mentor who supports you with study planning and your personal development. Within small learning groups, you work closely with lecturers and fellow students, ensuring frequent feedback and individual attention.

Lecturers & practical experience

At **SOMT University of Physiotherapy**, you learn from leading experts in the field. Our lecturers are active researchers, physiotherapists, and clinical specialists who connect science and practice on a daily basis. They bring theory to life with examples drawn from their own professional work—from rehabilitation clinics and primary care practices to elite sport and academic research.



Education tailored to you

The programme is built around **blended learning**: a combination of small-group sessions, lectures, practical classes, online modules, and supervised projects. Thanks to the small-scale structure, you receive extensive personal guidance and direct feedback from lecturers who are actively involved in research and clinical practice. This personalised support and practice-oriented approach ensure that you are optimally prepared for the next step in your career.

Our lecturers are deeply embedded in the professional field

Active in patient care, research, or both.

You are taught according to the most up-to-date insights from clinical practice and scientific research.

Experienced in education and supervision

Persoonlijke aandacht in kleine groepen is vanzelfsprekend.

Actively involved in innovation and research

Lecturers contribute to projects within SOMT's own centres of expertise and research programmes.

Collaboration with university partners

Including the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and international research groups.

From classroom to clinical practice

At SOMT, theory and practice are inseparably connected. Through practical sessions, case-based discussions, and clinical placements, you learn how to translate academic knowledge into practical application. At the same time, practical clinical questions often form the starting point for scientific research. The campus in Amersfoort offers modern facilities that make learning tangible:

Skills labs

For motor learning and the development of clinical skills..

Digital dissection tables

To explore and understand anatomy in 3D.

Measurement and movement analysis

equipment:

For biomechanical research and data analysis.

Clinical placements

Where you assess and treat real patients under the supervision of experienced, highly qualified therapists.



“The lecturers really know you. They understand what you are good at, but also where you can still grow. They help you connect theory directly to practice. That makes all the difference.”

— Student, Bachelor Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences

Admission & practical information

Would you like to start the Bachelor Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences? Below you can find what you need for admission and what you can expect from the programme.

Admission requirements

A Dutch **VWO diploma** with Biology and Mathematics A or B.

Admission via an **HBO** or **WO propaedeutic certificate** is possible, subject to approval by the Examination Board.

During the matching interview, we will jointly assess whether your motivation and expectations align with the programme and with SOMT's academic approach to education.

Application & deadlines

You can apply via the online application form at www.somt.nl/inschrijven or by scanning the QR code at the back of this brochure. After submitting your application, you will receive a confirmation and an invitation for a matching interview. Because SOMT offers small-scale education with intensive personal supervision, the number of students admitted each year is limited. We therefore strongly recommend applying early.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Programme duration

3 years, full-time (180 ECTS)

Study load

Approximately 40 hours per week, including tutorials, lectures, self-study, practical sessions and projects.

Location

SOMT University of Physiotherapy, Amersfoort

Tuition fees

Please consult our website for the most up-to-date tuition fees. Tuition includes assessments and use of educational facilities.

Financial support

Student finance may be available via DUO.

Language of instruction

English (with the exception of a small number of modules)





Facts & figures

SOMT University of Physiotherapy is a recognised and accredited higher education institution with a strong reputation in educating physiotherapists and researchers. Below you will find several key figures that illustrate the quality and scope of our university bachelor's programme.

Accreditation

The programme is accredited by the NVAO and meets EQF level 6 standards.

Intake

Small-scale education.

Contact hours

Gemiddeld drie dagen per week aan colleges, practica en begeleiding van experts.

Graduation rate

92% of our students obtain their bachelor's degree within the nominal study duration.

Progression

Almost all graduates progress directly to a master's programme.



After your studies

After completing the Bachelor's in Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences, you will have a strong academic foundation that enables you to progress in research, specialisation and clinical practice. You will have learned to think critically, work in an evidence-based manner and analyse complex problems — precisely the qualities required in modern healthcare.

After graduation, you are ready to apply your knowledge in practice. You understand the person behind the complaint, are able to reason in a well-substantiated manner and work according to the latest insights. Whether you choose to continue studying, pursue research or enter professional practice, this bachelor's programme opens doors to a wide range of career paths.



Further study and BIG registration

After obtaining the Bachelor's in Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences, you can progress directly to the **one-year Master's programme in Human Movement Sciences**, specialisation Physiotherapy, at Maastricht University (UM).

After completing both the bachelor's degree and the associated one-year master's programme at Maastricht University, Dutch-speaking students (minimum B2 level Dutch language proficiency required) may apply for registration in the Dutch BIG register.

Working and contributing to the healthcare of the future

You may work as a researcher or advisor within the healthcare or sports sector, at knowledge institutes, research departments or universities.

You can contribute to innovation in rehabilitation, prevention or sports healthcare as an academically trained professional.

How do you see your future?

- 😊 You can continue to develop towards a role as a clinical expert, researcher or lecturer.
- 😊 You will work at a level where healthcare, science and policy intersect.
- 😊 You are prepared for international collaboration in a multidisciplinary healthcare environment.
- 😊 With your academic background, you increase your opportunities for a sustainable, future-proof career.



Student stories

Our students consciously choose SOMT University of Physiotherapy because of the strong scientific foundation, the personal approach and the close connection with clinical practice. Their experiences provide a clear picture of what you can expect from the Bachelor's in Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Sciences.

“What appeals to me most is the connection between science and practice. Lecturers are actively working in the field or conducting research themselves. You really notice that in the way they teach: everything you learn is directly relevant.” — Wagma, alumnus

“At SOMT I found exactly the combination I was looking for: science, healthcare and human connection. Classes are small-scale, so you are truly heard. And what you learn, you apply directly in practice.” — Emma, second-year student

“A university programme with a lot of hands-on practice! The programme challenges you to think beyond just treatment. We learn to look critically, analyse problems and support our decisions with research.” — Bas, third-year student



Studying in Amersfoort

The campus of SOMT University of Physiotherapy is located in Amersfoort, centrally situated in the Netherlands and easily accessible by both car and public transport. Here you attend tutorials, lectures, practical sessions and project-based education in a modern and inspiring learning environment.

A campus full of movement

Modern educational facilities

Skills labs, research facilities and a digital dissection table for lifelike anatomy education.

Open atmosphere

Small groups, close interaction with lecturers and plenty of room for personal initiative.

Easy accessibility

Located near Amersfoort Schothorst railway station and the motorway, with ample parking facilities.

Vibrant city life

In the historic city centre you will find cafés, shops and sports clubs to relax after classes. In addition, major student cities such as Utrecht and Amsterdam are only a short journey away.

Good to know

Class days

Usually three fixed days per week on campus, supplemented with online (self-study) assignments, modules and project work.

Start of the programme

Every year in September.

Facilities

Free Wi-Fi, study areas, practical classrooms and a training room for skills practice.

Studying at SOMT means learning, researching and enjoying what you do — in an environment where everyone knows each other and collaboration comes naturally.

New — From 2026 onwards, the bachelor's programme will have its own student association, offering social activities as well as in-depth study sessions.

Visit an Open Day

Would you like to experience the atmosphere on campus for yourself? During our open days, you will meet lecturers, students and alumni. You will gain a clear impression of the programme, the teaching approach and the personal guidance that characterises SOMT.



*“At SOMT, you don’t just learn a profession—you learn how to truly make a difference.
For your patients, for science, and for yourself.”
— SOMT University of Physiotherapy*

Discover whether SOMT is right for you

Attend a lecture or take part in workshops and practical sessions related to the programme and the physiotherapy profession. Talk to students and lecturers about their experiences. Explore our modern skills labs and practice facilities.

Want to know more or get personalized advice?

Do you have questions about admission, the study load, or your personal situation?

E-mail: info@somt.nl

Phone: +31 (0)33 456 07 37

Our team is happy to help. You can reach us via:

Register quickly and easily?

You can do so on our website at www.somt.nl/inschrijven.

Or scan the QR code below!





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