

# Medical Support Officer (Physiotherapist)

*Provide health support to RAF personnel in readiness for and during Operations.*

The Physiotherapy Cadre is a sub cadre of the Medical Support Officer (MSO) Branch of the Royal Air Force Medical Services. Physiotherapy Officers play a vital role in ensuring personnel are fit and ready for action. You will be employed in a variety of challenging clinical and management roles, including primary care rehabilitation facilities across the country. There will be opportunities to work on front-line Main Operating Bases around the world, at large Regional Rehabilitation Units and at the new centre of excellence, the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) at Stanford Hall, Loughborough.

You will be deployed on Operations and Exercises to provide musculoskeletal outpatient and Secondary Healthcare support, where you will provide essential care to front-line personnel in the most challenging of environments. You will deliver the same high standard of care as you would in the UK; however, with the additional challenges of working in a deployed medical treatment facility.

All MSO Physiotherapy Officers complete specialist training in aviation medicine and occupational health specific to a military setting. The Branch also has a sub-cadre of Secondary Healthcare trained physiotherapists who will deliver physiotherapy within a deployed hospital setting.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

### Initial Officer Training

Like all our Specialist Branch Officers, you will begin your RAF career on Specialist Officer Initial Training Course (SOITC) at RAF College Cranwell in Lincolnshire. This is a 12-week course specially designed for professionally qualified entrants to the RAF. The course includes fitness development, military training, weapons handling and academic study, as well as practical outdoor leadership challenges.

### Specialist Training

Following completion of SOITC, you will move to the Defence College of Healthcare Education and Training near Lichfield for a further 5 days of professional training, with fellow healthcare professionals, on the Initial Medical, Dental and Nursing Officers' Course. The final part of this phase of training is a 2-week Aviation Medicine course at RAF Henlow.

### Foundation Tour

Like most people in the RAF you will move jobs every 2 - 3 years; each job is known as a tour. Primary care settings involve working in either Medical Centres at RAF bases or Regional Rehabilitation Units located throughout the UK. Depending on your knowledge and experience, you may be selected to work in a specialist field at DMRC Stanford Hall.

### MSO (Physiotherapist)

**Minimum Age:** When completed professional/education qualifications.

**Maximum Age:** 47\*

\*Must have entered the SOITC course before 48<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### Qualifications:

Be a fully qualified and HCPC registered physiotherapist with a BSc or MSc (pre-registration) in Physiotherapy.

Have a minimum of 3 years postgraduate experience.

Have completed postgraduate Band 5 rotations, to include a respiratory rotation.

Have a minimum of 12 months experience in a musculoskeletal outpatient setting.

#### Residency:

Whether or not you were born in the United Kingdom, you should have resided there for the 5 years immediately preceding your application, but candidates with a minimum of 3 years will be considered.

### Your Career Prospects

You will join the RAF on an initial commission of 6 years, during this time your service may be extended by competitive selection. MSO Physiotherapists are commissioned in the rank of Flying Officer with an award of one year's seniority. Additional seniority may be awarded depending on recognised clinical experience. You will be promoted to Flight Lieutenant on a time and satisfactory service basis. All further promotions will be by competitive selection on merit, and Service need.

### On-going Development

As a Physiotherapy Officer, you will have extensive opportunities for further personal and professional development throughout your career. This will include various types of on-going professional training to ensure your continued registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). Physiotherapists are strongly encouraged to undertake master's level study in a clinically relevant subject. As an autonomous practitioner, you will have the opportunity to test your clinical and leadership skills in more challenging ways both in the UK and when deployed.

### Transferable Skills

As well as having similar promotion and development opportunities to civilian counterparts, Physiotherapy Officers have the chance to work around the world and gain unique medical experiences. Similarly, experience of military medical management and training provides RAF healthcare professionals with an excellent grounding for managerial progression if that is the chosen route for a future career.

### Find Out More

The Medical, Dental and Physiotherapist Specialist Recruitment Team (MDRT) give 'find out more' presentations at certain times during the year, covering all aspects of the RAF Medical Services and the selection process. You should contact the MDRT directly on 01400 266811 or Email: [CRN-RecruitSelect-MDLT-Grp@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CRN-RecruitSelect-MDLT-Grp@mod.gov.uk) for their programme dates and to book your place on a presentation.

**Pay:** For current information visit:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/medical-and-medical-support/medical-support-officer-physio>

### Nationality:

You must be a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, holder of dual UK/other nationality or have been a Commonwealth citizen since birth.

### Selection:

You must pass a specialist interview where your professional suitability will be assessed. You will then be invited to the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) at RAF College Cranwell for the one-day selection process where we will assess your potential for training.

### A Modern Force:

The RAF recognises the value of a person's ability no matter their ethnicity, social background, religion or belief, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status/civil partnership.

**To register your interest in this role online:**

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/medical-and-medical-support/medical-support-officer-physio>

or

**Telephone:**

0345 605 5555

This information was last updated in 03 Aug 21, but may have changed since. If you have any queries, please check with RAF Staff at any Armed Forces Careers Office.

**Search online for other branches both Regular and Reserve**

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>



**NO  
ORDINARY  
JOB**