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IPTAS is first college in Europe to be awarded B. Sc in Applied Health Sciences

Ireland is the first country in Europe to award the Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Sciences.

The Institute of Physical Therapy and Applied Science (IPTAS) is the first Irish college to receive this recognition in Europe.

HETAC (the Higher Education and Training Awards Council) today announced that it had approved IPTAS to provide a programme leading to a Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Science. Students at the Institute pursuing this programme in physical therapy can graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Health Science after 3 years.

Course Director Anne Mangan comments: "Long considered a passport to a rewarding future, or degree course now carries international recognition, an important consideration for potential students. We are delighted to be the first in Europe to offer a degree level programme covering the treatment of common muscle problems and sports injuries. It is a significant step for our school and for the physical therapy profession both in Ireland and Europe."

The Institute, which is a private college, founded the physical therapy profession in Ireland when it opened its doors in 1989. Since then IPTAS has lead the profession in bringing physical therapy into mainstream community healthcare and gaining recognition and coverage by the leading health insurers.

Anne Mangan continued: "Thousands of patients are treated by physical therapists in Ireland each week. From now the public can be assured that a physical therapist has met a degree-level educational standard as well as having met all other criteria set by the professional association. Students undertaking the course can also be assured that they are getting a portable qualification that will be internationally recognised to the highest available standard."

The 3-year degree course at IPTAS was designed for mature learners (over 23 years old) and most of its students are engaged in full-time employment in an unrelated profession while they study.

The course is also set to provide a natural progression for the hundreds of students who graduate from massage and sports injuries courses each year and would like to bring their qualification to the highest available level.

Physical therapy is a 'hands-on' or manual form of treatment for all kinds of muscular ailments and sporting injuries. The therapy has had a 20-year history of safe and successful practice in Ireland. The IPTAS course is the only one recognised by the Irish Association of Physical Therapists who regulate physical therapy practice here.

For more information contact John O'Sullivan on 1800 254 642, email press@iptas.com, or visit www.iptas.com

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