Programme Specification

Clinical and Health Research (Part Time) (2019-20)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Part-time
Duration in years	5
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Research (MRes)
Name of award	Clinical and Health Research (Part Time)
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Research
	Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Research

FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	8331
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Bronagh Walsh (bmw)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The MRes Clinical & Health Research programme is a robust clinical and health research training opportunity for those who aspire to clinical academic careers, research management roles in clinical research settings and other clinical and health research roles. The course is particularly suitable for healthcare practitioners, including nurses, midwives, allied healthcare professionals (AHPs), health care scientists and doctors. It is also suitable for those without a health professional qualification who have relevant academic qualifications and are engaged in, or aspiring to work in, clinical and health research environments. The MRes Clinical & Health Research programme adopts a broad definition of clinical research that encompasses clinical trials, experimental medicine, translational research, epidemiological studies, public health, management of diseases and conditions and health services research, in line with that used by the United Kingdom Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) (UKCRC, 2007; NIHR, 2006)..

Learning and teaching

The MRes Clinical & Health Research programme comprises three taught modules (totalling 30 ECTS) and two empirical research project modules (2x 30 ECTS). All modules involve a combination of face-to-face taught contact, including lectures, seminars and learning groups, and self-directed study. Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Assessment

There are no examinations in the MRes Clinical & Health Research Programme. Assessment is via written assignments and empirical research tasks. The details of module assessment tasks and requirements are provided in individual module profiles.

Special Features of the programme

There are no special features for this programme.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our Disclaimer to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme validation process which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:

·   Provide you with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to carrying out clinical and health research within your discipline and/or clinical domain;
·   Equip you to engage in all aspects of the research process within a clinical, health services or academic context

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

A1.   Critically examine the research process including ethics, data protection and clinical governance procedures.

A2.　　　Critically appraise research literature and demonstrate synthesis of your theoretical knowledge and understanding.

A3.　　　Critically examine the evidence-base for clinical practice and/or organisation and delivery of health services and use this analysis to formulate clinical and/or health research questions.

A4.　　　Critically discuss research design, methods and approaches to analysis, both quantitative and qualitative.

A5.　　　Critically evaluate the value, uses and limitations of a range of research methods in relation to clinical and health research.

A6.　　　Demonstrate synthesis in the interpretation of findings, both quantitative and qualitative.

Teaching and Learning Methods

These may include:
- Lectures
- Small group tutorials
- Practical workshops
- Learning groups focused on guided activities
- Individual research project work
- Teaching, demonstration and supervision within research/practice environments
- Electronic learning opportunities

Assessment Methods

Assessment methods

- Research proposal
- Literature review
- Presentation and analysis of data
- Critical discussion of research design issues
- Preparation of article for publication

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

B1. Critically appraise the current state of evidence in relation to your research area.

B2.　　　Synthesise current information and articulate the development of research questions in your field of practice.

B3.　　　Critically appraise research designs and data collection approaches to address your research questions.

B4.　　　Critically discuss the issues of validity and reliability /credibility and dependability within a research project.

B5.　　　Justify your approach to ethical and governance issues in relation to an area of research.

B6.　　　Analyse qualitative and/or quantitative data, as appropriate, interpreting the findings appropriately and justifying the conclusions and recommendations arising from your analysis.

B7.　　　Conduct a research study that addresses a specific research question.

B8.　　　Apply strategies for presentation and dissemination of research findings.

Teaching and Learning Methods

- Lectures
- Small group tutorials
- Practical workshops
- Learning groups focused on guided activities
- Individual research project work
- Teaching, demonstration and supervision within research/practice environments
- Electronic learning opportunities

Assessment Methods

- Research proposal
- Literature review
- Presentation and analysis of data
- Critical discussion of research design issues
- Preparation of article for publication

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

C1. Reflect on your own research skills and learning needs to meet your personal learning outcomes and research career plans.

C2. Work effectively independently and in groups to achieve identified tasks.

C3. Use information technology effectively e.g. internet, databases, spreadsheets, statistical/qualitative analysis packages, word processing and presentation packages.

C4. Present, discuss and defend ideas, concepts and views through written and spoken language.

C5. Manage a research project with due attention to approvals processes, regulatory framework, time and resource management.

Teaching and Learning Methods

- Lectures
- Small group tutorials
- Practical workshops
- Learning groups focused on guided activities
- Individual research project work
- Teaching, demonstration and supervision within research/practice environments
- Electronic learning opportunities

Assessment Methods

- Research proposal

- Literature review
- Presentation and analysis of data
- Critical discussion of research design issues
- Preparation of article for publication
- Project file and supporting documents

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Part I

The programme requires the successful completion of 90 ECTS credits: three taught modules of 10 ECTS credits each; plus two research project modules of 30 ECTS each. The programme consists of core modules which must be taken and passed to achieve the MRes award.

Candidates may apply to suspend from the programme temporarily for a specified period which will not normally exceed 12 months in accordance with the University regulations for suspension. Save in exceptional circumstances, permission to suspend will only be granted where the candidate can still complete the programme within the time limit defined by the regulations.

The programme may include lectures, seminars, tutorials, practical work, coursework, contract learning and supervised projects as specified for individual modules. Candidates will plan their modules in consultation with, and with the approval of, the Programme Leader.

The minimum time for completion of the programme will be 24 months and the maximum time for completion will be 5 years for Part-time. There will be one cohort per year, commencing in September.

Candidates may apply to suspend from the programme temporarily for a specified period which will not normally exceed 12 months in accordance with the University regulations for suspension. Save in exceptional circumstances, permission to suspend will only be granted where the candidate can still complete the programme within the time limit defined by the regulations.

You must have submitted the assessments for all other modules in the programme prior to submitting the final component of the Research Project 2 assessment.

Modules are delivered in short blocks or on a-day-a-week attendance basis to facilitate access whilst working in clinical practice. The Research Project 2 module will bring the MRes cohort together in facilitated learning groups in order to maximise support. Other modules will bring the MRes cohort together with the doctoral training programme students to provide shared learning opportunities for the cohort and to facilitate development of applied research skills. The programme lead will allocate each student to a research supervisor at the beginning of the programme.

Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Research (Exit award): Candidates who elect to exit the programme after achieving any 30 ECTS credits at level HE7 from the modules specified below may be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Research. Modules which can be used to contribute to the PGCert exit award are:

- Design & Methods for Clinical & Health Research (10 ECTS credits)
- Qualitative Methods for Clinical & Health Research(10 ECTS credits)
- Quantitative Methods for Clinical & Health Research (10 ECTS credits)
- Clinical & Health Research Project 1 (30 ECTS)

Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Research (Exit award): Candidates who elect to exit the programme having achieved 60 ECTS credits at HE7 level from the modules specified below may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Research. Modules required for the PGDip exit award are:

- Design & Methods for Clinical & Health Research (10 ECTS credits)
- Qualitative Methods for Clinical & Health Research(10 ECTS credits)
- Quantitative Methods for Clinical & Health Research (10 ECTS credits)
- Clinical & Health Research Project 1 (30 ECTS)

For the award of **MRes Clinical & Health Research** (90 ECTS credits) students must earn 90 ECTS credits at HE7 level as follows:

- Design & Methods for Clinical & Health Research (10 ECTS credits)
- Qualitative Methods for Clinical & Health Research(10 ECTS credits)
- Quantitative Methods for Clinical & Health Research (10 ECTS credits)
- Clinical & Health Research Project 1 (30 ECTS)
- Clinical & Health Research Project 2 (30 ECTS)

The Clinical & Health Research Project 1 module comprises the taught components of the following modules: Conducting Clinical Research; Planning Clinical & Health Research. Learning is shared with students on those modules and the doctoral training programme. Assessment components A & B for the Research Project 1 will be submitted to the same timetable as HLTH6199 Conducting Clinical & Health Research and HLTH6221 Planning Clinical & Health Research respectively. Assessment A or B will be considered as equivalent to HLTH6221 or HLTH6199 for the purposes of exit awards, as appropriate.

Each module will be assessed according to the module description. Module pass marks, and the pass mark for the MRes as a whole, will be 50%. A merit will be awarded for a weighted average mark of 60% and a distinction for a weighted average of 70%.

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HLTH6223	Qualitative Research Design & Methods	10	Core
HLTH6194	Applied Quantitative Research Methods	10	Core
HLTH6200	Design and Methods for Clinical and Health Research	10	Core
HLTH6236	Clinical & Health Research Project 1	30	Core
HLTH6198	Clinical & Health Research Project 2	30	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme will follow the University's regulations for *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters Programmes* as set out in the General Academic Regulations in the University Calendar: http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the

University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:
- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides
- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

In the Faculty you will be able to access:
· Information about your course through the Faculty induction programme, the course handbook on Blackboard, module guides, timetables, the programme leader, the module leaders, the course administrators and your supervisor(s);
· A one-day welcome and induction session to meet fellow students, orientation, library and IT introduction and programme overview;
· Taught modules led by experienced teachers who are experts in the field;
· Facilitated learning groups in a number of core modules, enabling you to synthesise your learning experiences, link these to clinical research and learn with and from each other how to apply research knowledge to clinical issues;
· Programme leader, module leaders, research project supervisors, open module research mentor who will provide support in relation to academic performance, guidance in choosing and timing of modules, identifying a research area and design and conduct of the research project;
· Pastoral care provided by the programme leader;
· Faculty computer workstations;
· Study skills support in the form of on-line materials;
· Seminar programmes

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Student evaluation questionnaires/exercises for each module of the programme;
- End of programme student survey;
- Student representatives on the Programme Management Committee, Faculty Research Committees and staff-student liaison committees;
- Post-graduate student surveys

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- External examiners, who produce an annual report;
- Annual module and programme review within the FoHS;
- Periodic programme review within the Faculty with external advice
- Higher Education Review by Quality Assurance Agency

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the *Quality Handbook.*

Career Opportunities

Students who successfully complete the programme will be prepared to take up clinical research roles in health care settings. The programme is recognised as the first stage in the NIHR Clinical Academic Training Pathway and therefore prepares students for further progression on this pathway.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Deborah Carreck Sen- Birmingham University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Software Licenses	Where a module specifies the use of specific software (eg SPSS, EndNote) the licenses are available to download through the University isolutions portal.
Conference expenses	Students funded by NIHR Clinical Academic studentships may be invited to NIHR trainee events; travel and associated costs will be paid for by the student
Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals)	Parking costs resulting from attendance on the Programme will be paid by students.
Computer discs or USB drives	Students have access to the University secure computer facilities that have safe back up file storage. However if students choose to work at home on their own computers they are advised to purchase storage devices to back up coursework completed offsite.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Laboratory Equipment and Materials	Where a module specifies the use of laboratory equipment and materials this will be provided for students to share. However, students may prefer to use their own medical equipment.
Recording Equipment	Where a module specifies the use of recording equipment, equipment will be provided for students to share. However, students may prefer to use their own recording devices such as mobile phones.
Lab Coats	Where a module specifies the use of lab coats these will be provided.
Medical Equipment and Materials: Fobwatch; stethoscopes;	Where a module specifies the use of medical equipment this will be provided for students to share. However, students may prefer to use their own medical equipment.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/services/copying_for_students_and_visitors/faq.php#594

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.