Programme Specification

Professional Practice in Health Sciences (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 they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of award	Professional Practice in Health Sciences
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences
	Postgraduate Diploma Professional Practice in Health Sciences
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	8335
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2010
Programme Lead	Chris Franks

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

This multi-professional programme can be undertaken by anyone working in health or social care. It is designed to support your development as a healthcare worker, offering a tailored pathway based upon your academic interest or area of professional practice. The goal is to create learners who will strive for excellence in healthcare provision.
Core modules include the Research (10 ECTS/20 CATS) and the Dissertation modules (30 ECTS/60 CATS). Here you will use key methodologies and research skills that underpin the processes of evidence-based practice. The remainder of the programme (50 ECTS/100 CATS) will be selected from a wide choice of healthcare related option modules across the university that usually bear either 10 or 20 ECTS. Consequently, your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles. Supported in the development of your individualised study pathway is available from the programme team.

Learning and teaching

The Faculty promotes a student-centred approach and the programme uses learning and teaching strategies that will support you to learn, and also encourage the mastery of your skills in planning and managing your learning. Your learning will be supported by your personal academic tutor, module leaders and, where appropriate, academic coach and/or mentor in practice. Teaching and learning methods include: lectures, seminar groups, action learning groups, work based learning, experiential learning, and both supervised and self-directed study. These methods are designed to integrate theory and practice and to foster a spirit of enquiry. Key skills are fostered via the learning and teaching activities throughout the programme.

Assessment

The assessment methods are designed to help you integrate theory and practice, maximise your skills of critical thinking and analysis, and develop your understanding of health sciences/mental health sciences. The programme is formatively and summatively assessed through a variety of approaches and all pathways culminate in a dissertation. The assessment methods enable you to demonstrate achievement of the programme learning outcomes as you progress through each module on your pathway. Examples may include:

A strategy document
A business plan
A change management project report or proposal
An investigation of an incident or complaint
A presentation to a Trust board or sub committee
A 'conference' poster and supporting paper
An educational package
An academic essay

Special Features of the programme

The programme offers the opportunity for you to create a bespoke pathway that recognises specific areas of academic interest or your professional development needs.

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 aim of the programme is to support your academic development in Health Sciences. This programme will develop your independent and critical thinking skills and will enable you to question healthcare practice and policy. It will also equip you with the skills necessary to address and find innovative solutions to complex problems in healthcare. Specific programme level learning outcomes aim to ensure that students address the issues inherent in patient and family centred care regardless of the modules chosen by the student. If students' module choices do not explicitly address these issues, then a requirement to address them in the dissertation will be implicit.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

A1.   Develop an individualised learning programme relevant to your chosen area of study and/or practice.

A2.   Work independently and autonomously either to create innovative solutions to practice-based problems - or to subject a contentious health-related topic to critical analysis.

A3.   Think strategically as well as operationally to interpret, analyse and present highly complex data and information ¬and to critically appraise literature relevant to it.

A4.   Demonstrate an extensive knowledge of the current health and social care policy relevant to your interest in health sciences and the ability to critically apply this with initiative, and originality.

A5.   Critically analyse influences on professional practice or ideology including research, legislation and governance.

A6.   Critically reflect on the quality of care provided and your influence in improving patient and family experiences.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme a student will be able to:

B1.   Synthesise, critically evaluate and apply research findings and other forms of evidence to your subject area.

B2.   Critically apply the skills of academic study and enquiry to the study of your subject area.

B3.   Synthesise information from a number of sources to gain a greater depth of understanding in health sciences.

B4.   Critically apply strategies for the appropriate selection of relevant information from a wide body of knowledge.

B5.   Develop reflective skills.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme a student will be able to:

C1.   Communicate confidently both verbally and in writing.

C2.   Use problem solving skills to work effectively both individually and as part of a team.

C3.   Take responsibility for your personal and professional learning and development.

C4.   Think critically and analytically, and apply these skills where appropriate.

C5.   Handle information effectively and present this in a succinct and logical manner.

C6.   Manage a project with due attention to time and resource management.

C7.   Use information management/technologies to support learning, practice and research activities.

C8.   Demonstrate innovation in the application of knowledge where relevant.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

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

Part I

The modular design of this award is designed to enable you to complete the full MSc award in twelve months of full time study, or two to five years of part time study.

The award permits you to register for individual 10, 20 or 30 ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme, 20, 40 or 60 CATS)) modules of study at HEI (Higher Education Institution) Level 7 (Masters level).

For the award of Master of Science Professional Practice in Health Sciences (90 ECTS/180 CATS) you must have successfully completed:

·   Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice (10 ECTS)
·   Open and/or option modules from within the Faculty of Health Sciences (SoHS portfolio totalling 50 ECTS at level 7*.
·   Dissertation (30 ECTS)

*a maximum of 30 ECTS (10 of which may be at level 6) may be carried forward into the programme via RPL route.

You must have submitted the assessments for all other modules in the programme prior to submitting the dissertation.

You may be able to exit the award with the award of Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate following discussion with the programme lead.

For the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Practice in Health Sciences (60 ECTS) you must have successfully completed:

· Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice (10 ECTS)
· Open and/or option modules from within the SOHS portfolio totalling 50 ECTS at level 7.

For the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences (30 ECTS) you must have successfully completed:

· Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice (10 ECTS)
· Open and/or option modules from within the SOHS portfolio totalling 20 ECTS at level 7.

The dissertation can be commenced before completion of all the taught modules; however it cannot be submitted until all taught modules have been submitted.

Postgraduate master's programmes are constructed from modules, the majority of which are set at level 7. However, as described within the Programme Structure Section of this Programme Specification some study in the (Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Health Assessment and Prescribing) Programme may be undertaken at level 6. The module pass mark for students enrolled on this postgraduate programme, regardless of academic level is 50. Some modules may be marked only as Pass or Fail. When a mark is awarded it will contribute to the final degree classification.

Academic credit, up to a total of 10 ECTS (20 CATS), awarded from the successful completion of University of Southampton modules taken PRIOR to enrolling on this programme may be used towards the final award. Academic credit awarded from the successful completion of University of Southampton Level 7 modules taken PRIOR to enrolling on this programme may be used towards the final award. In this case the mark will contribute to the final degree classification.

Students may make a claim for the recognition of prior learning in accordance with University of Southampton regulations. RPL enables recognition of achievement from a range of activities using an appropriate assessment methodology. Provided that the assessment requirements of a given module or qualification have been met, the use of RPL is acceptable for accrediting a module or part of a programme through a process of credit transfer, within the limits specified in the University's Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme.

The awards of Postgraduate Diploma and MSc may be awarded as 'pass', 'merit' and 'distinction' in accordance with the University regulations for standalone Masters programmes.

Once chosen the module becomes Core.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HLTH6214	MSc Dissertation 10 month OR	30	Optional/core
HLTH6213	MSc Dissertation 18 month	30	Optional/core
HLTH6224	Research Methods online or	10	Optional/Core
HLTH6225	Research Methods	10	Optional/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.

The Faculty is committed to helping you to develop your confidence and advanced skills in managing your own learning. The Post-qualifying Student Handbook and the Programme Handbook gives details on how to access the facilities available to you within the University which can support your learning. You will be expected to obtain the support you need from:

·   An induction day consisting of sessions relating to study skills, information technology and library facilities
·   SUSSED, which is the University portal (at www.sussed.soton.ac.uk). This portal will enable you to gain information about the University and available learning resources.
·   Blackboard, which is a web based learning environment. This will be used to support your learning in all modules and also contains a specific section dedicated to the MSc Health Sciences. Access is via SUSSED or via www.blackboard.soton.ac.uk
·   Academic staff: your module leaders, your pathway leader, your programme leader, academic coach (where appropriate) and your dissertation supervisor
·   Your clinical mentor (if appropriate)
·   The Student Office within the Faculty of Health Sciences (Building 67).
·   The University Library facilities. You are encouraged to approach any of the Faculty of Health Sciences academic liaison team for help and support. For more information see www.southampton.ac.uk/library/

·   University student counselling service www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/counselling/   or, if you are not sure who to approach an excellent first point of contact is 'First Support' - more information regarding the services they provide can be found at www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/firstsupport/
·   Programme and module handbooks
·   Enabling Services offering assessment and support facilities (including specialist IT support) if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties. More information can be found at www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/
·   Study skills support. On line study skills support can be accessed from www.studyskills.soton.ac.uk. In addition, the School has a number of Student Learning Advisors who can help students with particular learning needs develop their understanding of how to prepare assessments and develop study skills. Your academic tutor may refer you to this service if he/she feels it would be of benefit.

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:

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme via student evaluation questionnaires which are sent via email at the end of each module of study. You may also be invited to act as a post-graduate student representative at the Faculty Postgraduate Teaching Committee or MSc Health Sciences Teaching Sub Committee meetings.

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

·   External examiners, who see a selection of work from every module studied and produce an annual report
·   Annual module review
·   Annual Programme Review prepared by the Programme Leader and considered by Postgraduate Teaching Committee
·   Quinquennial review and revalidation involving external panel members
·   Peer observation of teaching (undertaken by academic colleagues)
·   Ongoing review of subject/professional benchmarking standards
·   Higher Education Review by Quality Assurance Agency

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

Career Opportunities

This MSc Professional Practice in Health Sciences is a flexible programme of higher level study that is suitable for both clinicians and non-clinicians.
 Its chief objective is to provide the academic credentials needed to improve the likelihood of being promoted to more senior posts.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Heather Jarman - St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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 they 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
Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals)	Students using their own vehicles will need to make their own arrangements for parking and pay for this where appropriate.
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.
Approved Calculators	Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved models are Casio FX-570 and Casio FX-85GT Plus. These may be purchased from any source and no longer need to carry the University logo.
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.