

## Programme Specification

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### 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 they take 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	Postgraduate Diploma Clinical and Health Research
Name of award	Clinical and Health Research
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Research
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	8341
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Bronagh Walsh (bmw)

### Programme Overview

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#### Brief outline of the programme

The PGDip 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 PGDip 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 PGDip Clinical & Health Research programme comprises 5 taught modules (totalling 60ECTS). 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 PGDip Clinical & Health Research Programme. Assessment is via written assignment. The details of module assessment tasks and requirements are provided in individual module profiles.

## Special Features of the programme

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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

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The aims of the programme are to:

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

## Programme Learning Outcomes

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### Knowledge and Understanding

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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.

## **Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills**

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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

## **Transferable and Generic Skills**

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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.

## **Programme Structure**

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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 60 ECTS credits: 5 taught modules of 10 or 20 ECTS credits. The programme consists of core modules which must be taken and passed to achieve the PGDip 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 and coursework as specified for individual modules.

There will be one cohort per year, commencing in September. Modules are delivered in short blocks or on a-day-a-week attendance basis to facilitate access whilst working in clinical practice. The Planning Clinical and Health Research module will bring the PGDip cohort together in facilitated learning groups and with students on the MRes and doctoral programme in order to maximise support and shared learning opportunities for the cohort and to facilitate development of applied research skills.

**Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Research :** Candidates who elect to exit the programme after achieving 60 ECTS credits at level HE7 from the modules specified below may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Research.

- 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)
- Conducting Clinical Research (10ECTS)
- Planning Clinical & Health Research (20ECTS)

#### Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HLTH6223	Qualitative Research Design & Methods	10	Optional
HLTH6194	Applied Quantitative Research Methods	10	Optional
HLTH6199	Conducting Clinical and Health Research	10	Optional
HLTH6200	Design and Methods for Clinical and Health Research	10	Optional
HLTH6221	Planning Clinical and Health Research	20	Optional

#### 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

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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

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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

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Name: Dr Debbie 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 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
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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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: <a href="http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/services/copying_for_students_and_visitors/faq.php#594">http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/services/copying_for_students_and_visitors/faq.php#594</a>

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](http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk).

