

Programme Specification

MSc Neonatology (2020-21)

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	Distance Learning - Online
Duration in years	3
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of award	MSc Neonatology
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Neonatology Postgraduate Diploma in Neonatology
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	8091
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Susan Smith

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The MSc Neonatology is a bespoke neonatal programme which is normally delivered fully online. The programme offers you the unique opportunity to learn alongside and with other experienced clinicians who are undertaking a similar role within neonatal units across the world. You will have access to neonatal modules which have been developed by renowned neonatal specialists, most of whom are senior members of the European Paediatric Society for Research (ESPR). In addition to increasing your neonatal knowledge you will be expected to further develop your key transferable skills including communication and discourse, analysis and synthesis, collaboration and social networking.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

The School promotes a student-centred approach and this programme uses online learning and teaching strategies that will support you to learn, and also encourage the mastery of your skills in planning and managing your learning needs. Your studies will be supported by your personal academic tutor, online module leaders and, where appropriate, an academic coach. Online teaching and learning methods include: lectures, seminar groups 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 in the virtual learning environment (VLE) 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 neonatology. The programme is formatively and summatively assessed through a variety of approaches which may 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 include:

- A summative exam
- Evaluation of your online activity and participation
- A strategy document
- A business plan
- A change management project report or proposal
- A clinical or practice guideline
- An economic evaluation
- An investigation of an incident or complaint
- A 'conference' poster and supporting paper
- An academic essay of 1,500 -3,500 words

Special Features of the programme

This programme was the first collaborative neonatal structured and accredited postgraduate programme delivered fully online in Europe. The original neonatal online modules were developed more than 20 years ago with the support of more than 900,000 Euros of funding from the European Commission. The modules have been continually developed and refined by subject specialists (both neonatal and online) since then and in September 2015 the programme was validated for the first time by the University of Southampton as part of a collaborative agreement with the European Society for Paediatric Research (ESPR).

As a student on this programme you will be working with students from a number of different countries. The sharing of experience, knowledge and even research opportunities can provide you with different insights into how neonatal care is practiced in a range of contexts from low income resource countries to large specialist tertiary units undertaking cutting edge practice and research. Within each module you will meet a number of world renowned "Guest Lecturers" who will be presenting and discussing their research and you will have the opportunity to discuss issues from your context.

In the bespoke neonatal virtual learning environment (VLE) you will be studying in a collaborative and supportive learning environment within an online "community of practice". These groups are facilitated by online tutors who are also senior neonatal clinicians. The asynchronous and synchronous discussions and debates related to clinical cases will reflect the social learning which takes place. Here you will be studying with clinicians who have the same shared clinical interest in the problems, research and clinical topics regularly encountered within neonatology.

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: support your academic development in Neonatology. This programme will develop your independent and critical thinking skills and will enable you to question neonatal healthcare practice and policy. It will also provide you with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to address and find innovative solutions to complex problems in Neonatology.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- A1. The theoretical basis of a range of common and complex neonatal medical and surgical conditions and the underpinning scientific knowledge
- A2. The theoretical basis of research and evidence-based practice
- A3. The importance of collaboration, effective communication and the insight into some of the challenges faced by other professionals and where appropriate propose new solutions or alternative hypotheses
- A4. Critical and reflective thinking which takes account of the values and beliefs of others, and how your beliefs and behaviours affect others

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

- B1. Engage in academic enquiry and critical analysis
- B2. Synthesise, critically evaluate and apply research findings and other forms of evidence to neonatal practice
- B3. Use critical reflection and self-assessment as a means to evaluate and enhance your learning
- B4. Utilise creative, innovative approaches towards problem-solving by drawing on an extended knowledge base
- B5. Identify and appraise information through the use of varied information sources and strategies for retrieval and critical appraisal in order to determine the appropriateness of your neonatal knowledge
- B6. Analyse research methodologies and methods for data collection, analysis and interpretation and dissemination and evaluate their strengths and limitations
- B7. Manage and synthesise knowledge effectively in order to develop an evidence-based/research culture in the health care environment

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

- C1. Develop and refine your online communication skills
- C2. Use problem solving skills to work effectively both individually and collaboratively
- C3. Handle information effectively and present this in a succinct and logical manner
- C4. Manage the collaborative online activities with attention to time and resource management
- C5. Use information management/technologies to support your online learning
- C6. Demonstrate innovation in the application of knowledge to practice

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

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

Part I

For the award of Master of Science Neonatology (90 ECTS) you must have successfully completed:

- (i) Research Methods (10 ECTS)
- (ii) Dissertation (30 ECTS)

The remaining 50 ECT credits will be attained by selecting further modules most relevant to your academic and/or clinical needs within a neonatal subject area, (this may include the Open module in the School of Health Sciences or an alternative appropriate module from the Faculty of Medicine) and a number of neonatal-specific modules (see the programme structure below). Once a module is selected, it becomes core.

This neonatal master's degree programme will normally be delivered fully online within a specially designed virtual learning environment (VLE)

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

For the award of Postgraduate Diploma Neonatology (60 ECTS) you must have successfully completed:

- Research Methods (10 ECTS)

The remaining 50 ECT credits will be attained by selecting further modules most relevant to your academic and/or clinical needs within a neonatal subject area, (this may include the Open module in the School of Health Sciences or an alternative appropriate module from the Faculty of Medicine) and a number of neonatal-specific modules (see the programme structure below). Once a module is selected, it becomes core.

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

- Research Methods (10 ECTS)

The remaining 20 ECT credits will be attained by selecting further modules most relevant to your academic and/or clinical needs within a neonatal subject area, this may include the Open module and a number of neonatal-specific modules (see the programme structure below). Once a module is selected, it becomes core.

The 30 ECTS dissertation module offers students a choice of three options: an 'Empirical Study', a 'Service Improvement Project' or 'an Evidence Based Project'. The dissertation can be commenced before completion of all the taught modules; however it cannot be submitted until all other modules have been submitted.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HLTH6213	MSc Dissertation 18 month (Online) 2020-21	30	Core
HLTH6224	Research methods (Online) 2020-21	10	Core
HLTH6239	Neonatal Clinical Pharmacology (Online) 2020-21	10	Optional/Core
HLTH6240	Neonatal Haemodynamics (Online) 2020-21	10	Optional/Core
HLTH6243	Neonatal Nutrition (Online) 2020-21	10	Optional/Core
HLTH6241	Neonatal Pulmonology (Online) 2020-21	10	Optional/Core
HLTH6242	Neurology of the Newborn (Online) 2020-21	10	Optional/Core

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes](#). Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in [section VI of the University Calendar](#).

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 School 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:

- A virtual induction module (non-credit bearing) consisting of sessions relating to study skills, information technology and online library facilities and assessment office
- 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 and Moodle which are web based learning environments. These will be used to support your learning in all modules. Access is either via SUSSED or via the neonatal VLE.
- Academic staff: your module leaders, your pathway leader, your programme leader, academic coach (where appropriate) and your dissertation supervisor
- The University Library facilities. You are encouraged to approach any of the School 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

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:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff/Student Liaison Committees, School Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Career Opportunities

This MSc Neonatology is an online flexible programme of higher level study that is suitable for neonatal clinicians who wish to improve their clinical knowledge and develop their academic careers.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Maha Mansour - Singleton Hospital Swansea 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 take 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
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available online. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library will hold copies of required online texts and e-books, 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.

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.