

## Programme Specification

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### MRes Clinical & Health Research: Academic Year 2017-18

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	Full time and part time
Duration in years	One year following standard progression for a FT student Two to five years following standard progression for a PT student
Accreditation details	N/A
Final award	Master of Research (MRes)
Name of award	Clinical & Health Research
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Research
FHEQ Level of final award	7
UCAS code	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Master's Degree Characteristics (2010)
Programme Leader	Dr Bronagh Walsh
Date specification was written	24-04-2013
Date Programme was validated	February 2013
Date Specification last updated	April 2017

### Programme Overview

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The MRes Clinical & Health Research programme is a robust clinical and health research career training opportunity for those who aspire to clinical academic careers, research management roles in clinical research settings and further research training in health and clinical research. The course is for healthcare practitioners from a variety of backgrounds, including nurses, midwives, allied healthcare professionals (AHPs), health care scientists and doctors. It is also suitable for those without a health professional qualification, but with relevant academic qualifications, 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. This broad definition is in line with those used by the United Kingdom Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) (UKCRC, 2007; NIHR, 2006).

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 you, within in a research-led environment, 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;
- Help you to achieve the core competencies relating to research detailed within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework/Skills for Health and the Competency Framework for Clinical Research Nurses.

## **Programme Learning Outcomes**

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### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

1. Critically examine the research process including ethics, data protection and clinical governance procedures.
2. Critically appraise research literature and demonstrate synthesis of your theoretical knowledge and understanding.
3. 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.
4. Critically discuss research design, methods and approaches to analysis, both quantitative and qualitative.
5. Critically evaluate the value, uses and limitations of a range of research methods in relation to clinical and health research.
6. 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***

- Research proposal
- Literature review
- Presentation and analysis of data
- Management plan
- Preparation of article for publication
- Small project report

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

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Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

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

2. Synthesise current information and articulate the development of research questions in your field of practice.
3. Critically appraise research designs and data collection approaches to address your research questions.
4. Critically discuss the issues of validity and reliability /credibility and dependability within a research project.
5. Justify your approach to ethical and research access issues in relation to an area of research.
6. Analyse both qualitative and quantitative data, interpreting the findings appropriately and justifying the conclusions and recommendations arising from your analysis.
7. Conduct a research study that addresses a specific research question.
8. Apply strategies for presentation and dissemination of research findings, including oral presentation.

### ***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
- Management plan
- Preparation of article for publication
- Small project report

## **Transferable and Generic Skills**

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Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

15. Reflect on your own research skills and learning needs to meet your personal learning outcomes.
16. Work effectively independently and in groups to achieve identified tasks.
17. Use information technology effectively e.g. internet, databases, spreadsheets, statistical/qualitative analysis packages, word processing and presentation packages.
18. Present, discuss and defend ideas, concepts and views through written and spoken language.
19. Manage a research project with due attention to time and resource management.

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

- Lectures
- Small group tutorials
- Practical workshops
- Learning groups focused on guided activities
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- Electronic learning opportunities

### ***Assessment methods***

- Research proposal
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- Small project report

## Programme Structure

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The programme requires the successful completion of 90 ECTS credits. Modules normally consist of 10 ECTS credits plus one dissertation module of 30 ECTS. The programme consists of core modules which must be taken and passed. Students can select one module from a defined group of modules or, with the approval of both the Programme Leader and, when necessary, the Module Leader, from outside the defined group. Once selected, all modules are core.

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 projects as specified for individual modules. Candidates will select their modules in consultation with, and with the approval of, the Programme Leader.

The programme will be full- or part-time. The minimum time for completion of the programme will be 12 months for full-time and two years for part-time. The maximum time will be five years. There will be one cohort per year, commencing in October.

Modules contributing to the programme are as follows:

	Module Code	Module Title	ECTS*
1	HLTH6177	Designing & Conducting Research	10
2	HLTH6110	Applied Qualitative Research Methods	10
3	HLTH6111	Applied Quantitative Research Methods	10
4	HLTH6114	Clinical Research in Practice	10
5	HTLH6116	Developing Research Skills	10
6	HLTH6059	Dissertation	30
7	--	<b>One Option module</b> from FoHS portfolio of M-level modules <sup>†</sup>	10

\*ECTS = European Credit Transfer System

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

The ESRC DTC Health Pathway students follow a modified pathway, with the option to take some methods modules in either the Faculty of Health Sciences (FoHS) or within Social Sciences, as appropriate. The ESRC Doctoral Training Centre Health pathway students take the Research Design and Philosophy introductory module from Social Science in place of Designing & Conducting Research. They can do either the Applied Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods modules offered by FoHS, or the equivalent Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods from Social Science, but are required to do the Developing Research Skills module.

The following diagrams show typical programmes of study for the MRes Clinical & Health Research award.

## Typical programme of study:

Year 1/Semester 1			
Designing, & Conducting Research	Applied Quantitative Research methods	Applied Qualitative Research Methods	<u>Empirical Dissertation</u>
Exit PG Cert.			
Year 2/Semester 2			
<u>Clinical Research in Practice</u>	Developing Research Skills	Option <sup>†</sup>	
Exit PG Dip.			
Exit MRes Clinical and Health Research			

## ESRC Health Research Doctoral Training Pathway

Semester 1			
Research Design and Philosophy (RESM6001/6002)	Quantitative Research Methods (Soc Sci I)	Qualitative Research Methods (Soc Sci II)	<u>Empirical Dissertation</u>
Semester 2			
<u>Clinical Research in Practice</u>	Developing Research Skills	Option†	
Exit MRes Clinical and Health Research			

<sup>†</sup> Options may include research modules such as Epidemiology for Public Health, Developing Research Skills or a range of clinical or management/ leadership modules selected from the FoHS: <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/healthsciences/cpd/courses.page?>

Modules from other Faculties in the University may be taken with agreement from the Programme Leader: [http://www.southampton.ac.uk/postgraduate/prospectus/pg\\_prospectus.pdf](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/postgraduate/prospectus/pg_prospectus.pdf)

Modules are delivered in short blocks or on a-day-a-week attendance basis to facilitate access whilst working in clinical practice. The Designing, & Conducting Research, Clinical Research in Practice and Developing Research Skills modules will bring the MRes cohort together in facilitated learning groups and with students on the doctoral programme in order to maximise support and shared learning opportunities for the cohort and to facilitate development of applied research skills.

### ***Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Research (Exit award)***

Candidates who elect to exit the programme after achieving 30 ECTS credits at level HE7 may be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Research.

### ***Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Research (Exit award)***

Candidates who elect to exit the programme having achieved 60 ECTS credits at HE7 level may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Research.

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

- Designing & Conducting Research (10 ECTS credits)
- Applied Qualitative Methods (Core module, 10 ECTS credits)
- Applied Quantitative Methods (Core module, 10 ECTS credits)
- Clinical Research in Practice (10 ECTS)
- Developing Research Skills (core module, 10 ECTS)
- One choice of module agreed with the Programme Leader (10 ECTS) *and*
- Dissertation module (empirical project) (30 ECTS)

Candidates who are registered for, but do not complete the MRes may be eligible for the award of PGDip in Clinical & Health Research if they have successfully completed modules amounting to 60 ECTS); or the award of PGCert in Clinical & Health Research if they have successfully completed modules amounting to 30 ECTS.

The following learning outcomes would be achieved for each exit point:

Programme Learning Outcome Number	Exit Point (Module Number)		
	PGCert	PGDip	MRes
1	✓ (1)	✓ (1,4,5,6)	✓ (1,4,5,6,8)
2	✓ (1,2,3)	✓ (1,2,3,4,5,6)	✓ (1,2,3,4,5,6,8)
3	✓ (1)	✓ (1,4,6)	✓ (1,4,6,8)
4	✓ (1,2,3)	✓ (1,2,3,5,6)	✓ (1,2,3,5,6,8)
5	✓ (1,2,3)	✓ (1,2,3,5,6)	✓ (1,2,3,5,6,8)
6	✓ (1,2,3)	✓ (1,2,3,5,6)	✓ (1,2,3,5,6,8)
7	✓ (1)	✓ (1,5,6)	✓ (1,5,6,8)
8	✓ (1)	✓ (1,5,6)	✓ (1,5,6,8)
9	✓ (1,2,3)	✓ (1,2,3,5,6)	✓ (1,2,3,5,6,8)
10	✓ (1,2,3)	✓ (1,2,3,5,6)	✓ (1,2,3,5,6,8)
11	✓ (2,3)	✓ (2,3,5)	✓ (2,3,5,8)
12	✓ (2,3)	✓ (2,3,5)	✓ (2,3,5,8)
13	✓ (1)	✓ (1,5)	✓ (1,5,8)
14	✓ (1,2,3)	✓ (1,2,3,4,5)	✓ (1,2,3,4,5,8)
15	✓ (2,3)	✓ (2,3,4,5)	✓ (2,3,4,5,8)
16	✓ (2,3)	✓ (2,3,4,5)	✓ (2,3,4,5,8)
17	✓ (1,2,3)	✓ (1,2,3,4,5)	✓ (1,2,3,4,5,8)
18	✓ (1,2,3)	✓ (1,2,3,4,5,6)	✓ (1,2,3,4,5,6,8)
19	✓ (1,2,3)	✓ (1,2,3,5)	✓ (1,2,3,5,8)

Students can also register for individual modules, the PGCert or the PGDip.

#### ***Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Research***

For the PGCert in Clinical & Health Research, the typical programme of study would be:

- Designing & Conducting Research (10 ECTS credits)
- Applied Qualitative Methods (Core module, 10 ECTS credits) *OR*
- Applied Quantitative Methods (Core module, 10 ECTS credits) *plus*
- Work-Based Learning (10 ECTS)

### ***Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Research***

For the PGDip in Clinical & Health Research, the typical programme of study would be:

- Designing & Conducting Research (10 ECTS credits)
- Applied Qualitative Methods (Core module, 10 ECTS credits) *OR*
- Applied Quantitative Methods (Core module, 10 ECTS credits) *plus*
- Work-Based Learning (10 ECTS)
- Clinical Research in Practice (10 ECTS)
- Developing Research Skills (core module, 10 ECTS)
- One choice of module agreed with the Programme Leader (10 ECTS)

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%.

## **Special Features of the programme**

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There are no special features for this module.

## **Additional Costs**

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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. Costs that students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for are included in Appendix 1.

## **Support for student learning**

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There are systems for the support of student learning in the Faculty as well as available from central University facilities.

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

The University provides:

- Library support – extensive library and other learning resources;
- IT support including workstations and other resources;
- Enabling Services offering assessment and support facilities (including specialist IT support) if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties.  
<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/index.page?>
- English language support skills – Centre for Language Study;
- Study skills support – [www.studyskills.soton.ac.uk](http://www.studyskills.soton.ac.uk) ;
- Health care services;
- Counselling services;
- Careers advisory service;
- Sport & recreation facilities;
- Chaplains.

## Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and Learning

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The programme has been designed in accordance with QAA guidelines for Higher Education and the University of Southampton's Quality Assurance Handbook.

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

## Criteria for admission

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The University's Admissions Policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalencies for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable.

Candidates without a good first degree may be admitted to the programme but will be expected to provide evidence of suitable professional experience and supporting qualifications indicative of the ability to study at Master's level.

All candidates must satisfy the Programme Leader that they are competent to pursue the programme. Candidates must also be approved by the Faculty of Health Sciences. The right to refuse permission shall be reserved to the Programme Leader.

Candidates may register for the following:

- MRes Clinical and Health Research
- PGCert Clinical and Health Research
- PGDip Clinical and Health Research



Candidates for the programme must satisfy the post-graduate [Regulations for Admission to Degree Programmes](#) as specified in the General Regulations. The University welcomes applications from students who meet the entry requirements and who can demonstrate financial support for their studies. In addition, the normal requirement for to the MRes programme is a good first degree (first or second class) in a relevant subject from an approved University or institution of higher education. Candidates without a good first degree may be admitted to the programme but will be expected to provide evidence of suitable professional experience and supportive qualifications indicative of the ability to study at Master's level. Candidates whose first language is not English must meet the English Language requirements specified in Section IV, Part 4 of the Regulations for Admission to Degree Programmes.

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Bachelor's degree	2.2 Hons or higher	A relevant subject from a clinical/health or science background	

### Mature applicants

The University of Southampton admits students on individual merit and does not discriminate on the grounds of age. The University encourages applications from mature students and is keen to support students through the application process and the transition to studying at University.

### Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#). Applications for recognition of prior learning will be considered on a case by case basis.

### English Language Proficiency

Overall	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening
6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0

### 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 Sharon Hamilton

**Institution:** Teesside 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 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 (or other appropriate guide) or online at [http://www.southampton.ac.uk/healthsciences/postgraduate/taught\\_courses/mres\\_clinical\\_research.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/healthsciences/postgraduate/taught_courses/mres_clinical_research.page)

### **Revision History**

1. Original validation July 2008
2. Revision 20.9.12 BMW
3. Revision 1.10.12 BMW
4. Revision 21.01.13 BMW/LB/CJB
5. Revision 26.9.14 BMW
6. Revision 24.3.16 BMW
7. Revision 16.5.16 BMW

## Appendix 1 (MRes Clinical and Health Research):

### Additional Costs

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 typically also have to pay for the items listed in the table below.

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).

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
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 <b>optional</b> 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.
Equipment and Materials Equipment	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.
	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.
	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.
IT	Computer Discs	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.
	Software Licenses	Where a module specifies the use of specific software (eg SPSS, EndNote) the licenses are available to download through the University solutions portal.
Clothing	Lab Coats	Where a module specifies the use of lab coats these will be provided.

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
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>
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		Parking costs resulting from attendance on the Programme will be paid by students.