

Programme Specification

MSc Neonatology **Postgraduate Diploma Neonatology** **Postgraduate Certificate Neonatology** **Academic year 2017-18**

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of study	Full time and part time
Duration in years	Twelve to eighteen months following standard progression for a FT MSc student Two to five years following standard progression for a PT MSc student 10-18 months following standard progression for a FT PGDip student 2-4 years following standard progression for a PT PGDip student
Accreditation details	N/A
Final awards	MSc Neonatology
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Diploma Neonatology Postgraduate Certificate Neonatology
FHEQ level of final award	7
UCAS code	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Masters Degree Characteristics
Programme Leader	Susan Smith
Date specification was written	18.8.17
Date Programme was validated	4.2.14
Date specification last updated	August 2017

Programme Overview

Learning and Teaching

The Faculty 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. Your learning will be supported by your personal academic tutor, online module leaders and, where appropriate, 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 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 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 presentation to a Trust board or sub committee
- A professional conversation
- A 'conference' poster and supporting paper
- An educational package
- An academic essay of 3,500 words

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 this programme which is normally delivered fully online is 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, and will also equip you with the skills necessary to address and find innovative solutions to complex problems in neonatology.

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

1. the theoretical basis of a range of common and complex neonatal medical and surgical conditions and the underpinning scientific knowledge
2. the theoretical basis of research and evidence-based practice
3. 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
4. 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

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

1. engage in academic enquiry and critical analysis;
2. synthesise, critically evaluate and apply research findings and other forms of evidence to neonatal practice
3. use critical reflection and self-assessment as a means to evaluate and enhance your learning;
4. utilise creative, innovative approaches towards problem-solving by drawing on an extended knowledge base;
5. 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;
6. analyse research methodologies and methods for data collection, analysis and interpretation and dissemination and evaluate their strengths and limitations;
7. manage and synthesise knowledge effectively in order to develop an evidence-based/research culture in the health care environment.

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

1. develop and refine your online communication skills
2. use problem solving skills to work effectively both individually and collaboratively.
3. take responsibility for your personal and professional learning and development.
4. think critically and analytically and apply these skills to clinical practice.
5. handle information effectively and present this in a succinct and logical manner.
6. effectively manage your time as an independent learner.
7. manage the collaborative online activities with attention to time and resource management
8. use information management/technologies to support your online learning.
9. demonstrate innovation in the application of knowledge to practice.

Programme Structure

The modular design of this award is designed to enable you to normally complete the full MSc award between twelve to eighteen months of full time study, or two to five years of part time study. This schedule may depend on the timing of delivery of the neonatal modules.

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

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

- (i) Research for Evidence-Based Practice (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 including:

- (iii) HLTH 6155 Neonatal Nutrition
- (iv) HLTH 6156 Neonatal Neurology
- (v) HLTH 6157 A Foundation for Respiratory Care of the Newborn
- (vi) HLTH6169 Neonatal Haemodynamics
- (vii) HLTH6188 Neonatal Clinical Pharmacology

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

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**, you must have successfully completed:

- Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice (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 including:

- HLTH 6155 Neonatal Nutrition
- HLTH 6156 Neonatal Neurology
- HLTH 6157 A Foundation for Respiratory Care of the Newborn
- HLTH6169 Neonatal Haemodynamics
- HLTH6188 Neonatal Clinical Pharmacology

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

- Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice (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 including:

- HLTH 6155 Neonatal Nutrition
- HLTH 6156 Neonatal Neurology
- HLTH 6157 A Foundation for Respiratory Care of the Newborn
- HLTH6169 Neonatal Haemodynamics
- HLTH6188 Neonatal Clinical Pharmacology

The 30 ECTS dissertation module offers you a choice of three options: an 'Empirical Study', a 'Practice Enquiry' or 'an Evidence Based Project'. The dissertation can be commenced before completion of all the taught modules; however it cannot be submitted unless a pass mark of at least 50% has been achieved in of the taught modules (totalling 60 ECTS).

The award of Postgraduate Diploma in Neonatology can be awarded as 'pass', 'merit' and 'distinction'. A 'pass' outcome requires a weighted mean average of 50-59%; a 'merit' outcome requires a weighted mean average of 60 to 69% and a 'distinction' outcome requires a weighted mean average of 70% or above.

Special Features of the programme

This programme is normally delivered fully online within a neonatal virtual learning environment (VLE).

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. Costs that students registered for this programme may have to pay for are included in Appendix 2.

Support for student learning

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 either face-to-face or virtual 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 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 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 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. This can be attended by Skype or telephone.

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

Criteria for admission

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

We will offer a place to any applicant who can show evidence of ability and background adequate to undertake the course. In accordance with the University's Equal Opportunities Policy, the programme is open to anyone regardless of age, class, creed, disability, ethnic origin, gender, marital status, nationality, sexual orientation or caring responsibilities.

Applicants are expected to have:

- A first degree (2:2 class or above) or equivalent* from an approved institution of higher education.
- At least one satisfactory reference (on some occasions a second reference will be required)
- At least 2 years of relevant neonatal experience
- Registration with an appropriate professional body

*If you have not achieved a first degree you may be considered for admission to the programme if you can provide evidence of suitable experience and supportive qualifications. The evidence that you provide must be

able to satisfy the programme leader that you are competent to pursue the programme. This requires you to demonstrate evidence of equivalent learning via a combination of:

- accredited study within the last five years at HEI level 6 passed at 50% or above (normally a minimum of 15 ECTS and with a summative assessment including a written component)
- evidence of recent non accredited study
- experience as a neonatal clinician in a relevant professional role

In addition you will be required to demonstrate successful completion of a module studied at HEI level 7 of at least 10 ECTS which has a written component to the summative assessment. Candidates who can demonstrate equivalence to undergraduate degree programme outcomes but do not meet this level 7 study criterion may be offered a conditional place on the programme, with unconditional acceptance subject to successfully passing your first M level module. This module will be stipulated by the programme leader and will normally be Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice.

International and EU students whose first language is not English may be required to demonstrate that they have sufficient knowledge of the English Language to be able to benefit from and participate in all academic activities at the University of Southampton. They are required to have:

- reached a satisfactory standard* in an approved test in English OR
- to have obtained a first degree from a UK university that has been taught and assessed in English OR
- to have been instructed and assessed in English and come from a country which appears on the list of those exempt from testing.

*More detail regarding the required satisfactory standard, which is reviewed regularly, should be confirmed with the Faculty of Health Sciences Admissions team at PGapply.FHS@soton.ac.uk. Further information can be found at www.southampton.ac.uk/international/entry_reqs/english_language.shtml.

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	At least one satisfactory reference.

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. Applicants must provide evidence of recent formal study. Successful applicants must satisfy the Programme Leader that they are competent to pursue the programme. The right to refuse permission shall be reserved to the Programme Leader.

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

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 Examiners

Name: Dr Maha Mansour

Institution: Singleton Hospital, Swansea

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 www.southampton.ac.uk/healthsciences/postgraduate/index.page

Appendix 1

Learning outcomes and Assessment Mapping document template

Mod ule Code	Module Title	Knowledge and Understanding					Subject Specific Intellectual Skills					Transferable/Key Skills							
		A 1	A 2	A 3	A 4	A 5	B 1	B 2	B 3	B 4	B 5	C 1	C 2	C 3	C 4	C 5	C 6	C 7	C 8
HLTH 6107 Or HLTH 6153	Research methods for Evidence-Based practice		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HLTH 6059	Dissertation	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HLTH 6155	Neonatal Nutrition (online)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HLTH 6156	Neonatal Neurology (online)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HLTH 6157	A Foundation for Respiratory Care of the Newborn (online)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HLTH 6169	Neonatal Haemodynamics (Online)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HLTH 6188	Neonatal Clinical Pharmacology (online)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HLTH 6132	Open Module	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HLTH 6133	Open Module	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Assessment Methods

Module Code	Module Title	Formative	Summative
HLTH 6107 or HLTH 6153	Research methods for Evidence Based Practice	Protocol 500-700 words	3,500 word essay
HLTH 6059	Dissertation	Proposal	Articles for Publication, approx. 6,000-8,000 words+ Academic Portfolio (approx 8,000 words)+ Reflective journal (approx. 3,000 words)
HLTH 6155	Neonatal Nutrition (online)	Iterative formative written online feedback will be provided at the midpoint of the module. This will also provide the opportunity for 'feed forward' discussions.	<p>1. Qualitative evaluation of your online activity within your learning group throughout the module. This will be undertaken using a validated assessment tool (20%).</p> <p>2. A written assignment (1,500 word) (20%).</p> <p>3. An unseen 2 hour online MCQ exam comprising "n of many" questions (60%).</p>

HLTH 6156	Neonatal Neurology (online)	Iterative formative written online feedback will be provided at the midpoint of the module. This will also provide the opportunity for 'feed forward' discussions.	<p>1. Qualitative evaluation of your online activity within your learning group throughout the module. This will be undertaken using a validated assessment tool (20%).</p> <p>2. A written assignment (1,500 word) (20%).</p> <p>3. An unseen 2 hour online MCQ exam comprising 30 "best of five" questions (60%).</p>
HLTH 6157	A Foundation for Respiratory Care of the Newborn (online)	Iterative formative written online feedback will be provided at the midpoint of the module. This will also provide the opportunity for 'feed forward' discussions.	<p>1. Qualitative evaluation of your online activity within your learning group throughout the module. This will be undertaken using a validated assessment tool (20%).</p> <p>2. A written assignment (1,500 word) (20%).</p> <p>3. An unseen 2 hour online MCQ exam comprising 30 "best of five" questions (60%).</p>
HLTH 6169	Neonatal Haemodynamics (online)	Iterative formative written online feedback will be provided at the midpoint of the module. This will also provide the opportunity for 'feed forward' discussions.	<p>1. Qualitative evaluation of your online activity within your learning group throughout the module. This will be undertaken using a validated assessment tool (20%).</p> <p>2. A written assignment (1,500 word) (20%).</p> <p>3. An unseen 2 hour online MCQ exam comprising 30 "best of five" questions (60%).</p>
HLTH 6188	Neonatal clinical pharmacology (online)	Iterative formative written online feedback will be provided at the midpoint of the module. This will also provide the opportunity for 'feed forward' discussions.	<p>1. Qualitative evaluation of your online activity within your learning group throughout the module. This will be undertaken using a validated assessment tool (20%).</p> <p>2. An unseen 2 hour online MCQ exam comprising 30 "best of five" questions (80%).</p>
HLTH 6132	Open Learning (10 ECTs)	Learning contract	A negotiated assignment equivalent to 3,500 words. E.g. A strategy document, 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 presentation to a Trust board or subcommittee, A professional conversation, A 'conference' poster and supporting paper, An educational package, An academic essay of 3,500 words.
HLTH 6133	Open Learning (20 ECTs)	Learning contract	A negotiated assignment equivalent to 7,000 words. E.g. A strategy document, 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 presentation to a Trust board or subcommittee, A professional conversation, A 'conference' poster and supporting paper, An educational package, An academic essay of 7,000 words.
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Suggested Programme Structure Diagram

PART I

Core

- HLTH 6107 Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice (10 ECTS) or HLTH 6153 Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice online(10 ECTS)

Compulsory

- HLTH 6107 Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice (10 ECTS) or HLTH 6153 Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice online(10 ECTS)

Option from within the faculty (20 ECTs)

Students may select any module so long as they satisfy the pre- and co-requisites. Examples include:

- HLTH 6155 Neonatal Nutrition (online) – 10 ECTS
- HLTH 6156 Neonatal Neurology (online)
- HLTH 6157 A Foundation for Respiratory Care of the Newborn (online)
- HLTH 6169 Neonatal Haemodynamics
- HLTH 6188 Neonatal Clinical Pharmacology

PASS



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Certificate of Higher Education

PART II

Core

None

Compulsory

None

Option from within the faculty
amounting to 30 ECTs

Examples include:

- HLTH 6155 Neonatal Nutrition (online) – 10 ECTS
- HLTH 6156 Neonatal Neurology (online)
- HLTH 6157 A Foundation for Respiratory Care of the Newborn (online)
- HLTH 6169 Neonatal Haemodynamics
- HLTH 6188 Neonatal Clinical Pharmacology
- HLTH 6132 Open Learning – 10 ECTS
- HLTH 6133 Open Learning – 20 ECTS

PASS

Option from outside the Faculty
(including CI modules)

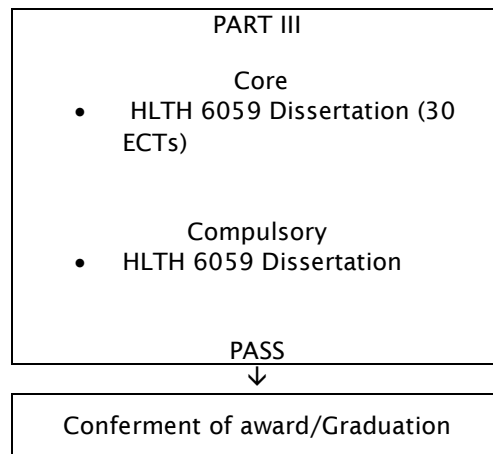
By negotiation

PASS



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Diploma of Higher Education



Appendix 2

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study.

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

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Approved Calculators	n/a	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.
Textbooks	n/a	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available online. 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.