Programme Specification

Professional Practice in Health Sciences (Part Time) (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	
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Part-time
Duration in years	5
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of award	Professional Practice in Health Sciences (Part Time)
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Diploma Professional Practice in Health Sciences
	Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	8173
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	
Programme Lead	Susan Faulds (sjf2)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

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 Faculty promotes a student-centred approach and the programme uses learning and teaching strategies that will support you to learn, and also encourage the mastery of your skills in planning and managing your learning. Your learning will be supported by your personal academic tutor, module leaders and, where appropriate,

academic coach and/or mentor in practice. Teaching and learning methods include: lectures, seminar groups, action learning groups, work based learning, experiential learning, and both supervised and self-directed study. These methods are designed to integrate theory and practice and to foster a spirit of enquiry. Key skills are fostered via the learning and teaching activities throughout the programme.

Assessment

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

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

Special Features of the programme

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

The aim of the programme is to support your academic development in Health Sciences. This programme will develop your independent and critical thinking skills and will enable you to question healthcare practice and policy, and will also equip you with the skills necessary to address and find innovative solutions to complex problems in healthcare.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

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

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

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

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

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

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

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

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

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

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

B5. Develop reflective skills.

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

C1. Communicate confidently both verbally and in writing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

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

Part I

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

· Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice (10 ECTS)

· Open and/or option modules from within the FoHS portfolio totalling 20 ECTS at level 7.

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

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

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HLTH6059	MSc Dissertation 2017-18	30	Core
HLTH6107	Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice 2017-18	10	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme will follow the University's regulations for ***Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*** or the University's regulations for ***Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters Programmes*** as set out in the General Academic Regulations in the University Calendar: http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

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

· An induction day consisting of sessions relating to study skills, information technology and library facilities
· SUSSED, which is the University portal (at www.sussed.soton.ac.uk). This portal will enable you to gain information about the University and available learning resources.
· Blackboard, which is a web based learning environment. This will be used to support your learning in all modules and also contains a specific section dedicated to the MSc Health Sciences. Access is via SUSSED or via www.blackboard.soton.ac.uk
· Academic staff: your module leaders, your pathway leader, your programme leader, academic coach (where appropriate) and your dissertation supervisor
· Your clinical mentor (if appropriate)
· The Student Office within the Faculty of Health Sciences (Building 67).
· The University Library facilities. You are encouraged to approach any of the Faculty of Health Sciences academic liaison team for help and support. For more information see www.southampton.ac.uk/library/
· University student counselling service www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/counselling/ or, if you are not sure who to approach an excellent first point of contact is 'First Support' - more information regarding the services they provide can be found at www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/firstsupport/
· Programme and module handbooks
· Enabling Services offering assessment and support facilities (including specialist IT support) if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties. More information can be found at www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/
· Study skills support. On line study skills support can be accessed from www.studyskills.soton.ac.uk. In addition, the School has a number of Student Learning Advisors who can help students with particular learning needs develop their understanding of how to prepare assessments and develop study skills. Your academic tutor may refer you to this service if he/she feels it would be of benefit.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

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

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

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

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

Criteria for admission

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.

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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)

*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 practitioner 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 are 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
Bachelors Degree	2.2 Hons or higher	A relevant subject from a clinical/health or science background	At least one satisfactory reference.

Mature applicants

Studying for a degree later in life can be extremely rewarding and mature students are often among our most successful.

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**

Students are accepted under the University's recognition of prior learning policy; however, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

English Language Proficiency

The table below sets out the English proficiency requirements for this programme in terms of the IELTS test. We accept a range of other English proficiency tests including TOEFL and Cambridge Advanced/Proficiency. For full details of the recognised tests and the equivalent requirements in those tests please see *www.southampton.ac.uk/admissions-language*.

Overall	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening
6.5	6	6	6	6

Career Opportunities

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

External Examiner(s) for the programme

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

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals)	Students using their own vehicles will need to make their own arrangements for parking and pay for this where appropriate.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Approved Calculators	Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved models are Casio FX-570 and Casio FX-85GT Plus. These may be purchased from any source and no longer need to carry the University logo.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/services/copying_for_students_and_visitors/faq.php#594

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.