

Programme Specification

Allergy (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	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	British Society for Allergy & Clinical Immunology (BSACI) Hong Kong Medical Council World Allergy Organisation
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of award	Allergy
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Certificate Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	5244(FT) 5838(PT)
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	
Programme Lead	Judith Holloway

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

Our MSc Allergy course is designed to help health care professionals including GPs, hospital-based doctors, nurses, dietitians and professionals in many health care sectors to gain a greater understanding of allergic diseases and to be able to translate this knowledge into their everyday practice. This postgraduate education programme will provide you with effective education and training in the mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment and management of allergic disease. It will enable you to manage both adults and children with allergy more effectively. Through the knowledge, skills and understanding you will gain with us, you will also be able to develop and improve your health care provision and cascade your education to your colleagues, adult and paediatric patients and their families. The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate scientific understanding, clinical knowledge, practical skills, and critical thinking qualities.

The flexibility of our programme means you don't have to commit to the full MSc from the beginning. You can start by taking a single module and then upgrade to the Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or MSc in Allergy. There are opportunities to tailor our course to allow you to plan your specific programme route with us at the start of your studies to best meet your career aspirations. This course is available as a full-time option, allowing you to complete it in one year or as a part time option, taking 2–5 years.

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

A variety of learning and teaching methods will be adopted to promote the development of a wide range of skills. Adult learning methods will be used throughout and an emphasis placed upon interactive learning, including seminars, group work, practical demonstrations and discussions surrounding interpretation of data and clinical scenarios to reinforce learning. These methods are designed to integrate theory and practice, to foster a spirit of enquiry, promote collaborative learning and meet a range of learner needs and preferences.

Specialist lecturers from a range of academic and health care professional backgrounds will ensure a breadth and depth of perspective is offered, giving a good balance between background theories, principles and practical management advice. There will also be a basic science and generic clinical skills guided e-learning package with self-assessment available as an online package for students to take advantage of in their own time. Key transferable skills are encouraged via the learning and teaching activities throughout the programme. The Faculty is committed to supporting you to enable you to fulfil your academic and personal potential. We will work with you to facilitate your learning, within a multi-cultural context underpinned with mutual respect.

Assessment

Your knowledge and understanding will be tested through a combination of formative and summative assessments according to the assessment guidelines within the module profile. 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 allergy. Study is assessed by assignments, oral presentations and a variety of translational assessments, which allow you to translate your learning into practice. The dissertation has two routes; Traditional Research or Professional Project. The assessment methods enable you to demonstrate achievement of the programme learning outcomes as you progress through each module on your pathway.

Special Features of the programme

The modules will be taught by an international faculty, at the forefront of their respective academic disciplines and professions. Adult learning methods will be used throughout and an emphasis placed upon interactive learning, practical demonstration and the interpretation of clinical scenarios to reinforce learning. In addition, the dissertation module allows you to develop and undertake a research project with experts in the field.

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: The aims of the programme are to:

- Enhance your educational and professional expertise in all core areas of allergy, having developed appropriate knowledge, understanding and professional skills to improve your practice.
- Develop your ability to integrate research evidence into all aspects of decision making and to apply

knowledge, analytical and critical thinking skills to make sound judgements about data applicable to the care of patients with allergy.

- Enable you to demonstrate leadership in clinical allergy and allergy-related issues.
- Evaluate the psychological impact of living with allergy so that through empathy, the diagnosis, management and eventual adherence of patients can be improved.
- Develop your approach to solving problems, building on a logical and hierarchical approach that allows you to justify personal and professional decisions through critical evaluation and synthesis of relevant theories, empirical evidence and experience to best optimise professional practice.
- Develop strategies for your continuing professional development and lifelong learning in relevant aspects of allergy.
- Apply an evidence based approach to critically evaluate the current literature, and develop the skills needed to successfully complete a dissertation project.

Programme Learning Outcomes

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

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- A1. Discuss the complex mechanisms involved in normal and allergic immune responses.
- A2. Integrate your understanding of the underlying immunological mechanisms of disease into your approach for diagnosing and treating allergic patients.
- A3. Propose appropriate methods for the diagnosis, treatment and management of allergic diseases such as asthma, eczema, rhinitis, food allergy, drug allergy and venom allergy.
- A4. Develop a comprehensive understanding of research methodologies or methods of enquiry that are appropriate for investigating the processes of allergic disease.
- A5. Interpret new research findings to improving the management of allergic patients.
- A6. Create solutions to translate knowledge gained into improving your professional practice.

Teaching and Learning Methods

To help you develop your knowledge and understanding of allergy you will be exposed to a variety of methods of teaching and learning.

- The understanding of the processes involved in allergic disease including the immunological mechanisms, history taking, diagnosis, management of a patient and building allergy teams is acquired through lectures, group work, peer teaching, guided e-learning, problem-solving approaches and coursework.
- Skills in diagnostic testing, and use of medical devices appropriate to allergy are learned through a combination of small group tutorials and practical sessions where you can actively undertake the testing procedures.
- Knowledge of the most up-to-date treatments and how to use them in the management of allergic disease is acquired through a combination of lectures case studies to explore approved diagnostic and management protocols in action.
- Innovative and relevant materials to aid self-directed learning on the application of acquired knowledge are also provided through guided e-learning materials. Additional support is provided by direct access to academic staff as required (either by e-mail or personal communication).
- Understanding research methods and applying them to the discipline of allergy is taught through interactive tutorials and group work, observation of research teams, integration of research with established protocols during lectures, by planning a research project (during the taught part of the programme) and through personal supervision and performing a dissertation project (Research or Professional Project).

Assessment Methods

Your knowledge and understanding will be tested through a combination of formative and summative assessments that may include essays and other written assignments, multiple choice questions, problem-based learning questions, practical work, questions and answers and oral presentations.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

- B1. Select and utilise appropriate information sources.
- B2. Critically appraise, summarise and apply scientific and clinical evidence to the development of new ideas.
- B3. Develop self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems in the field of allergy.
- B4. Design, undertake and report upon research in a publication format.

Teaching and Learning Methods

To help you develop your intellectual and research skills you will be exposed to a variety of methods of teaching and learning. Seminars, tutorials, discussions and problem-solving approaches will be used in addition to formal lectures. Each module involves discussion of key issues; practice in applying concepts, both orally and in writing, including analysis and interpretation of material and feedback on work produced. All students will receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in libraries and elsewhere (e.g. on the web). Group tuition is given in the performance of appropriate diagnostic tests.

Assessment Methods

The variety of assessment methods employed all emphasise the requirement for you to demonstrate your skills through the production of coherent written and oral responses either to problems or set tasks. In common with all students in the Faculty, during your studies, you will produce several written assignments, carry out practical work, undertake written examinations, give oral presentations and write up a dissertation, which will employ each of the listed skills.

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

- C1. Compose and communicate ideas effectively.
- C2. Solve problems in clinical investigation and related activities.
- C3. Design studies and analyse data.
- C4. Reflect on and evaluate your own and others' functioning in order to improve practice

Teaching and Learning Methods

To help you develop your generic skills you will be exposed to a range of teaching and learning methods that enhance both written and oral presentation skills, and that give you the opportunity to develop your transferable skills.

Assessment Methods

Your generic skills will be assessed throughout the programme through methods such as oral presentations, assignments, reflections and the dissertation write up.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

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

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Part I

This course is available as either a full-time option allowing you to complete it in one year, or as a part-time option, taking 2–5 years.

Our initial core module, the Foundations of Allergic Disease, gives a comprehensive overview of the mechanisms and management of allergic diseases and provides basic science and clinical knowledge along with study skills, providing you with the underpinning for the rest of your postgraduate studies. In addition, we offer a range of optional modules, which allow you to tailor the course to your needs. Our allergy specific optional modules include: (i) Allergic Airways Disease, (ii) Allergic Skin Disease, (iii) Drug Allergy and (iv) Food Allergy. There are two Work Based Learning modules (Task and Virtual Patient) which allow you to design your own learning experience in allergy to benefit your needs or to explore the development of a virtual patient in depth.

In addition to these allergy modules, many of our postgraduate students teach their subjects, and pass on their knowledge to their peers and to students with no formal training. The Teaching the Teachers to Teach module offers you the knowledge and expertise to enable you to design, deliver, assess and evaluate teaching and training sessions in your professional practice. On successful completion, you will be awarded Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy, an internationally recognised teaching qualification.

Understanding research, the appropriate use of qualitative and quantitative methods and how to interpret results is fundamental to being able to critique an evidence base. The Clinical Research Skills module teaches you how to apply qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches when considering the results reported by others. This second core module also provides preparation for your dissertation, which is undertaken for the MSc itself and can be in the format of traditional research or a professional project, such as a service evaluation.

In addition to the allergy modules offered on this programme, students are also able to take a module worth up to 10 ECTS from around the University with the approval of the Programme Leader. Leadership modules for healthcare improvement might be of interest to students and are offered by Health Sciences. In addition, students in the past have chosen other modules from Health Sciences and Medicine programmes.

Normally, each student will attend the University for the teaching blocks of 4–6 days per 10 ECTS module. Work Based Learning is a virtual module, not requiring attendance. The dissertation project can be completed in Southampton or at a distance and can only begin once the pre-requisite modules Foundations of Allergic Disease and Clinical Research Skills have been completed.

All modules once selected are core. All the taught modules are worth either 5 or 10 ECTS and the Dissertation module is worth 30 ECTS. Each 10 ECTS module represents 200 hours of student learning and endeavour, with teaching where appropriate. This award is classified (pass, merit, distinction).

A range of course study materials for all our modules are available to students via our virtual learning environment, Blackboard (www.blackboard.soton.ac.uk). This will allow you to continue your investigation in your own home and/or work environments when producing your course work. We also offer online individual and group tutorials, and pride ourselves on having helpful and approachable teaching and support staff and encourage students to contact us whenever support or guidance is needed.

The structure of programmes conforms with the University General Regulations found in Section IV of the University Calendar and the programme specifications, leading to 90 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) at HE7 level. This course varies from the standard University semester and term dates published in the Calendar.

Part-time students should note that on the online option choice system, years 2–5 (sometimes referred to as parts 2–5) are identical to the part 1 tables shown below. MEDI6081 Foundations of Allergic Disease must be completed in year 1 and the dissertation project can only begin once the pre-requisite modules Foundations of Allergic Disease and Clinical Research Skills have been completed.

You may be able to exit the award with the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Allergy or Postgraduate Certificate in Allergy. Please check those programme specifications to see which modules qualify for these exit awards.

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MEDI6078	Allergy Dissertation 2020–21	30	Core
MEDI6082	Clinical Research Skills 2020–21	10	Core
MEDI6081	Foundations of Allergic Disease 2020–21	10	Core

Part I Optional

Students should select 40 ECTS (80 CATS) from the Part 1 optional lists

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MEDI6077	Allergic Airways Diseases 2020–21	10	Optional
MEDI6241	Allergic Skin Disease 2020–21	5	Optional
MEDI6242	Drug Allergy 2020–21	5	Optional
MEDI6080	Food Allergy 2020–21	10	Optional
MEDI6218	Teaching the Teachers to Teach 2020–21	10	Optional
MEDI6244	Work Based Learning: Task 2020–21	5	Optional
MEDI6243	Work Based Learning: Virtual Patient 2020–21	5	Optional

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [*Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*](#) and [*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.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

A welcome session for orientation and programme overview.

- Student module guides and timetables.
- An introduction to the library and Information Technology (IT).
- Extensive library and other learning resources and facilities within the Faculty and University.
- The Programme Leader.
- The Module Leaders who are academic members of staff, who will be responsible for overseeing your progress throughout the module.
- The Faculty PGT Senior Tutor for all pastoral matters.
- The International Officer.
- In consultation with the Module Leader you will identify or will be allocated with a local supervisor and / or a University supervisor for your dissertation projects. Research projects always have both a local supervisor and University supervisor, but Professional Projects may only have a University supervisor.
- Academic staff and administrative staff.
- A personal academic tutor (PAT).
- A student representative.

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 postgraduate programme is designed to help you treat your patients better; we provide health care

professionals with effective education and training in the mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment and management of allergic disease. Our course will enable you to manage both adults and children with allergy more effectively.

Through the knowledge and understanding you will gain with us, you will also be able to develop and improve your health care provision, through your ability to cascade education to your colleagues, and adult and paediatric patients and their families.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr M Thirumala Krishna – University of Birmingham

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
IT	Computer: It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus.
IT	Webcams and microphones: It is advisable that students provide their own webcam and microphone (integrated or USB/standalone) to take full advantage of the online support offered during the module.
Other	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer: It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus.• Books and Stationery• IT Equipment (such as Recording Equipment, Webcams, Approved Calculators)• Printing and Photocopying Costs (such as Printing coursework for submission, Printing and binding dissertations or theses, Academic Poster (A1) printing).• Typing Costs• Travel Costs for teaching and to and from the University and campus locations (including travel insurance).• Obtaining Disclosure and Barring Certificates or Clearance• Subsistence Costs• Conference expenses

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking costs (including at hospitals) • Replacing lost student ID cards • Costs of attending a graduation ceremony (e.g. hiring a gown for graduation). <p>You will be able to choose optional 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/ .</p>
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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/.