Programme Specification

Gerontology (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	None
Final award	Postgraduate Certificate
Name of Award	Gerontology
Interim Exit awards	
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme Code	4637
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	ESRC Postgraduate Training & Development Guidelines 2015
Programme Lead	Athina Vlachantoni
Pathway Lead	

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

Gerontology is the study of ageing at the individual and societal levels. It examines the changes humans undergo as they age, as well as the impact of growing proportions of older people on social institutions, labour markets, welfare systems and families. It investigates the relationships between generations and the interconnections between our older and younger selves. Insights are taken from social policy, demography, sociology, biology, healthcare sciences, psychology and economics. Gerontology is thus a fundamentally interdisciplinary subject which leads to a fascinating variety of careers.

The programme will equip you with academic knowledge in Gerontology, focusing on evidence related to the wellbeing of older people, and with policy knowledge relating to social policies aimed at preparing societies for ageing populations.

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 PGCert Gerontology programme employs a variety of teaching and learning methods, including lectures that are audio-recorded, student-led seminars, computer workshops, library sessions, supervised independent research and independent study. The majority of our modules are taught in small-group seminars and workshops, which provide excellent opportunities for discussion. Students are expected to prepare oral presentations and to lead discussions, thereby developing their skills in written and oral presentation. A variety of assessment methods are employed, which include essays, oral presentations, group work, exercises, research reports and the dissertation. All programme modules have their own page on Blackboard, and all students are able to access materials (lecture slides and recordings of live lectures, coursework details, references and module updates) to supplement their classroom taught lectures. All coursework is submitted through Blackboard.

Assessment

The Gerontology programmes have no exams, but instead include a range of assessments which are designed to encourage students to reflect on their learning, and to assess their understanding of taught material. For example, students are expected to complete essays and critical reviews of literature, and to prepare short oral presentations which address specific research questions.

Special Features of the programme

The programmes include occasional guest lectures from experts in particular academic topics or who are involved in the design and implementation of local, national or international social policy related to older people.

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 PGCert Gerontology programme are to provide you with:

 1.1 Critical appreciation of the key theoretical perspectives within Gerontology and their application in the analysis of specific issues concerning ageing and the life course.
 1.2 Knowledge and understanding of contemporary debates within Gerontology concerning the lives of older people, their families and society, in both developed and developing countries.
 1.3 The ability to evaluate policies and initiatives concerning population ageing, welfare provision and the lives of older people, their families and carers.
 1.4 Preparation for a career in the field of Gerontology and applied health and social sciences.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

A1.   The key theoretical and conceptual approaches to the study of ageing and the life course from a multi-disciplinary perspective.
A2.   Key debates within Gerontology.
A3.   The determinants of demographic change and the consequences of population ageing.
A4.   Key changes in the life course in the last 100 years and their implications.
A5.   Health and social care policies and initiatives which impact upon the lives of older people and their families/carers.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Interactive lectures, student-led seminars, computer workshops

Audio-recorded lectures, online practice exercises and quizzes, tutor-led discussion board triggers , student discussion boards

Assessment Methods

Coursework

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

B1.   Appreciate the importance of life course transitions in shaping experiences in old age.
B2.   Critically evaluate alternative theoretical frameworks and apply them to selected issues and debates within ageing.
B3.   Critically assess policy interventions in the fields of health and social care for older people.
B4.   Critically evaluate policy options for economic and social support for older people, in both developed and developing country contexts.
B5.   Identify and solve problems within the field of ageing and the life course.
B6.   Synthesise key library and internet resources within the field of Gerontology.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Interactive lectures, student-led seminars, computer workshops

Audio-recorded lectures, online practice exercises and quizzes, tutor-led discussion board triggers , student discussion boards

Assessment Methods

Coursework

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

C1.   Effectively communicate information through PowerPoint/ poster and oral presentations using visual aids and hand-outs.
C2.   Contribute confidently and appropriately to group discussions/ online discussion boards.
C3.   Effectively communicate information through written reports.
C4.   Think critically about new and unfamiliar ideas and concepts.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Interactive lectures, student-led seminars, computer workshops

Audio-recorded lectures, online practice exercises and quizzes, tutor-led discussion board triggers , student discussion boards

Assessment Methods

Coursework

Subject Specific Practical Skills

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

D1.   Appropriately apply research design and methodology to research questions within Gerontology.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Interactive lectures, student-led seminars, computer workshops

Audio-recorded lectures, online practice exercises and quizzes, tutor-led discussion board triggers , student discussion boards

Assessment Methods

Coursework

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.

Pathway

Part I
Typical programme content

The PG Certificate Gerontology is divided into 3 modules of 10 ECTS/20 CATS each, which include the compulsory module GERO6018 Perspectives in Gerontology and a choice of two additional modules from the

following: GERO6020, GERO6019, GERO6017, or from the Distance-Learning modules GERO6022 and GERO6023.

Programme details

The structure of the programme and the modules currently offered are set out below. Of the modules shown against each part of your programme, some are compulsory (ie enrolment is automatic) and others are options. Against each part, you are directed to which modules are compulsory and which are options. The optional modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between parts. A list of optional modules will be available to you via the Student Record Self-Service system once you enrol at the University.

The taught component of the programmes consist of 30 study weeks divided into two semesters during which time students study one or two modules.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6018	Perspectives in Gerontology 2020-21	10	Compulsory

Part I Optional Semester 1
You must select 20ECTS/40CATS from the following 2 groups

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6023	Mental Health and Ageing (DL) 2020-21	10	Optional
GERO6022	Poverty and Social Protection Around The World (DL) 2020-21	10	Optional
GERO6017	Researching Ageing Societies 2020-21	10	Optional

Part I Optional Semester 2

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6020	Ageing, Health and Well-being 2020-21	10	Optional
GERO6019	Demographic Change, Ageing & Globalisation 2020-21	10	Optional

Progression Requirements
The programme follows the University's regulations for *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes* or *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:
· Module co-ordinators' (or module convenors') support. Module co-ordinators will be available at designated times during the week to discuss issues related to the particular modules you are studying at the time. This will be in addition to class contact time.
· Personal Academic Tutor. As soon as you register on this programme, you will be allocated a personal academic tutor. S/he is a member of the academic team and will be available to discuss general academic issues related to the programme as well as offer advice and support on any personal issues which may affect your studies.
· Module handbooks/outlines. These will be available at the start of each module (in online format). The Handbook includes the aims and learning outcomes of the module, the methods of assessment, relevant background material to the module and a session-by-session breakdown of the module together with appropriate reading lists.
· Within the Faculty, administrative support is provided by your Student Office which deals with student records and related issues and with queries related to your specific degree programme.
· All students have access to a Dissertations Supervisor who provides advice and support during the independent research.

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

Our alumni are working in a wide range of sectors related to ageing and older people: for example the health and social care public and private sectors, the medical sector and in local and national government research analysis. In addition, many alumni from the PGCert Gerontology have continued their studies by following the MSc Gerontology programme and then continued onto the PhD Gerontology programme.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Suzanne Moffatt - Newcastle University

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

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

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

Appendix 1:

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

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Conference expenses	Accommodation: Where students wish to attend a scientific conference during their studies, they are liable for any accommodation cost associated (as well as conference registration fees). Travel: Where students wish to attend a scientific conference during their studies, they are liable for any travel cost associated. If students incur any travel costs associated with conducting their dissertation research, they are expected to bear the cost of this themselves.
Hardware	Students have access to workstations in the Hartley Library and in Computer rooms around the campus. Students may wish to purchase their own laptop/PC/tablet.
Hardware	Students have access to workstations in the Hartley Library and in Computer rooms around the campus. Students may wish to purchase their own laptop/PC/tablet.
Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals)	For students not residing in Southampton, paid parking is available on the University campus. Maps of the campuses can be downloaded from here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/about/visit/getting-to-southampton.page#by_car
Printing and Photocopying Costs	For all GERO modules, coursework (such as essays; projects; dissertations) is submitted online. However, for some modules outside Gerontology, there are some items where students will be asked to provide a printed copy. If students wish to print out copies of the lecture slides or electronic readings, they are expected to bear the cost of this themselves. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: https://www.southampton...nting-for-students.page
Software Licenses	Licenses relating to software used in the programme (eg. SPSS, NVivo) are purchased by the University, and students can download them from the iSolutions website using their username and password.
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. Please note that the vast majority of readings in Gerontology are available electronically through e-journals, as digitised text in the Online Course Collection or as e-books. 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.

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*.