Programme Specification

Gerontology (Full-time) (2018-19)

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	Master of Science (MSc)
	MSc Gerontology
	MSc Gerontology Distance Learning
	MSc Gerontology (Research)
	PGCert Gerontology
Name of Award	PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning
	PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate
	Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	N/A
Programme Code	4630
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	ESRC Postgraduate Training & Development Guidelines 2015
Programme Lead	Athina Vlachantoni (av1w07)

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 Centre for Research on Ageing offers the face-to-face MSc Gerontology and MSc Gerontology (Research), and the MSc Gerontology (Distance Learning) programmes on a full-time basis, in addition to the face-to-face PG Cert Gerontology and the distance-learning PG Diploma in Gerontology (Distance Learning) and PG Certificate in Gerontology (Distance Learning).

The MSc Gerontology 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. In addition, the programme will offer you a range of training opportunities in research methods, both quantitative and qualitative. This programme is available through a face-to-face pathway which offers more options between substantive and research methods modules (MSc Gerontology); a face-to-face pathway which offers more rigorous training in research methods (MSc Gerontology (Research)); and an

online pathway which offers the programme by Distance Learning (MSc Gerontology (Distance Learning)).

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 face-to-face programmes employ 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. Distance learning students develop these skills through a variety of interactive online resources and software programmes. An enhanced version of Blackboard is central to their learning experience, providing comprehensive support and guidance on how to use online resources that are key to the programme. All coursework is submitted through Blackboard.

Assessment
The MSc Gerontology (face-to-face and DL) 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. Such guest lectures are offered on the MSc Gerontology programmes (Face-to-face, Distance Learning, Research pathways).

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 Gerontology programmes 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   Knowledge of qualitative and/or quantitative research methods and the ability to apply them appropriately to investigate key research questions.
1.5   The ability to design and conduct independent research within Gerontology using appropriate research methods.
1.6   Preparation for a career in the field of Gerontology and applied health and social sciences.

Programme aims 1.4 and 1.5 are not fully developed in the PG Diploma Gerontology (DL), the PG Certificate Gerontology or the PG Certificate Gerontology (DL).

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

A1. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* The key theoretical and conceptual approaches to the study of ageing and the life course from a multi-disciplinary perspective.

A2. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Key debates within Gerontology.

A3. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* The determinants of demographic change and the consequences of population ageing.

A4. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Key changes in the life course in the last 100 years and their implications.

A5. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Health and social care policies and initiatives which impact upon the lives of older people and their families/carers.

A6. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Principles of research design and strategy and the appropriate choice of research method

A7. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning only)* An individual research topic in the field of Gerontology.

Teaching and Learning Methods

PG Certificate Gerontology, MSc Gerontology and MSc Gerontology (Research):
Interactive lectures (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6), student-led seminars (A6), computer workshops (A6), research methods tutorials (A6), supervised research (A6, A7).

PG Certificate Gerontology (DL), PG Diploma Gerontology (DL) and MSc Gerontology (DL):
Audio-recorded lectures (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6), online practice exercises and quizzes (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6), tutor-led discussion board triggers (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6), student discussion boards (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6), supervised research (A6, A7).

Assessment Methods

PG Certificate Gerontology, PG Certificate Gerontology (DL), PG Diploma Gerontology (DL), MSc Gerontology (DL), MSc Gerontology and MSc Gerontology (Research):
Coursework (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6) and dissertation (A6, A7).

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

B1. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Appreciate the importance of life course transitions in shaping experiences in old age.

B2. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Critically evaluate alternative theoretical frameworks and apply them to selected issues and debates within ageing.

B3. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Critically assess policy interventions in the fields of health and social care for older people.

B4. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Critically evaluate policy options for economic and social support for older people, in both developed and developing country contexts.

B5. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Identify and solve problems within the field of ageing and the life course.

B6. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Synthesise key library and internet resources within the field of Gerontology.

B7. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Identify appropriate methods of research design and data analysis.

B8. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Analyse and interpret data as applied to issues concerning ageing and the life course.

Teaching and Learning Methods

PG Certificate Gerontology, MSc Gerontology and MSc Gerontology (Research):
Lectures (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8), student-led seminars (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8), research methods tutorials (B7, B8), computer workshops (B7, B8), library sessions (B6), supervised research (B5, B6, B7, B8).

PG Certificate Gerontology (DL), PG Diploma Gerontology (DL) and MSc Gerontology (DL):
Audio-recorded lectures (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8), online practice exercises and quizzes (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8), tutor-led discussion board triggers (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8), student discussion boards (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8), and supervised research (B5, B6, B7, B8).

Assessment Methods

PG Certificate Gerontology, PG Certificate Gerontology (DL), PG Diploma Gerontology (DL), MSc Gerontology (DL), MSc Gerontology and MSc Gerontology (Research):
Coursework (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6) and dissertation (B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6).

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

C1. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)*

Effectively communicate information through PowerPoint/ poster and oral presentations using visual aids and hand-outs.

C2. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Contribute confidently and appropriately to group discussions/ online discussion boards.

C3. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Effectively communicate information through written reports.

C4. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Think critically about new and unfamiliar ideas and concepts.

C5. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Manage time and resources in an individual research project.

C6. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Locate and use bibliographic resources for specified research purposes.

Teaching and Learning Methods

PG Certificate Gerontology, MSc Gerontology and MSc Gerontology (Research):
Interactive lectures (C1, C2, C3, C4), student-led seminars (C1, C2, C4, C6), research methods tutorials (C5), computer workshops (C1), library sessions (C6), supervised research (C5, C6).

PG Certificate Gerontology (DL), PG Diploma Gerontology (DL) and MSc Gerontology (DL):
Audio-recorded lectures (C1, C3, C4, C6), online practice exercises and quizzes (C1, C3, C4, C6), tutor-led discussion board triggers (C1, C3, C4, C6), student discussion boards (C1, C3, C4, C6), and supervised research (C5, C6).

Assessment Methods

PG Certificate Gerontology, PG Certificate Gerontology (DL), PG Diploma Gerontology (DL), MSc Gerontology (DL), MSc Gerontology and MSc Gerontology (Research):
Coursework (C1, C3, C4, C6) and dissertation (C3, C4, C5, C6).

Subject Specific Practical Skills

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

D1. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Appropriately apply research design and methodology to research questions within Gerontology.

D2. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Undertake the collection, analysis and interpretation of data (qualitative and/or quantitative) to investigate key research issues within Gerontology.

D3. *(For MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), MSc Gerontology Distance Learning, PGCert Gerontology, PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning, PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning only)* Access, synthesise and communicate information relevant to the study of ageing and the life course from a variety of resources.

Teaching and Learning Methods

PG Certificate Gerontology, MSc Gerontology and MSc Gerontology (Research):
Student-led seminars (D1, D3), research methods tutorials (D1, D2), computer workshops (D1, D2),

library sessions (D3), supervised research (D1, D2, D3).

PG Certificate Gerontology (DL), PG Diploma Gerontology (DL) and MSc Gerontology (DL):
Online practice exercises and quizzes (D1, D3), tutor-led discussion board triggers (D1, D3), student discussion boards (D1, D3), and supervised research (D1, D2, D3).

Assessment Methods

PG Certificate Gerontology, PG Certificate Gerontology (DL), PG Diploma Gerontology (DL), MSc Gerontology (DL), MSc Gerontology and MSc Gerontology (Research):
Coursework (D1, D2, D3) and dissertation (D1, D2, D3).

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

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

MSc Gerontology Pathway

Part I
The full-time MSc Gerontology programme is studied over 1 year. Taught sessions take place over 2 semesters each year and the dissertation (maximum 15,000 words excluding footnotes, references and appendices) is written up during the summer vacation and is submitted towards the end of September.

The taught programme for the MSc Gerontology is made up of 60 ECTS/120 CATS points. Of these, 30 ECTS/60 CATS points are taken in each Semester. Each module is worth either 5 or 10 ECTS/10 or 20 CATS points and the Dissertation is worth 30 ECTS/60 CATS points, making a total of 90 ECTS/180 CATS points. Face-to-face students can take up to two modules from the Distance Learning pathway. You will need to take two compulsory modules in qualitative research methods which are worth 10 ECTS/20 CATS points.

Programme details

The structure of the programmes 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 option modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between parts. A list of option modules will be available to you via the Student Record Self-Service system once you enrol at the University.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6020	Ageing, Health and Well-being	10	Compulsory
GERO6019	Demographic Change, Ageing & Globalisation	10	Compulsory
GERO6018	Perspectives in Gerontology	10	Compulsory
RESM6003	Qualitative Methods 1	5	Compulsory
RESM6006	Qualitative Methods 2	5	Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6017	Researching Ageing Societies	10	Compulsory

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6023	Mental Health and Ageing (DL)	10	Optional
RESM6001	Philosophy of Social Science Research	5	Optional
GERO6022	Poverty and Social Protection Around The World (DL)	10	Optional
RESM6004	Quantitative Methods 1	5	Optional
GERO6014	Quantitative Research Methods (DL)	10	Optional
RESM6002	Research Design and Practice	5	Optional

Part II

Part II Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6009	Gerontology Dissertation	30	Core

MSc Gerontology (Research) Pathway

Part I

In addition to the standard PGCert/MSc Gerontology, a specialised research pathway is offered, leading to the award of MSc Gerontology (Research). The latter incorporates a more substantial compulsory research methods training element (amounting to 30 ECTS/60 CATS). The MSc Gerontology (Research) specialist research pathway is recognised by the Economic and Social Research Council South Coast Doctoral Training Partnership, which offers funding opportunities for students wishing to progress to PhD postgraduate training. Students on this pathway who already possess research methods skills, have the option to enrol on more advanced modules in quantitative or qualitative research methods, which are offered within Social Sciences (Qualitative Methods I or II, and Quantitative Methods I or II).

Programme details

The structure of the programmes 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 option modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between parts. A list of option modules will be available to you via the Student Record Self-Service system once you enrol at the University.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6020	Ageing, Health and Well-being	10	Compulsory
GERO6019	Demographic Change, Ageing & Globalisation	10	Compulsory
GERO6018	Perspectives in Gerontology	10	Compulsory
RESM6001	Philosophy of Social Science Research	5	Compulsory
RESM6003	Qualitative Methods 1	5	Compulsory
RESM6004	Quantitative Methods 1	5	Compulsory
RESM6002	Research Design and Practice	5	Compulsory

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
RESM6006	Qualitative Methods 2	5	Optional
RESM6007	Quantitative Methods II	5	Optional
RESM6005	Survey Design	5	Optional

Part II

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6009	Gerontology Dissertation	30	Core

MSc Gerontology Distance Learning Pathway

Part I

The MSc Gerontology (DL) is a Distance Learning programme, facilitating students who wish to combine paid work and family life with postgraduate study. The programme is taught using a wide range of online resources, such as audio-recording and web-casts of lectures available on Blackboard, PowerPoint lecture slides, electronic readings, embedded trigger questions, online practice exercises and quizzes, discussion boards and assessed assignments. As with the face-to-face taught programme, the DL pathway is composed of 60 ECTS/120 CATS points, while the Dissertation has a value of 30 ECTS/60 CATS, making a total of 90 ECTS/180 CATS. Four of the six modules taken on this pathway are compulsory, and there are two option modules from a choice of four (GERO6014, GERO6013, GERO6022 or GERO6023). Taught sessions take place over 2 semesters each year and the dissertation (maximum 15,000 words excluding footnotes, references and appendices) is written up during the summer vacation, and submitted towards the end of September.

Programme details

The structure of the programmes 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 option modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between parts. A list of option modules will be available to you via the Student Record Self-Service system once you enrol at the University.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6011	Ageing, Health & Well-Being (DL)	10	Compulsory
GERO6012	Demographic Change, Ageing & Globalisation (DL)	10	Compulsory
GERO6010	Perspectives in Gerontology (DL)	10	Compulsory
GERO6015	Qualitative Research Methods (DL)	10	Compulsory

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6023	Mental Health and Ageing (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6022	Poverty and Social Protection Around The World (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6014	Quantitative Research Methods (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6013	Researching Ageing Societies (DL)	10	Optional

Part II

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6016	Dissertation (DL)	30	Core

PGCert Gerontology Pathway

Part I
The full-time PG Cert Gerontology programme is studied over 1 year. This programme is made up of 30 ECTS/60 CATS points. Of these, 10 ECTS/20 CATS points are compulsory and taken in Semester 1, and the remaining 20 ECTS/40 CATS (two option modules) are taken in Semester 2.

Programme details

The structure of the programmes 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 option modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between parts. A list of option modules will be available to you via the Student Record Self-Service system once you enrol at the University.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6018	Perspectives in Gerontology	10	Compulsory

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6011	Ageing, Health & Well-Being (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6020	Ageing, Health and Well-being	10	Optional
GERO6012	Demographic Change, Ageing & Globalisation (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6019	Demographic Change, Ageing & Globalisation	10	Optional
GERO6023	Mental Health and Ageing (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6022	Poverty and Social Protection Around The World (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6013	Researching Ageing Societies (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6017	Researching Ageing Societies	10	Optional

PGCert Gerontology Distance Learning Pathway

Part I
The full-time PG Cert Gerontology (DL) programme is studied over 1 year. This programme is made up of 30 ECTS/60 CATS points. Of these, 10 ECTS/20 CATS points are compulsory and taken in Semester 1, and the remaining 20 ECTS/40 CATS (two option modules) are taken in Semester 2.

Programme details

The structure of the programmes 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 option modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between parts. A list of option modules will be available to you via the Student Record Self-Service system once you enrol at the University.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6010	Perspectives in Gerontology (DL)	10	Compulsory

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6011	Ageing, Health & Well-Being (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6012	Demographic Change, Ageing & Globalisation (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6023	Mental Health and Ageing (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6022	Poverty and Social Protection Around The World (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6013	Researching Ageing Societies (DL)	10	Optional

PGDip Gerontology Distance Learning Pathway

Part I
The PG Diploma Gerontology (DL) is a Distance Learning programme, facilitating students who wish to combine paid work and family life with postgraduate study. The programme is composed of 60 ECTS/120 CATS points. Four of the six modules taken on this pathway are compulsory. There is one research methods option module from a choice of two (GERO6014 or GERO6015) and one substantive option module from a choice of three (GERO6013, GERO6022 or GERO6023). Taught sessions take place over 2 semesters each year.

Programme details

The structure of the programmes 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 option modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between parts. A list of option modules will be available to you via the Student Record Self-Service system once you enrol at the University.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6011	Ageing, Health & Well-Being (DL)	10	Compulsory
GERO6012	Demographic Change, Ageing & Globalisation (DL)	10	Compulsory
GERO6010	Perspectives in Gerontology (DL)	10	Compulsory
GERO6015	Qualitative Research Methods (DL)	10	Compulsory

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GERO6023	Mental Health and Ageing (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6022	Poverty and Social Protection Around The World (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6014	Quantitative Research Methods (DL)	10	Optional
GERO6013	Researching Ageing Societies (DL)	10	Optional

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.

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.
· Distance Learning students will also be able to access a Distance Learning Tutor who can assist with the induction process and can advise on any aspect of the Distance Learning programme.
· Module handbooks/outlines. These will be available at the start of each module (often 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 (both face to face and Distance Learning) have access to a Dissertations Supervisor who

provides advice and support during the independent research. Distance learning students will also be able to access specially prepared materials covering these areas on Blackboard.

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 surveys for each module of the programme.
·   Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff Student Liaison Committees, Faculty 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.

Distance-Learning students have the opportunity to have their say in the following ways:

·   Anonymous electronic Module Surveys which are reviewed by the Module convenor(s) and the Head of Teaching.
·   Mid-Semester reviews run by each Module convenor.
·   Input into quinquennial PG Cert/PG Dip/MSc programme and module reviews by emailing your comments and suggestions to the designated student representative of the cohort.
·   Acting as a student representative of your cohort, collecting the views and suggestions of fellow students through email and passing them on to the coordinators of the Gerontology Staff–Student Liaison Committee, the Social Sciences Staff–Student Liaison Committee, and the MSc Gerontology Programme Board.

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

·   Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
·   Programme validation, normally every five years.
·   External examiners, who produce an annual report
·   A national Research Excellence Framework (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
·   Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

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 MSc Gerontology, MSc Gerontology (Research), and MSc Gerontology (Distance Learning) programmes have continued their postgraduate studies by following the MPhil/PhD Gerontology pathway.

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 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
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.
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.
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
Hardware	Face-to Face: 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. Distance Learning: Participating in the Distance Learning programme requires the student to already have access to a PC/ laptop. Students may also wish to purchase their own PC/laptop or tablet in order to access Blackboard. Headphones are sent to the Distance Learning students in receipt of a Commonwealth Scholarship via post as part of their tuition fees at the beginning of their programme. Distance Learning students are also expected to have access to the internet, and to bear the cost of this themselves.
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.
Anything else not covered elsewhere	All students on the MSc Gerontology (DL) programme are invited to attend a 4-day Residential Course in Southampton. This Course is compulsory for students in receipt of a Commonwealth Scholarship, which covers the travel, accommodation and basic subsistence costs for attending the Course.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	For all GERO modules, coursework (such as essays; projects; dissertations) is submitted on line. However, for some modules outside Gerontology, there are some items where students will be asked to provide a printed copy. Distance Learning students are provided hard copies of the MSc Student Handbook, Module Outlines and other key learning materials (eg. Module Outlines) via the post at the beginning of their programme, as part of their tuition fees. 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.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing-for-students.page

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.