Programme Specification

Neonatology (2019-20)

Part-time students who commence the programme in 2019 must complete within 3 years.

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	European Society for Paediatric Research, University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Distance Learning - Online
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Science (MSc)
Name of award	Neonatology
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Neonatology
	Postgraduate Diploma in Neonatology

FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	8091
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Susan Smith (sls1)

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 School promotes a student-centred approach and this programme uses online learning and teaching strategies that will support you to learn, and also encourage the mastery of your skills in planning and managing

your learning. Your learning will be supported by your personal academic tutor, online module leaders and, where appropriate, academic coach. Online teaching and learning methods include: lectures, seminar groups and both supervised and self-directed study. These methods are designed to integrate theory and practice and to foster a spirit of enquiry. Key skills are fostered via the learning and teaching activities throughout the programme.

Assessment

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

A strategy document
A business plan
A change management project report or proposal
A clinical or practice guideline
An economic evaluation
An investigation of an incident or complaint
A presentation to a Trust board or sub committee
A professional conversation
A 'conference' poster and supporting paper
An educational package
An academic essay of 3,500 words

Special Features of the programme

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

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 this programme which is normally delivered fully online is to support your academic development in Neonatology. This programme will develop your independent and critical thinking skills and will enable you to question neonatal healthcare practice and policy, and will also equip you with the skills necessary to address and find innovative solutions to complex problems in neonatology.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

A1. The theoretical basis of a range of common and complex neonatal medical and surgical conditions and the underpinning scientific knowledge

A2. The theoretical basis of research and evidence-based practice

A3. The importance of collaboration, effective communication and the insight into some of the challenges faced by other professionals and where appropriate propose new solutions or alternative hypotheses

A4. Critical and reflective thinking which takes account of the values and beliefs of others, and how your beliefs and behaviours affect others

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

B1. Engage in academic enquiry and critical analysis

B2. Synthesise, critically evaluate and apply research findings and other forms of evidence to neonatal practice

B3. Use critical reflection and self-assessment as a means to evaluate and enhance your learning

B4. Utilise creative, innovative approaches towards problem-solving by drawing on an extended knowledge base

B5. Identify and appraise information through the use of varied information sources and strategies for retrieval and critical appraisal in order to determine the appropriateness of your neonatal knowledge

B6. Analyse research methodologies and methods for data collection, analysis and interpretation and dissemination and evaluate their strengths and limitations

B7. Manage and synthesise knowledge effectively in order to develop an evidence-based/research culture in the health care environment

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

C1.   Develop and refine your online communication skills

C2.   Use problem solving skills to work effectively both individually and collaboratively

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

C4.   Think critically and analytically and apply these skills to clinical practice

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

C6.   Effectively manage your time as an independent learner

C7.   Manage the collaborative online activities with attention to time and resource management

C8.   Use information management/technologies to support your online learning

C9.   Demonstrate innovation in the application of knowledge to practice

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

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

Part I

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

(i)   Research for Evidence-Based Practice (10 ECTs)
(ii)   Dissertation (30 ECTs)

The remaining 50 ECT credits will be attained by selecting further modules most relevant to your academic and/or clinical needs within a neonatal subject area.

The neonatal master's degree programme will normally be delivered fully online within a specially designed virtual learning environment (VLE)

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

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

For the award of Postgraduate Diploma Neonatology (60 ECTS) you must have successfully completed:

·   Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice (10 ECTS)
The remaining 50 ECTs may comprise the online open module and a number of neonatal-specific modules, including 'Neonatal Neurology' and 'Neonatal Respirology'.

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

·   Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice (10 ECTS)
·   The remaining 20 ECTs may be selected from the online open module and a number of neonatal-specific modules, including 'Neonatal Neurology' and 'Neonatal Respirology'.
·

The 30 ECTS dissertation module offers students a choice of three options: an 'Empirical Study', a 'Practice Enquiry' or 'an Evidence Based Project'. The dissertation can be commenced before completion of all the taught modules; however it cannot be submitted until all other modules have been submitted.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HLTH6059	MSc Dissertation 2019-20	30	Core
HLTH6153	Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice (Online) 2019-20	10	Core
HLTH6157	A Foundation for Respiratory Care of the Newborn (Online) 2019-20	10	Optional
HLTH6188	Neonatal Clinical Pharmacology (Online) 2019-20	10	Optional
HLTH6169	Neonatal Haemodynamics (Online) 2019-20	10	Optional
HLTH6155	Neonatal Nutrition (Online) 2019-20	10	Optional
HLTH6156	Neurology of the Newborn (Online) 2019-20	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.

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

- An induction day either face-to-face or virtual consisting of sessions relating to study skills, information technology and library facilities
- SUSSED, which is the University portal (at www.sussed.soton.ac.uk). This portal will enable you to gain information about the University and available learning resources.
- Blackboard and Moodle which are web based learning environments. These will be used to support your learning in all modules. Access is either via SUSSED or via the neonatal VLE.
- Academic staff: your module leaders, your pathway leader, your programme leader, academic coach (where appropriate) and your dissertation supervisor
- The Student Office within the School of Health Sciences (Building 67).
- The University Library facilities. You are encouraged to approach any of the School 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 School Programmes Committee or MSc Professional Practice in Health Sciences Teaching Sub Committee meetings. This can be attended by Skype or telephone.

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

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

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

Career Opportunities

This MSc Neonatology is an online flexible programme of higher level study that is suitable for neonatal clinicians who wish to improve their clinical knowledge and develop their academic careers.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Maha Mansour - Singleton Hospital Swansea 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
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available online. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
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.

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.