

Programme Specification

MRes Clinical and Health Research (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	Master of Research (MRes)
Name of award	Clinical and Health Research
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Research Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Research
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	8330
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Joanne Turnbull

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The MRes Clinical & Health Research programme is a robust clinical and health research training opportunity for those who aspire to clinical academic careers, research management roles in clinical research settings, other clinical and health research roles or to progress to doctoral studies. The course is particularly suitable for healthcare practitioners, including nurses, midwives, allied healthcare professionals (AHPs), health care scientists and doctors. It is also suitable for those without a health professional qualification who have relevant academic qualifications and are engaged in, or aspiring to work in, clinical and health research environments. The MRes Clinical & Health Research programme adopts a broad definition of clinical research that encompasses clinical trials, experimental medicine, translational research, epidemiological studies, public health, management of diseases and conditions and health services research, in line with that used by the United Kingdom Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) (UKCRC, 2007; NIHR, 2006).

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 MRes Clinical & Health Research programme comprises three taught modules (totalling 30ECTS), a module designed to support you through the process of developing and planning a research project – ‘Research project 1’ (30 ECTS) and an empirical research project module – ‘Research Project 2’ (30 ECTS). All modules involve a combination of face-to-face taught contact, including lectures, seminars, learning groups, and self-directed study. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Assessment

There are no examinations in the MRes Clinical & Health Research Programme. Assessment is via written assignments and empirical research tasks. The details of module assessment tasks and requirements are provided in individual module profiles.

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:

- Provide you with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills relevant to carrying out clinical and health research within their discipline and/or clinical domain;
- Equip students to engage in all aspects of the research process within a clinical, health services or academic context

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- A1. Critically examine the research process including ethics, data protection and clinical governance procedures.
- A2. Critically appraise research literature and demonstrate synthesis of your theoretical knowledge and understanding.
- A3. Critically examine the evidence-base for clinical practice and/or organisation and delivery of health services and use this analysis to formulate clinical and/or health research questions.
- A4. Critically discuss research design, methods and approaches to analysis, both quantitative and qualitative.
- A5. Critically evaluate the value, uses and limitations of a range of research design and methods in relation to clinical and health research.
- A6. Demonstrate synthesis in the interpretation of findings, both quantitative and qualitative.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

- B1. Critically appraise the current state of evidence in relation to your research area.
- B2. Synthesise current information and articulate the development of research questions in your field of practice.
- B3. Critically appraise research designs and data collection approaches to address your research questions.
- B4. Critically discuss the issues of validity and reliability /credibility and dependability within a research project.
- B5. Justify your approach to ethical and governance issues in relation to an area of research.
- B6. Analyse qualitative and/or quantitative data, as appropriate, interpreting the findings appropriately and justifying the conclusions and recommendations arising from your analysis.
- B7. Conduct a research study that addresses a specific research question.
- B8. Apply strategies for presentation and dissemination of research findings.

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

- C1. Reflect on your own research skills and learning needs to meet your personal learning outcomes and research plans.
- C2. Work effectively to achieve identified tasks.
- C3. Use information technology effectively e.g. internet, databases, spreadsheets, statistical/qualitative analysis packages, word processing and presentation packages.
- C4. Present, discuss and defend ideas, concepts and views through written and spoken language.
- C5. Manage a research project with due attention to approvals processes, regulatory framework, time and resource management.

Programme Structure

Part I

The programme requires the successful completion of 90 ECTS (180 CATS) credits: three taught modules of 10 ECTS (20 CATS) credits each; plus research project 1 module of 30 ECTS (60 CATS), and an empirical research project of 30 ECTS (60 CATS). All modules, once selected, are core and must be taken and passed to achieve the MRes award.

Assessments for all other modules in the programme, and component summative assessments for the research project, must be submitted prior to submitting the final component of the Research Project assessment (research paper and project file).

Modules are delivered in short blocks or on a-day-a-week attendance basis to facilitate access whilst working in clinical practice. The Research Project module will bring the MRes cohort together in a facilitated learning group and with students on the doctoral programme in order to maximise support and shared learning opportunities for the cohort and to facilitate development of applied research skills.

Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Research (Exit award): Candidates who elect to exit the programme after achieving 30 ECTS credits from the modules specified below at level HE7 may be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Research. For the purposes of the Exit Award, assessment components 1 and 2 from the Research Project are equivalent to Conducting Clinical & Health Research (10ECTS) and Planning Clinical & Health Research (20 ECTS) respectively.

Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Research (Exit award): Candidates who elect to exit the programme having achieved 60 ECTS credits at HE7 level from the modules specified below may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Research. For the purposes of the Exit Award, assessment components 1 and 2 from the Research Project are equivalent to Conducting Clinical & Health Research (10ECTS) and Planning Clinical & Health Research (20 ECTS) respectively.

For the award of MRes Clinical & Health Research (90 ECTS credits) students must earn 90 ECTS credits at HE7 level as follows:

- Design & Methods for Clinical & Health Research (10 ECTS credits)
- Qualitative Methods for Clinical & Health Research (10 ECTS credits)
- Quantitative Methods for Clinical & Health Research (10 ECTS credits)
- Clinical & Health Research Project 1 (30 ECTS)
- Clinical & Health Research Project 2 (30 ECTS)

The Clinical & Health Research Project 1 module comprises the taught components of the following modules: Conducting Clinical Research; Planning Clinical & Health Research. The Clinical & Health Research Project 2 comprises of carrying out an independent empirical research project. Learning is shared with students on those modules and the doctoral training programme. Students will be supported by a research supervisor during this module.

Candidates will be required to undertake an independent empirical research project, as specified within the Clinical & Health Research Project module profile, on a topic to be agreed in advance with the Programme Leader and for submission within the timeframe specified by the Faculty. The Programme Lead will allocate all students to a research supervisor at the beginning of the programme.

Each module will be assessed according to the module description. Module pass marks, and the pass mark for the MRes as a whole, will be 50%. A merit will be awarded for a weighted average mark of 60% and a distinction for a weighted average of 70%.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
HLTH6194	Applied Quantitative Research Methods 2020-21	10	Core
HLTH6198	Clinical & Health Research Project 2 (FT) 2020-21	30	Core
HLTH6200	Design & Methods for Clinical and Health Research 2020-21	10	Core
HLTH6221	Planning Clinical & Health Research 2020-21	20	Core
HLTH6223	Qualitative Research Design and Methods 2020-21	10	Core
HLTH6236	Clinical & Health Research Project 1 2020-21	30	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [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.

The School provides:

- Information about your course through the Faculty induction programme, the course handbook on Blackboard, module guides, timetables, the programme leader, the module leaders, the course administrators and your supervisor(s);
- A one-day welcome and induction session to meet fellow students, orientation, library and IT introduction and programme overview;
- Taught modules led by experienced teachers who are experts in the field;
- Facilitated learning groups research project core modules, enabling you to synthesise your learning experiences, link these to clinical research and learn with and from each other how to apply research knowledge to clinical issues;
- Programme leader, module leaders, research project supervisors, open module research mentor who will

provide support in relation to academic performance, guidance in choosing and timing of modules, identifying a research area and design and conduct of the research project;

- Pastoral care provided by the programme leader/Personal Academic Tutor;
- Faculty computer workstations;
- Study skills support in the form of on-line materials;
- Seminar programmes

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

The MRes Clinical & Health Research programme is a robust clinical and health research training opportunity for those who aspire to clinical academic careers, research management roles in clinical research settings, other clinical and health research roles or to progress to doctoral studies..

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Debbie Carrick-Sen - 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
Computer discs or USB drives	Students have access to the University secure computer facilities that have safe back up file storage. However, if students choose to work at home on their own computers, they are advised to purchase storage devices to back up coursework completed offsite.
Conference expenses	Students funded by NIHR Clinical Academic studentships may be invited to NIHR trainee events; travel and associated costs will be paid for by the student
Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals)	Parking costs resulting from attendance on the Programme will be paid by students.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations are likely to be submitted online. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit online and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/services/copying_for_students_and_visitors/faq.php#594
Recording Equipment	Where a module specifies the use of recording equipment, equipment will be provided for students to share. However, students may prefer to use their own recording devices such as mobile phones.
Software Licenses	Where a module specifies the use of specific software (eg SPSS, EndNote) the licenses are available to download through the University iSolutions portal.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.

Please 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.