

Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	MSc Surgical Skills
Name of interim award(s):	PGDip Surgical Skills / PGCert Surgical Skills
Duration of study / period of registration:	2 calendar years, Part-time
Queen Mary programme code(s):	PMSP-MLCANC1 - PSSSK - A3SS
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	17 Jun 2020
Responsible School / Institute:	Barts Cancer Institute

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

University of Malta

Programme outline

This is a joint programme to be delivered by QMUL and the UoM with students based at the University of Malta. There is no requirement to travel to the UK, and an optional summer school will be available for those wishing to participate.

BCI modules will be delivered online via Queen Mary's virtual learning platform (QMplus). Learning will be supported by virtual reality tools, equipment to enable skills practise and supervised sessions in Malta.

This course offers a new competency-based, technology enhanced learning curriculum delivered as a flexible mode of study allowing the programme to be studied alongside both the general surgical and gynaecological training. The two modules complement the two training pathways and can be taken together or independent of each other.

For suitably able students, the course will provide an excellent foundation for MPhil or PhD studies and obtaining grants, in open competition, from the work carried out in their dissertation.

Aims of the programme

In the current era of evidence-based medicine, this program aims to offer a competency-based training curriculum for both

Programme Title: Surgical Skills

general surgical and gynaecology trainees providing practical skills development through simulation and cadaveric training enabling trainee to fast-track their surgical training within a safe environment.

The simulated and cadaver training aims to accelerate surgical training and improve surgical skills that are essential for building confidence in clinical practice.

Through the Research Methods module and completion of a dissertation, students should gain experience in research design, methodology, analysis and presentation of work for publication.

What will you be expected to achieve?

On successful completion of the programme students will be able to perform the following practical skills in a simulated environment as defined by leading UK & European bodies (For General Surgery Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ALSGBI) & EU for Gynaecology European Academy of Gynaecological Surgery)

Students will learn basic and advanced laparoscopy skills using surgical simulators, so that students:

1. Develop eye-hand coordination and depth perception
2. Undertake laparoscopic instrument manipulation
3. Develop tissue/needle handling and cutting skills
4. Comprehensive understanding of the safe practice and principles of laparoscopic suturing for performing Intra and Extra Corporeal knot tying and suturing.
5. Comprehensive understanding of the safe practice and principles of laparoscopic surgery and hysteroscopy as relevant to careers in general surgery or gynecology.

Through the Research Methods module and completion of a dissertation students will be able to identify and apply the most appropriate research techniques to gather, record, and critically appraise research data.

Academic Content:

A 1	Understand and explain the discipline and principles guiding surgery
A 2	Understand and demonstrate basic surgical techniques
A 3	Understand and demonstrate laparoscopic surgical techniques
A 4	Critical analysis of steps for trouble shooting in surgical techniques
A 5	Understand and explain non-surgical aspects of surgical procedures
A 6	Critically discuss the interpretation of surgical complications

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	demonstrate surgical skills in suturing including knot tying
B 2	demonstrate how to set up laparoscopic & hysteroscopic equipment

Programme Title: Surgical Skills

B 3	understand and explain the uses of various surgical instruments
B 4	demonstrate tissue handling and cutting skills
B 5	exercise critical analysis to make informed decisions in surgical management
B 6	understand and explain potential complications in surgical operations
B 7	demonstrate knowledge for the implementation of a strategy to avoid complications
B 8	critical analysis of surgical literature
B 9	interpretation of surgical research
B 10	write a research proposal and dissertation on a surgical topic
B 11	application of surgical skills into practice during clinical placements

Attributes:	
C 1	understand and explain the discipline of surgery for doctors who would like to embark on a surgical or gynaecological career
C 2	understanding and interpretation of surgical research
C 3	appreciation and understanding of personal development in surgical techniques
C 4	appreciation and understanding of personal development in non-surgical aspects
C 5	rapid and informed decision-making
C 6	communication skills
C 7	psychological preparation for surgery

How will you learn?

Queen Mary modules:

Theoretical aspects of the course will be delivered through online recorded lectures and reading material. Webinars will also be offered.

Practical skills will be taught through online video demonstrations via QMplus. Each student will be sent a portable laparoscopic box trainer on payment of their tuition fees. The box trainer will be used to practice and enhance these skills.

As self-directed learning is the major component of each module students will be encouraged to identify their own learning needs as modules progress.

Teaching will be delivered using QMplus and will make use of online discussion forums, video conferencing facilities, online quizzes to monitor learning and progression as well as the provision of teaching materials and video demonstrations.

To support these modules the University of Malta will offer supervised practical sessions and clinical placements.

Malta modules:

Module led by the University of Malta will be taught through a variety of lectures, tutorial and skills training sessions. UoM will

make use of the cadaveric lab to enhance surgical skills training.

Dissertation:

Dissertations will in the most part be critical reviews with students supervised by staff from both institutions, with QMUL leading on the dissertation module.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment of individual taught modules includes coursework for theory aspects of the course and assessment of practical skills. There is a small variation in the relative contribution of each assessment method between modules.

Assessments include written assignments, presentations and practical skills examinations.

The semester 3 dissertation is submitted as an assessed 15,000 word report. The overall module mark also includes a mark for an oral presentation of the project.

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

The full Masters course involves studying 180 credits. This includes:

- 120 credits of compulsory taught modules
- 60 credits for dissertation

The structure of the MSc will be as follows:

Year 1 Semester 1 (Oct - Jan)

- 1) Applied Surgical Anatomy and Physiology (10 credits, taught onsite at UoM)
- 2) Basics in Research Methods (10 credits, taught onsite at UoM)
- 3) Laparoscopic Skills (15 credits, delivered online by QMUL, with supporting practical sessions offered onsite at UoM)

Year 1 Semester 2 (Feb - May)

- 4) Sutures, Instruments and Suturing Techniques (10 credits, combined online learning delivered by QMUL and onsite learning at UoM)
 - 5) Sepsis and Soft Skills in Surgery (10 credits, combined online learning delivered by QMUL and onsite learning at UoM)
 - 6) Tissue Suturing (10 credits, combined online learning delivered by QMUL and onsite learning at UoM)
- or
- 6) Minimally invasive gynaecological surgery of tubo ovarian surgery (10 credits, taught onsite at UoM)

Year 1 Semester 3 (Jun - Sep)

- 7) Laparoscopic Suturing Skills (30 credits, delivered online by QMUL, with supporting practical sessions offered onsite at UoM)

Year 2 - Semester 1 (Oct - Jan)

- 8) Virtual Reality Immersive Learning - Cholecystectomy (15 credits, delivered online by QMUL, with supporting practical sessions offered onsite at UoM)
- or
- 8) Practical skills in hysteroscopy (15 credits, taught onsite at UoM)

Year 2 Semester 2 (Feb - May)

- 9) Laparoscopic Simulation and Cadaver Training (10 credits, taught onsite at UoM)

Programme Title: Surgical Skills

Year 2 - year long
10) Dissertation (60 credits)

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Applied Surgical Anatomy and Physiology (UM)	CAN7100	10	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Basics in Research Methods (UM)	CAN7101	10	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Laparoscopic Skills (BCI)	CAN7102	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Sutures, Instruments and Anastomotic Suturing Techniques(Jt)	CAN7103	10	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Bowel and Other Tissue Suturing (Jt)	CAN7104	10	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Minimally Invasive Surgical Skills in Gynaecology (UM)	CAN7110	10	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Sepsis and Soft Skills in Surgery (Jt)	CAN7105	10	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Laparoscopic Suturing Skills (BCI)	CAN7106	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Virtual Reality Immersive Learning - Cholecystectomy (BCI)	CAN7107	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 1
Practical Surgical Skills in Hysteroscopic Gynaecology (UM)	CAN711	15	7	Elective	2	Semester 1
Laparoscopic Simulation and Cadaver Training (UM)	CAN7108	10	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
Dissertation (Jt)	CAN7109	60	7	Core	2	Semesters 1-3

What are the entry requirements?

MBBS from a recognised institution

Allied Health professionals (e.g. specialist nurses/dietitians/physiologists) with a science based degree awarded with a 2:1 or above (or international equivalent) are also welcome to apply.

Students for whom English is a second language will also require a minimum IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum score of 6.0 in the written component) or equivalent.

Applicants must present a police conduct certificate, which must not be issued earlier than six months of the date of application (this is the Maltese equivalent of a DBS check).

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The BCI/UM Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the Institute and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year of the programme together with appropriate representation from staff at both BCI and UoM. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The Committee meets regularly throughout the year.

A separate committee will be set up to monitor the operation of the programme, with representatives from both institutions. This will incorporate student feedback from the staff-student liaison committee meetings, as well as module feedback in discussions for programme development and improvement.

Student feedback will also be incorporated into local review processes at both BCI and the UoM, including department Teaching & Learning Committees and annual programme review processes

What academic support is available?

Students will be supported onsite by UoM tutors. BCI tutors will offer support via QMplus Forums and will visit Malta at regular intervals throughout the year.

Written feedback will be provided on coursework, with additional feedback available on request.

Dissertations will be co-supervised by staff from both BCI and UoM. BCI has experience supervising distance learning students through dissertations and the nature of dissertations will be chosen to ensure supervision at a distance is feasible.

Programme-specific rules and facts

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

The programme uses inclusive teaching and learning practices, including:

- Making key learning outcomes explicit to students;
- Revisiting existing assessment methods to confirm that they are assessing for the key learning outcomes;
- Using pre-recorded lectures (published on QMPlus);
- 'Flipping' lectures; i.e. using timetabled sessions for interactive work with students with more traditional content posted online via QMPlus;
- Using QMPlus to post content for students to rewatch / relisten to.

In addition, there is of course specific support for disabled students. Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Programme Title: Surgical Skills

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one study skills tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing non-specialist support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers)
- Access to specialist mentoring support for students with mental health issues and Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

The University of Malta's Access Disability Support Unit considers requests for access arrangements for students to facilitate the students' life during their course of studies as well as assessments. More details are available in the link below:
<https://www.um.edu.mt/access/about>

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

University of Malta will offer clinical placements at Mater Dei Hospital

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Person responsible for management of programme:

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: