Programme Title: PGDip/MSc in Healthcare Research Methods

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 Healthcare Research Methods PGDip Healthcare Research Methods
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	MSc-12/24 Mths & PgD 9/18 Mths FT/PT. MSc/PgD 1-4 years VM
QMUL programme code(s):	PSHCR B2S3, B2S0, S2D3, B2DO, B2S4m B2D4
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	William Harvey Research Institute

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:
William Harvey Research Institute

Institution(s) other than QMUL that will provide some teaching for the programme:

Programme outline

The aim of the MSc/PGDip in Healthcare Research Methods course is to provide students with a multi- disciplinary perspective to facilitate their skills. This course is designed for individuals who need an understanding of the Healthcare Research Method process and provides a detailed picture of the complex and highly interrelated activities of the development cycle for Healthcare Research Methods, from discovery to successful commercialisation.

The PGDip/MSc in Healthcare Research Methods course provides participants with the opportunities to, and increases the likelihood of getting into the hard to enter and highly competitive healthcare environment.

On completion of the course, successful students should have gained the following:

• To have developed an understanding of healthcare research organisation, decision making, regulatory advice, healthcare marketing and ethical issues in healthcare research and development.

• Knowledge to undertake critical appraisal of the research of others

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• To have developed the skills to formulate their own research ideas, deliver the research and analyze the data.
• Through completion of a dissertation, students should gain experience in research methodology and techniques, through literature, designing a research project, and of project data analysis and presentation.

Aims of the programme

The aim of the course is to provide participants with a multi disciplinary perspective to facilitate the skills of post graduate students. It is intended that the course will provide a valuable opportunity for both British and overseas students who wish to gain more experience in understanding the Healthcare Research Methods process and obtain a higher degree before entering career in the Healthcare Research environment.

What will you be expected to achieve?

When completing the PGDip/MSc in Healthcare Research Methods students will be expected to achieve the following learning outcomes.

Academic Content:	
A 1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how the human body works
A 2	Understand pathology, pathophysiology of all systems and organs
A 3	Understand healthcare organisation and decision making
A 4	Develop essential skills and knowledge of clinical design methods relevant to healthcare research
A 5	Develop problem solving skills and knowledge of clinical design methods relevant to healthcare research
A 6	Learn critical appraisal skills using a case study approach to identify and solve practical, theoretical and technical problems in human studies.
A 7	Gain knowledge in research methodology and skills in design of a research project.
A 8	Develop skills in evaluation of the process and the use of various implementations in the marketing of medicine by the pharmaceutical companies

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Understand regulatory framework governing good clinical research

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B 2	Integrate relevant pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and statistics related to drug development and the nature of evidence required for proof of efficacy and safety
B 3	Evaluate the science, ethics and regulations pertaining to the development and review of new drug products in the UK and Europe.
B 4	Understand and interpret pre clinical data and the phases of clinical trial design and monitoring involved in clinical trials
B 5	Understand the analysis of the factors which determine the usage of medicine and the influences of doctors, government, drug manufacturers and the public.
B 6	Examination of the regulatory and ethical issues surrounding ICH, GCP, GLP, GMP, and GXP
B 7	Understand the clinical trial protocol design for diseases effecting respiratory, nervous, cardiovascular systems, immunological disorders and malignancies.

Attributes:	
C 1	Demonstrate problem solving ability
C 2	Demonstrate appropriate practical skills
C 3	Demonstrate autonomy in self directed learning.

How will you learn?

One of the major strengths of the course lies in the fact that the teaching staff consist of not only institute members but also involves top professionals working in the healthcare research industry and CRO-s. Our exceptional expert "panel" of internal as well as external lecturers is actively engaged with the course. Members of the WHRI who are teaching on our course are invaluable assets to the progression of the students on the course as they are not only intellectually stimulating them, but engaging them as self-directed learners, and more closely connecting them to the university and college as a community.

Teaching methods employed during this MSc course consists of lectures from the William Harvey Research Institute staff and outside experts, using well-established classic teaching methods in order to create a stimulating and effective learning environment.

Moreover, students are also involved in using technologies (QMPlus) which allow students to discuss and exchange ideas, share knowledge as well as to review the lecture sessions in their own time and at their own pace. The programme aim is to create an environment in which all participants have the opportunity to learn and explore issues and ideas in depth, from a variety of viewpoints.

How will you be assessed?

• Students will be assessed based on online submitted written assignments. The course team evaluates the progression of students on their written assignments, maintaining the highest quality of work as well as achieving the course learning objectives.

Dissertation
The candidates will submit a written dissertation on a subject in which they have been supervised. The format of the dissertation will usually be literature or policy based.

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How is the programme structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

The modular nature of the courses is designed to fit in with the needs of those students who are in full time employment. The taught element of the modules is delivered in three-day blocks every four to six weeks (approximately).

Module Titles:
WHRM912- Health and human Body
WHRM935-Professional and Research Skills
WHRM903-Clinical Study Design
WHRM904-Practical Aspects of Clinical Research & Early Drug Development
WHRM905-Ethics & Regulation in Clinical Research
WHRM906-Data Management: The Interpretation of Statistics & Pharmacokinetics
WHRM933-Specific Topics in Clinical Trial Design and Elective Project
WHRM909-Health and Pharmaco-Economics
WHRM910-Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Marketing
WHRM911-Dissertation

Programme is offered on a Full time/ Part time and Variable mode basis:

*If you are undertaking the Full time programme- all the listed modules have to be taken in one year.

-For the PT MSc-90 credits should be taken each year (in order of students' preference) with the exception of Dissertation module that has to be taken in year 2.

-For the PT PGDip- 60 credits should be taken each year in order of students' preference (dissertation module is not a part of PGDip diet).

*For Variable Mode Clinical Drug Development student should:
• In year one take 45-90 credits
• In year two take 30-75 credits
• In year three take 15-60 credits
• In year four: we encourage students to complete their dissertation in the final year of their studies.

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Health & the Human Body	WHRM912	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Professional and Research Skills	WHRM935	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Clinical Study Design	WHRM903	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Practical Aspects of Clinical Research & Early Drug Development	WHRM904	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Ethics & Regulation in Clinical Research	WHRM905	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Data Management: The Interpretation of Statistics & Pharmacokinetics	WHRM906	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Specific Topics in Clinical Trial Design/ Elective Project	WHRM933	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1-3
Health and Pharmaco-Economics	WHRM909	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Marketing	WHRM910	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3
Dissertation	WHRM911	30	7	Core	1	Semesters 1-3

What are the entry requirements?

Criteria for admission to the programme:
Candidates should have a degree or equivalent in an appropriate subject (minimum entry criteria 2:2) from an approved educational establishment.
Or
Professional qualifications or sufficient experience to satisfy the head of division and course director of the applicants fitness to pursue the course of study. The postgraduate diploma will be a prerequisite to enter the PGDip/MSc in most cases.

Entry level guidelines for English Language
An ILESTS score of ≥6.5 is required for this course.

How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

Students on our course are never seen as "silent partners" in the enterprise of improving teaching. One way their voices can be heard is through completion of feedback forms for each module. The feedback forms gain the students views on the clarity, style of presentation, course material, stimulation and an overall rating of the lectures (please see example of a feedback form below). Student feedback is discussed with the lecturer and is encouraged to make necessary changes following student suggestions.

Specific comments:

All students will be in a regular contact with members of the course team. Pastoral as well as academic support is offered on a regular basis. Students are encouraged to contact course team members via email, blackboard or by phone.

Assessment of effectiveness of student support mechanisms will be evaluated with the following means:

• Continuous feedback to the students. Student feedback is an extremely important mechanism to facilitate the students learning experience. Feedback will be offered on drafts of coursework and academic progress following formative and summative assessment.

• Staff-student liaison. Students are encouraged to keep in regular contact with the course team members to convey their experience and comments and to seek any advice or help they may need.

• Assessment of action on student feedback.

Continuous student feedback throughout the year is an essential tool with a view to maintain as well as to improve the quality and student experience of the course.

What academic support is available?

In addition to Staff-student liaison, all students are allocated a personal tutor who can be contacted during office hours. The role of the personal tutor is to advise the student on any issues relating to the academic aspects of the course that the student may wish to raise. A senior tutor is also available for consultation if their own tutors are not available or if for any reason unsuitable. Also an Institute level Committee will be created and responsible for ongoing management of the Programmes.

Programme-specific rules and facts

Specific support for disabled students

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

Student employment prospects: The employers, which in this case include healthcare research organisations, and the NHS, etc will greatly benefit from having students who successfully completed this PGDip/MSc. With the modernisation of medical education and the fact that the education and training of staff involved in healthcare has not kept pace with the scientific and regulatory changes that have occurred recently, this PGDip/MSc course will help accelerate understanding and improve knowledge that is essential for building confidence and experience.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:	Professor Atholl Johnston/Dr Nina Ravic

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Person responsible for management of programme:	Professor Atholl Johnston
Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:	18/02/2024 (For Sept 2024)
Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:	

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