

Merger with City, University of London

City, University of London and St George's, University of London have signed an agreement to merge. Subject to the necessary regulatory approvals, the merged institution will be called City St George's, University of London and will begin operating from 1 August 2024.

For students joining in 2024, there will be no change to the delivery, content and structure of the course. St George's will be going through the process to enable it to offer students the choice to still graduate with a St George's Hospital Medical School degree certificate or choose to graduate with a degree certificate from City St George's.

Further information, including frequently asked questions and contact details to submit further questions, are available on our website: <https://www.sgul.ac.uk/study/prospective-students/merger>



Programme Specification

Section A – the nature of the award

1	Programme title	Advanced Breast Practice
2	Final award	MSc Advanced Breast Practice
3	Intermediate awards	PgCert Advanced Breast Practice PgDip Advanced Breast Practice PgCert Professional Practice in Mammography
4	Awarding institution/body	St George's Hospital Medical School, a constituent College of the University of London.
5	Teaching institution	St George's, University of London
6	Programme accredited by	Not applicable
7	UCAS/JACS code	Not applicable
8	QAA benchmark statements	Not applicable
9	Level	FHEQ level 7.
10	Date specification produced	March 2024
11	Student cohorts covered by the specification	A programme specification remains valid for the duration of the student cohort's programme of study. Any changes made to the programme will require a new programme specification to be generated If no changes are made, the programme specification may apply to multiple cohorts. In year modifications to a programme approved may result in the reissue of the programme specification.

Section B – features of the programme

1	Mode of study	Part time only
2	Usual length of programme	3 years for MSc 1 year for PgCert
3	Other features of the programme	Multiple exit points are available, students undertaking the module 'Professional Practice in Mammography 1 & 2' will be eligible for award of a PgCert Professional Practice in Mammography. All other modules will confer either module credits, PgCert, PgDip or MSc in Advanced Breast Practice.

Section C – brief description of the programme and programme aims

1	Brief description	The Advanced Breast Practice programme supports multiple professional development pathways in breast care and Mammography. Providing the knowledge and clinical skills to work within a variety of roles within breast cancer services and the NHS Breast Screening Service.
2	Programme aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To Enable HCPC registered Radiographers to successfully train and subsequently be eligible to work within the NHS Breast Screening Service - To support existing Mammographers, breast clinicians and specialist nurses to develop their advanced practice clinical skills. - This programme will also support advanced practice Mammographers to train for and undertake the role of Consultant Mammographer. - Provide a varied learning environment in which current and developing issue of relevance to healthcare in the UK are aired and individual reflection and group discussion of the impact of such issues is enabled.. - Facilitate development in each student of the skills of critical analysis, evaluation and appropriate responses to change - Equip students with the knowledge and skills to actively participate in research and development appropriate to their profession - Foster the development of the practice of an individuals multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis of breast disease within the context of a multi professional breast care team.

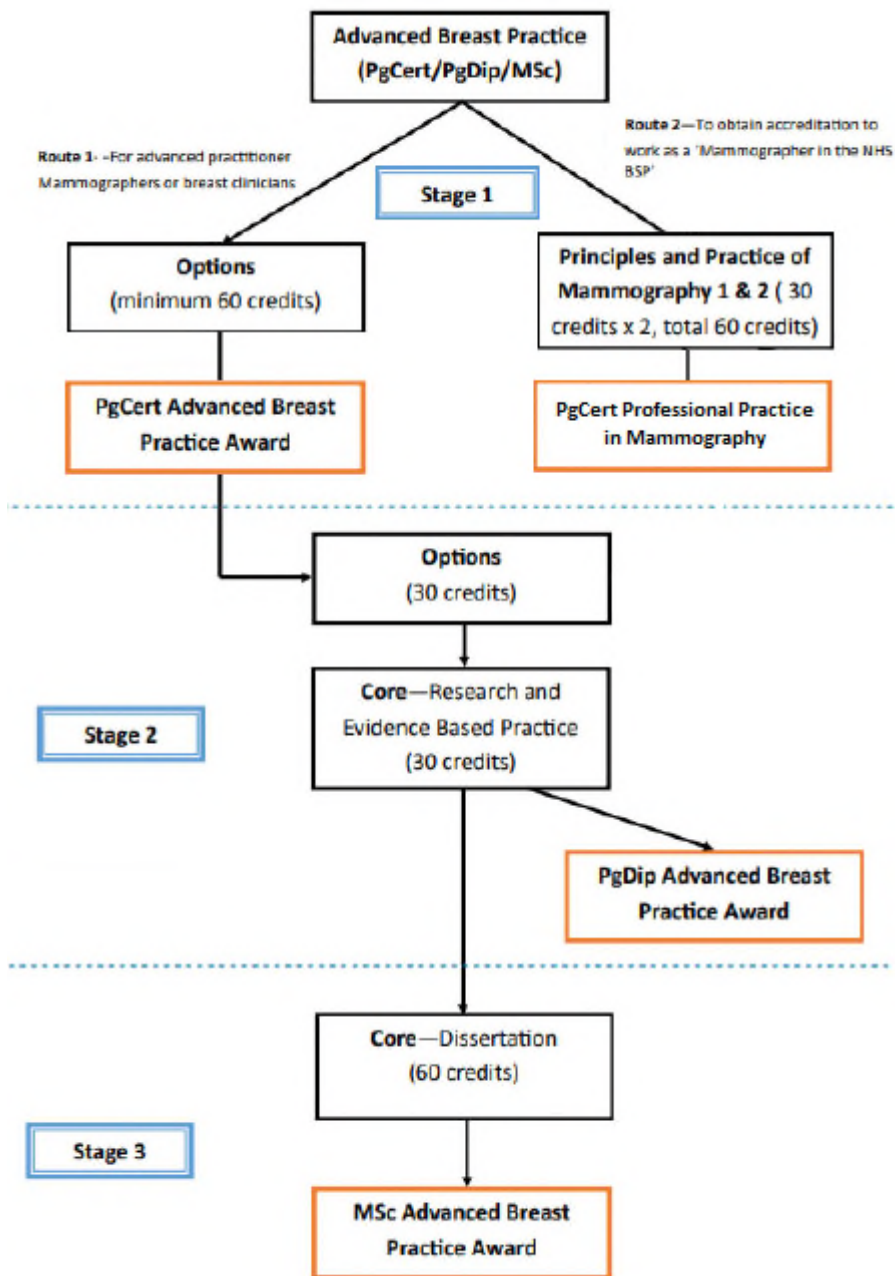
Section D – Intended learning outcomes of the programme

1	Intended Learning outcomes	<p>The exact learning outcomes of a student pathway within this programme will be dependent upon their professional requirements.</p> <p>Post registration Mammographers, Breast Clinicians (Radiologists and Surgeons) and Specialist Breast Care Nurses will acquire and develop the knowledge and clinical skills required to support their roles as 'advanced practitioners' within the NHS Breast Screening Service.</p>
---	----------------------------	---

		<p>These developments can be undertaken as individual modules to support specific role developments or more fully to support trainee Consultant Mammographers.</p> <p>The programme will also support HCPC registered Radiographers to obtain the required clinical skills and practical competencies required to be eligible to work as 'Mammographers' within the National Health Service Breast Screening Programme.</p> <p>Completion of this programme will support the development of a wide variety of qualities and skills, inclusive of expert clinical decision making and autonomy, professional leadership, the knowledge to undertake research and evaluation, teamwork in an interprofessional environment and the flexibility, confidence and adaptability required to work in the clinical environment.</p>
--	--	---

Section E – Programme structure and features

1	<p>The Advanced Breast Practice MSc can be undertaken in 3 years as a part time only pathway. The MSc requires 2 mandatory modules, Research and Evidence Based Practice in Healthcare and the Dissertation module, all other modules for this award are optional. Students required to undertake the necessary qualification to work as a 'Mammographer' within the NHSBSP are required to successfully complete 2 compulsory 30 credit modules, Professional Practice in Mammography 1 and 2, this will confer a PgCert Professional Practice in Mammography which is of a 1 year duration of study. All modules are considered 'level 7' and equate to 30 credits, with the exception of the dissertation module which is valued at 60 credits. The programme structure and module menu can be viewed in the chart and tables below :</p>
---	--



Award PgC/PgD/ Advanced Breast Practice	Module type	Module(s) / Credits	Credits
Post graduate certificate	Options (#)	Minimum of 60 credits	60
Post graduate diploma (PGD)	Core	Research and Evidence Based Practice in Healthcare	30
	Options (#)	Minimum 30 credits	30
Masters Degree (MSc)	Core	Dissertation	60

Core modules	
Research and evidence-based practice in healthcare	30 credits
Dissertation	60 credits
Stage 1 only	
Professional Practice in Mammography 1	30 credits
Professional Practice in Mammography 2	30 credits
Option Modules	
Advanced Principals & Practice breast interventional	30 credits
Clinical breast Examination & Client communication	30 credits
Interpretation and Reporting in Mammography	30 credits
Practice Education and Mentorship	30 credits
Ultrasound of the Breast	30 credits

Section F - General teaching and learning strategies

1	<p>The learning and teaching strategy for the programme is underpinned by cognitive and social constructivism paradigms. It is an approach which encourages students to take a personal accountability for their learning, reflexivity, critical thinking, recognition of prior experience and contexts and differing ways of learning. Comprehensive knowledge will be developed through the students' active engagement in problem-based learning using real-life issues, independent research, practice placement, and complex problem solving with solutions in both the academic and clinical elements of the programme.</p> <p>All modules have been developed to take advantage of the CANVAS virtual learning environment and offer a blended format of teaching, combining online learning with face to face clinical skills sessions. All mammography and advanced breast practice modules are delivered by collaborative partners, allowing access to their modern and clinically specific expertise and resources.</p> <p>All modules are grounded in a combination of taught sessions and clinical practice within your place of health care employment, supported by mentorship and personal tutor frameworks.</p>
---	--

Section G Assessment

1	<p>The philosophy underpinning the programme's assessment strategy is to provide a diverse range of assessments to enable students to demonstrate their own particular strengths whilst allowing sufficient commonality that allows development of skills and progression in achievement as they advance through the programme. Each is selected to ensure that students can demonstrate that they have fulfilled the learning outcomes of the programme of study and achieved the standard required for level 7 award. They also have a role to play in facilitating achievement of the overall course aims as undertaking items of assessment will form part of the learning process. Since the course</p>
---	--

combines academic rigour closely allied to professional development [clinical competence] the assessment methods effectively reflect factors that lie at the foundation of the discipline. These include knowledge, analysis and decision making, clinical safety and accuracy, and research methodology.

Across the modules a wide range of assessments are used including:

- Essays
- Dissertation
- Research proposal / critique
- Reports
- Case Studies
- Seminar Presentation
- Clinical Portfolio (log book and reflective diary)
- Objective Structured Clinical/Practical Examination (OSCE/OSPE)

Research shows that formative assessment improves learning and features across all modules. Tutors provide students with the opportunity to practise each of the assessment strategies and give information on the level of performance expected for demonstrating the achievement of the learning outcomes through feedback and feed-forward, forming an integral part of module teaching, learning and assessment. They also guide future studying in the light of past performance and encourage the learner to 'self-supervise'. Feedback may be informal (for example in day-to-day encounters between tutors and students or between peers) or formal (for example as part of written or clinical assessment) about the past performance. Feed-forward provides suggestions for what can be done to improve work or achieve success in future assignments. The quality of feedback and guidance provided by module leaders to students is consistently praised by external examiners to the programme.

The overall assessment aims for the postgraduate programme, in summary is to:

- demonstrate the achievement of level-7 learning within modules;
- demonstrate that the students have a thorough grounding in the academic, and where appropriate, clinical components of the course;
- ensure that the students have a high degree of competence in understanding research relevant to their discipline;
- demonstrate that the students have gained a high level of competency in transferable skills;
- reflect the students' abilities accurately in determining that their progression is appropriate to their abilities;
- highlight individual strengths and weaknesses and give a guide as to how the student is performing and progressing;
- help facilitate the achievement of the overall course aims and objectives.
- assist learning by providing feedback to students.

Assessment strategies are also considered within the study skills guidance and students are offered the opportunity to present a sample draft piece of work for comment by the module leader. Generic assessment criteria for academic work are indicated in the Course Handbook and detailed specific marking criteria are provided with the module handbook along with the guidelines for the assignment. All clinical staff involved with practice supervision and mentoring are provided with the appropriate support and mentoring guide and students will be expected to provide evidence from their clinical centre that clinical support will be undertaken by a suitable mentor who meets the required criteria

	<p>Formative feedback is a key element of the programme’s assessment strategy - it will be delivered in a timely fashion to promote students’ learning and facilitate improvement.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • online (canvas) quizzes • Peer-assessed presentations • Feedback on drafts of assignments • Feedback on research project design ideas <p>Submission dates for summative assessments are given at the beginning of the module along with advice on how to plan and balance study with work and life. The assessment burden in terms of timing and volume has been a critical factor in developing the module assessments.</p>
--	---

Section H Support for students and their learning

1	<p>Student support is initially supported through the interaction with the appropriate module leaders. All module leaders and teaching staff are supported by the programme director and professional lead.</p> <p>All students will be allocated a personal tutor from the commencement of their studies, in line with SGUL student support services. All personal tutors will undergo relevant in-house training, inclusive of ‘unconscious bias’ training, in order to best support all students.</p> <p>Students will have access to a wide variety of resources and support services within St Georges University of London, these are inclusive of Library and learning resources, counselling and well being support services, disability support services, The Students’ Union and careers support.</p> <p>Programme and module specific resources can be found within their relevant CANVAS module pages as well as the contact details for all support staff and services.</p>
---	--

Section I – Criteria of admissions

1	<p>The entry requirements for the programme:</p> <p>The recruitment of students to this programme is governed by St George’s University of London Student Selection and Admissions policy. The application process is undertaken directly through the admissions page via the associated SGUL course website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PgCert (Professional Practice in Mammography) applicants must be employed by a hospital trust who is encompassed by the National Health Service Breast Screening Programme and must demonstrate their access to an appropriate
---	--

	<p>mentor within that service. Applicant for this pathway must also hold a relevant degree or diploma in Radiography.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All single module, PgCert/PgDip/MSc Advanced Breast Practice applicants must have access to appropriate clinical practice and employment based mentorship. Applicants for this pathway must hold a health care professional qualification relevant to their selected module/s. • If English is not the applicants first language they will need to provide evidence of their proficiency via achievement of a level 7.0 International English Language Testing System (IELTS) score, including 7.0 in written and speaking elements and minimum score of 6.5 in the reading and listening elements. Applicants who have sat the examination more than twice in one year will not be considered. The test is valid for a period of 2 years. • Applicants must demonstrate a 'Home' or EU status. • Applicants must provide a single satisfactory employment based reference, confirming their suitability and clinical access. • The programme is available on a part time study basis only. Full time study is not available. • Recognition of prior learning will be considered where modules can be closely matched to existing modules within the programme.
--	--

Section J – Employability and employment

1	<p>Successful completion of the PgCert Professional Practice in Mammography will confer eligibility to the holder to work within the National Health Service Breast Screening Programme in the role of 'Mammographer'.</p> <p>The PgCert and PgDip Advanced Breast Practice will support continuing professional development for existing Mammographers, Breast Clinicians and Specialist Breast Care Nurses, supporting development and extension of their existing clinical roles.</p> <p>The MSc Advanced Breast Practice will support trainee Consultant Mammographers to obtain the necessary academic and clinical skills required to successfully complete undertake their role as a Consultant Mammographer.</p>
---	--

Section K - Methods for evaluating and improving the quality of teaching and learning

1	<p>To supplement the required annual monitoring process' the following additional mechanisms will be utilised to further ensure quality and student engagement :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - End of module evaluations - 'Unitu' – student based platform for reporting of issues - Online module specific teaching surveys - Staff Student liaison groups, to feed into the course committee - Course Committee, inclusive of module leaders and collaborative partners - Student Representative System – 2 students 'reps' - Boards of Examiners - Collaborative partnership reviews for teaching sites
---	--

Section L - Assessment regulations

1	<p>Describe briefly the key principles underlying the regulations for the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passing components of the programme;• Progression requirements;• Reassessment requirements (including timings of reassessments);• Limitation on the use of mitigating circumstances;• Classification algorithms (for honours degrees and awards of merit and distinctions);• Maximum number of attempts;• The role of the Board of Examiners. <p>This section should refer to the programme regulations and the scheme of assessment (and the General Regulations for Students and Programmes of Study).</p>
---	---

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 he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the course handbook and, where they are produced, separate module guides.

Key sources of information are:

Student Handbook

The [SGUL prospectus](#)

Course leaflets

The [SGUL internet site](#)

[General Regulations for students and programmes of study](#)