

## ST GEORGE'S, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

### M.Sc. HEALTHCARE PRACTICE REGULATIONS FOR THE PROGRAMME OF STUDY For students entering from September 2019 onwards.

- 1.1 The general programme of study shall lead to the award of M.Sc. Healthcare Practice. With the addition of an apprenticeship and clinical sub-pathways in Advanced Clinical Practice, the pre-fix of Healthcare Practice within the ACP pathway award shall not apply (see 1.4 below).
- 1.2 The awarding body is St George's Hospital Medical School, a constituent college of the University of London. The validating body is St George's University of London.
- 1.3 Candidates achieving the required credits but not completing the course may be eligible for a Postgraduate Diploma Healthcare Practice or Postgraduate Certificate Healthcare Practice.
- 1.4 Candidates successfully completing the required modules may achieve a named Pathway Specific award as follows:

M.Sc. Healthcare Practice (Cardiac Care)  
M.Sc. Healthcare Practice (Intensive Care)  
M.Sc. Healthcare Practice (Advanced Practice)\*  
M.Sc. Advanced Clinical Practice  
M.Sc. Advanced Clinical Practice Degree Apprenticeship Pathway  
M.Sc. Healthcare Practice (Psychosocial Interventions)  
M.Sc. Healthcare Practice (Midwifery)  
M.Sc. Healthcare Practice (Prehospital Critical Care).

\*The Advanced Practice pathway will cease after the validation of the Advanced Clinical Practice pathways.

- 1.5 Candidates successfully completing the required modules may achieve a named award in Prescribing. The exact title of the awarded will be determined by the student's professional registration:
  - Candidates who are registrants with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and who successfully complete the module AHP703 - Independent and Supplementary Prescribing (HCPC members) **AND** AHP702 Advanced Clinical Reasoning in Health Assessment: Lifespan Perspective or equivalent will be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Independent and Supplementary Prescribing.

- Candidates who are registrants with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and who successfully complete the module AHP701 – Independent/ Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses and Midwives (V300) **AND** AHP702 Advanced Clinical Reasoning in Health Assessment: Lifespan Perspective or equivalent will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Independent/ Supplementary Prescribing for Nurses and Midwives (V300).

## **2.0 COURSE MANAGEMENT**

- 2.1 The M.Sc. Healthcare Practice Course Committee is responsible for the programme of study. Quality monitoring of the programme is the responsibility of the Taught Postgraduate Courses Committee (TPCC) and the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education Quality Committee (FQC).
- 2.2 The Course Committee will be chaired by the Course Director. Membership will include the Chair of the Board of Examiners and at least five other staff with an interest in the course. A student representative from each year of the course will be nominated by the students and entitled to attend sessions of unreserved business. The Course Committee will meet at least once a term. Minutes will be forwarded to TPCC and FQC.

## **3.0 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

### **3.1 Standard programme entry requirements:**

Applicants will be required to meet all of the following criteria:

- normally hold a recognised health-related professional qualification and current professional registration;
- hold an Honours degree (2:ii) or above from a UK or Republic of Ireland university. An equivalent Honours degree qualification from an approved institution of higher education outside the UK and Republic of Ireland will be accepted. Advice on equivalence of overseas awards will be obtained from the National Recognition and Information Centre for the UK (NARIC);
- normally have a minimum of one year's post-qualifying practice experience. Module specific practice related requirements and additional entry criteria will apply to some modules and these will be indicated in the module outlines.

### 3.2. Non-standard programme entry

Applications will be considered from non-standard applicants who can demonstrate the following certificated learning:

- a Dip.H.E. from a UK or Republic of Ireland university or equivalent qualification from an approved institution of higher education outside the UK and Republic of Ireland;

**and** one of the following completed within the last five years:

- successful completion of a standalone module at level M **or**
- a minimum of 30 credits from standalone modules at level 6, at or above grade B (60%).

The professional portfolio, interview and/or entrance test may be used as evidence of aptitude for M level study in borderline cases.

### 3.3 Advanced Practice and Advanced Clinical Practice pathways

Applicants for the Advanced Practice and Advanced Clinical Practice(ACP) pathways will be required to meet all the following additional requirements:

- a minimum of two years full-time clinical experience (or the equivalent in part-time hours) in health or social care employment in a relevant clinical service area to ACP or the specified sub-pathway they wish to follow; module specific requirements and entry criteria will apply to some modules and these will be indicated in the module outlines;
- be employed in a senior role (normally Agenda for Change Band 6 or 7);
- demonstrate they are working in a practice setting which enables the achievement of the advanced clinical practice outcomes relating to the National HEE multi-professional ACP Standards or ACP Apprenticeship Standards;
- evidence of employer support for practitioner development to the level of ACP.

Applicants for the apprenticeship route will need to meet all the apprenticeship entry requirements (as outlined in separate ACP validation documents).

### 3.4 Midwifery pathway

Applicants for the Midwifery pathway will be required to meet the following additional requirement:

- be a registered practising midwife with the NMC.

International applicants must hold a current midwifery registration with the relevant professional statutory body in their own country.

### 3.5 Free-standing module applicants (associate students)

Applicants for individual modules will have

- a minimum of 30 credits at level 6, at B grade or above (60%);
- normally completed a minimum of 12 months full-time (or equivalent) post-qualifying practice experience.

Associate students who successfully complete a free-standing L7 module from the programme and who meet the non-standard entry requirements listed in 3.2 above may request to transfer to an award within the MSc/PgDip/PgCert\ Healthcare Practice framework. Transfer requests will be assessed and approved by the Course Director or their nominated deputy.

3.6 Free-standing applicants for the Advanced Practice module or Advanced Clinical Practice modules must meet the additional criteria in 3.3.

3.7 Applicants will usually need to demonstrate that they have support from their managers and will be required to identify a named practice supervisor/assessor appropriate to their chosen pathway and/or module choices.

3.8 Graduates and qualified health or social care practitioners from overseas may be considered for the full-time Generic and Midwifery pathways, subject to the availability of appropriate modules. Prior to the start of each recruitment cycle the course director will confirm whether the course will be open to international recruitment.

### 3.9 Admissions

The Course Committee shall agree, and from time to time prescribe changes to, the admissions policy. The Course Director is responsible for determining who is eligible for admission to the programme within this policy.

### 3.10 Exemptions

3.10.1 Candidates for admission may offer RPL in the form of free-standing credit or interim postgraduate awards up to the credit values specified below:

- 120 credits of the 180 credits required for the M.Sc. (of which 30 may be at level 6) as RPL;
- 75 credits of the 120 credits required for the Postgraduate Diploma (of which 30 may be at level 6) as RPL;
- 30 credits of the 60 credits required for the Postgraduate Certificate (of which 15 may be at level 6) as RPL.

3.10.2 Free-standing credits achieved through certificated (accredited) prior learning will be considered, provided that these have been awarded within the five years

preceding the date of registration for the MSc Healthcare Practice award. Where interim awards are presented as RPL (e.g. PG Cert/ PG Dip) applicants will be required to demonstrate through their CV that they have maintained the currency of the award being presented through relevant practice related experience.

3.10.3 RPL may be offered in place of specialist compulsory modules within the above allowances where a candidate has previously taken and passed a similar module at level 6 or 7. Exceptionally, and at the discretion of the Course Director, RPL may be offered in place of the Research Methods module within the above allowances where a candidate has previously taken and passed a similar module at level 7 and where there is clear evidence of equivalence of content and learning outcomes.

3.10.4 The relevance of a postgraduate award presented as RPL will be verified and its suitability assessed in relation to the proposed route of study. Applicants will be required to demonstrate currency of the prior learning being presented.

#### 3.10.5 RPEL

Candidates for admission who can demonstrate relevant learning obtained from past experience may be entitled to academic credit and exemption from one or more specified modules where a) the learning remains current and b) there is clear evidence of equivalence between the experiential learning gained and validated module learning outcomes at level M. Verification of experiential learning claims will normally be demonstrated through completion of a work-based learning module. Credit awarded for learning gained from experience will be limited to 15 credits.

## 4.0 PERIOD OF STUDY

4.1 The minimum and maximum periods of study are as follows:

	Full-time		Part-time	
	Minimum time	Maximum time	Minimum time	Maximum time
<b>M.Sc.</b>	12 months	36 months	24 months	60 months
<b>M.Sc. ACP</b>	NA	NA	36 months	60 months
<b>M.Sc. ACP Degree Apprenticeship Pathway</b>	NA	NA	36 months	60 months
<b>PG.Dip.</b>	9 months	27 months	18 months	54 months
<b>PG.Cert.</b>	6 months	18 months	12 months	36 months

- 4.2 A student who wishes to request an extension to the maximum period of study shall do so in accordance with the procedure prescribed by Senate (see 4.14 *General Regulations*).
- 4.3 The periods of study for the M.Sc. ACP by degree apprenticeship pathway refers to the M.Sc. component of the off-the-job training for a full-time apprentice (minimum employment contract of 30 hours per week).
- 4.4 In circumstances where a student on the M.Sc. ACP degree apprenticeship pathway agrees an interruption of study with the employer and the university, the ESFA must be informed so that fees can be suspended until the apprentice resumes study for the M.Sc.
- 4.5 A degree apprentice who is unable to complete the apprenticeship but has gained 60 credits or 120 credits respectively, may be awarded PG.Cert HCP or a PG.Dip ACP at the discretion of the exam board.

## **5.0 COURSE STRUCTURE**

### **5.1 Course Structure – Generic Route**

Candidates taking the generic M.Sc. Healthcare Practice route must successfully complete the following compulsory and option modules:

#### **Core modules (75 credits)**

- Research Methods (15 credits)
- Research Project (60 credits).

#### **Option modules (105 credits)**

Free choice of option modules to be chosen from those set out in the Student Handbook for the relevant years of study.

### **5.2 Course Structure – Pathway Specific Awards**

Candidates wishing to achieve one of the pathway specific awards identified in 1.4 above are required to complete the prescribed core modules and option modules for the relevant award. RPL and level 6 allowances may be restricted as a result. The required modules will be specified in the Student Handbook and in the Scheme of Assessment.

- 5.3 The detailed arrangements for the course and overall course plan will be published each year in the Student Handbook. Detailed syllabuses for each module will be published in module handbooks.

## 6.0 ASSESSMENT

6.1.1 The generic course assessment will be weighted as follows:

taught module assessments	120 credits;
research project	60 credits.

6.1.2 The ACP pathway and degree apprenticeship will be weighted as follows:

ACP pathways:

taught module assessments	150 credits;
quality improvement project	30 credits.

ACP degree apprenticeship:

taught module assessments	135 credits;
quality improvement project	30 credits;
end point assessment (EPA)	20 credits

6.2 A combination of course work assignments, examinations, portfolio and presentations are prescribed for the core and option modules and will be detailed in the relevant module handbook.

6.3 The generic course dissertation will take the form of a 12,000-15,000 word report on the research project conducted during the course. For students taking a pathway specific award, the research project topic will reflect the named pathway. Students on the ACP pathways will undertake the Evidenced-informed Quality Improvement in Advanced Practice project.

6.4 Generic criteria for marking academic and non-competency based assessments and for marking clinical competencies/ simulated practice assessments will be set out in the Student Handbook.

6.5 Candidates will be given a single final percentage mark for each module, taking into account the weightings of the elements prescribed.

6.5.1 The EPA modules will meet the requirements of the relevant apprenticeship standard.

6.6 The use of oral examinations may only be used to determine a borderline pass/fail grade on the research project.

6.7 The Course Committee shall agree, and from time to time make changes to, the Scheme of Assessment for the course.

- 6.8 Students are required to make a serious attempt at all the assessments specified in the Student Handbook. Course work must be submitted by the deadlines specified in the relevant module handbook unless written permission for an extension is given.
- 6.9 The Board of Examiners will determine whether a student's progress is sufficient to merit the award of credit for each module completed.
- 6.10 The Board of Examiners will determine at the end of the year whether a part-time student's progress in assessments is sufficient to permit progression to the next year of the course. Examiners will determine at the end of the course whether a student's progress is sufficient to merit award of the degree. Examiners will also determine whether students successfully completing module credits, but not completing the whole degree, are eligible for the Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate. Examiners will also determine eligibility for pathway specific awards where candidates have completed relevant option modules.

## **7.0 RE-ENTRY TO ASSESSMENTS**

- 7.1 Students are entitled to two attempts at each assessment.
- 7.2 Students who fail an option module assessment after two attempts may, at the discretion of the Board of Examiners, be permitted to replace the module with an alternative module (see 10.10 *General Regulations*). A maximum of one option module substitution will be allowed within the PG Cert., PG Dip. or full award. Substitution of compulsory research or specialist modules is not permitted.
- 7.3 Course work assignments must normally be resubmitted within four weeks of receiving an initial fail mark. Marks for resubmitted course work will be limited to a bare pass (50%). Students are required to pass each core module, each specialist compulsory module and sufficient numbers of option modules to complete the course. Students who persistently fail to submit course work by the deadlines specified may have their registration terminated.
- 7.4 Students who fail the dissertation at the first attempt will be permitted to resubmit the dissertation on one occasion at a date determined by the Board of Examiners. Marks for the re-submission of the dissertation will be limited to a bare pass (50%). Students who fail the dissertation at the second attempt will



fail the M.Sc. but may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Healthcare Practice at the Examiners' discretion if they have successfully completed the taught modules.

## **8.0 AWARDS**

8.1 Candidates for the award of **M.Sc. Healthcare Practice** must obtain a pass in the following modules:

### **Core modules (75 credits)**

- Research Methods (15 credits)
- Research Project (60 credits)

### **Option modules (105 credits)**

Free choice of option modules

within the maximum registration period specified. The above is inclusive of the RPL allowance.

### **8.1.1 M.Sc. Advanced Clinical Practice**

The Core ACP modules will normally be completed at level 7. Recognition of prior learning can be considered against any module which may include up to 30 credits at level 6. A minimum of 150 credits must be completed at level 7

Candidates for the award of M.Sc. Advanced Clinical Practice must obtain a pass in the following modules:

### **Core module (30 credits)**

- Evidence-informed Quality Improvement in Advanced Practice Project (30 credits)

### **Specialist compulsory core modules (75 credits)**

- Advanced clinical reasoning in health assessment: Lifespan perspectives (30 Credits)
- Advancing Clinical Education and Supervision (15 Credits)
- Improvement and Implementation Science: Principles for Practice (15 Credits)
- Leadership in Advanced Clinical Practice (15 Credits)

*PLUS 30 credits of either*

- (i) Independent / Supplementary Prescribing (NMC or HCPC) (30 credits)  
OR
- (ii) Drugs and Patient Group Directions (15 credits) and an option module for the generalist pathway (15 credits)

**Option modules (45 credits)**

- Free choice of option modules.

within the maximum registration period specified. The above is inclusive of the RPL allowance.

### 8.1.2 MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Degree Apprenticeship Pathway)

The Core ACP modules will normally be completed at level 7. Recognition of prior learning can be considered against any module which may include up to 30 credits at level 6. A minimum of 150 credits must be completed at level 7

For the award of MSc Advanced Clinical Practice from St George's University of London and the issue of an Apprenticeship Certificate from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), degree apprenticeship candidates must obtain a pass in the following modules:

**Core modules (50 credits)**

- Evidence-informed Quality Improvement in Advanced Practice Project (30 credits)
- Integrated End Point Assessment (EPA) (20 credits) Apprenticeship standard (surplus of 5 credits)

**Specialist compulsory core modules (75 credits)**

- Advanced clinical reasoning in health assessment: Lifespan perspectives (30 Credits)
- Advancing Clinical Education and Supervision (15 Credits)
- Improvement and Implementation Science: Principles for Practice (15 Credits)
- Leadership in Advanced Clinical Practice (15 Credits)

*PLUS 30 credits of either*

- I. Independent / Supplementary Prescribing (NMC or HCPC) (30 credits)  
OR
- II. Drugs and Patient Group Directions (15 credits) and an option module for the generalist pathway (15 credits)

**Option modules (30 credits)**

- Free choice of option modules

within the maximum registration period specified. The above is inclusive of the RPL allowance.

- 8.2 Candidates for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Healthcare Practice must obtain a pass mark in the following modules:

**Core modules (15 credits)**

- Research Methods (15 credits)

**Option modules (105 credits)**

Free choice of option modules

within the maximum registration period specified. The above is inclusive of the RPL allowance.

- 8.2.1 Candidates for the award of Postgraduate Diploma Advanced Clinical Practice must obtain a pass in the following modules:

**Specialist compulsory core modules (75 credits)**

- Advanced clinical reasoning in health assessment: Lifespan perspectives (30 Credits)
- Advancing Clinical Education and Supervision (15 Credits)
- Improvement and Implementation Science : Principles for Practice (15 Credits)
- Leadership in Advanced Clinical Practice (15 Credits)

*PLUS 30 credits of either*

- I. Independent / Supplementary Prescribing (NMC or HCPC) (30 credits)  
OR
- II. Drugs and Patient Group Directions (15 credits) and an option module for the generalist pathway (15 credits)

**Option modules (15 credits)**

- Choice of option modules

within the maximum registration period specified. The above is inclusive of the RPL allowance.

- 8.3 Candidates for the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Practice must obtain a pass mark in 60 credits of option modules within the maximum registration period specified. This is inclusive of the RPL allowance.
- 8.4 Candidates for the pathway specific awards detailed in 1.4 above must complete the specialist compulsory and option modules specified in the Student Handbook for these awards.
- 8.5 Distinctions and Merits  
Criteria for the award of distinctions and merits will be specified in the scheme of assessment. Outright distinctions will be awarded to candidates obtaining >70% in each element of assessment (taught module assessments and dissertation). The award of merit will be given to full MSc candidates obtaining an overall average assessment mark falling in the range 59.5-69.5%. Advanced Standing MSc candidates who have entered the programme with a Postgraduate Diploma totalling 120 credits and are topping up to a full MSc will receive an unclassified award. There is no award of merit for the postgraduate diploma. There is no award of merit or distinction for the postgraduate certificate.
- 8.6 The date of award of the qualification for successful students will be the date of the Board of Examiners' meeting at which their final result is determined.
- 8.6.1 The date of award of the apprenticeship ACP will be the exam board where the successful completion of EPA is determined.

## **9.0 BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

- 9.1 A Board of Examiners shall be appointed annually to serve from 1 October – 30 September with membership agreed by the Course Committee and approved by Senate. This membership shall include the Course Director, Chair of the Board (who shall not be the Course Director) and at least three other internal examiners (as defined in General Regulations 8.2.1.) deemed appropriate. At least one external examiner will be appointed each year as a member of the Board. Assessors may be invited to attend the Board where appropriate. The Postgraduate Courses Coordinator or his/her nominee shall act as secretary to the Board.
- 9.2 The Board of Examiners shall have the power to determine all final marks awarded to students, to decide on students' progression within the course, to decide on the award of degrees, diplomas, certificates, merits and distinctions, and to make recommendations concerning changes to the Scheme of

Assessment where necessary. The Board of Examiners shall meet at least once a year to fulfil these purposes.

- 9.3 Students enrolled on this programme are bound by the General Regulations in force at the time.

GP 19/06/2015 - Updated JG 05/08/17; GP/LL/KC/DH 14/08/19.