



MSc Heart Failure

Programme Regulations

2023

PROGRAMME REGULATIONS - For students entering the programme in 2023
Approved by Senate (2021)

Degree Title

1. The programme of study shall lead to the award of MSc in Heart Failure

Awarding body

2. The awarding body is St George's Hospital Medical School, a constituent college of the University of London.

Responsible Committee

3. The Course Committee is responsible for the delivery of the MSc in Heart Failure. The Course Committee is responsible to the Taught Postgraduate Courses Committee (TPCC) for quality monitoring.

Entry Requirements

Academic

4. Physicians should have completed their MBBS (Medical Bachelor & Bachelor in Surgery).
5. An MBBS or Honours degree equivalent to a 2:2 or above 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).

Clinical

6. Candidates are required to have a minimum 2 years postgraduate clinical experience in cardiology with experience of heart failure.

Non-academic, non-clinical

7. Once accepted for the course all candidates will require an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Services criminal record check clearance (DBS). The course involves contact with patients and in line with legislation and standard practice in the UK DBS clearance will be necessary prior to registration and enrolment. Successful applicants must apply for DBS through the Admissions Team. Applicants will pay a small fee directly to DBS to access.
8. The course involves contact with patients. In line with standard practices and legislation all students will require to undergo a health check by our Occupational Health team once accepted for the course. The Admissions Team will support students through this process.

Application process

9. Candidates will be invited to apply via an online application system. The following documents need to be provided (original documents or certified copies, translated in English language can be uploaded. Original documents will be reviewed on registration):
- Application form
 - o Education
 - o Professional qualifications
 - o Employment/work experience
 - o Cardiology and heart failure experience
 - o Research experience
 - o Personal (motivation) statement
 - Undergraduate degree including a grade transcript of records, certified (translated to English) copy of additionally Masters or other diplomas, if applicable
 - English language proficiency documentation
 - Proof of nationality (certified copy of passport)
 - Proof of address (recent (within 1 year) documentation such as official letter from respective municipality or two letters from national organisations such as voters register, bank statements, bills)
 - List of 2 referees (minimum of 2, 1 from recent (within last year from application) academic supervisor and another 1 from a second academic supervisor or employer)

The Admissions Tutors will make an offer to a candidate based on information obtained from the application form. All applications will be independently reviewed by the two admission tutors and marked against set criteria out of a 100 possible points based on the pre-specified selection criteria:

1. Academic achievements
2. Clinical experience in the medicine, cardiology and heart failure
3. Motivation
4. References

All criteria will contribute equally, and candidates will be scored by each assessor between 0 and 25. Candidates who achieve an average mark of ≥ 75 will be accepted without the requirement for an interview. They will be invited to an open day event should they chose to attend. Candidates with 50-75 points will be offered a formal interview prior to the decision of whether they will be offered a place in the MSc. Applications who score < 50 will be rejected without interview.

When 10 or less point difference exists the candidate will be awarded the average of the two marks. In cases of a difference of > 10 points, tutors will meet to agree on a mark. In the unlikely event that agreement cannot be reached the issue will be referred to the executive course director for the final deliberation.

IELTS

10. If English is not the applicant's first language, he or she must sit and pass the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a score of 6.5 overall, with no component less than 6.0, or the Pearson test with an overall score of 67, with no component less than 67; Cambridge English Advanced (Certificate in Advanced English) with an overall score of 185, with no component less than 176; or Cambridge English: Proficiency (also known as Certificate of Proficiency in English) with an overall score of 185, with no component less than 176).
11. Test certificates should be dated within the last two years to be considered valid. Applicants will only be permitted to submit two test attempts undertaken within a 12 month period.

Non-standard applicants

12. Applications will be considered from non-standard applicants who can demonstrate that they have the capacity to achieve the learning outcomes for the programme.
13. The admissions policy for the MSc Heart Failure will include a procedure for considering non-standard applicants. This procedure may include inter alia:
 - 13.1. Submission of a brief personal statement
 - 13.2. Two satisfactory references. One of these must be a recent academic reference and the other should be either a second academic reference or a professional/employer reference.
 - 13.3. Attendance at interview
14. Non-standard applicants may be permitted to register for a stand-alone module with an entitlement to transfer to the MSc Heart Failure if they complete a stand-alone module successfully.

Admissions Policy

15. 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.
16. The admissions policy shall be made in accordance with St George's Equal Opportunities Policy and Statement on Students with Disabilities.

Recognition of Prior Learning

17. Given the novel nature of the MSc in Heart Failure, which is the first post-graduate qualification in the field of Heart Failure for physicians internationally, the team does not anticipate to receive RPL claims based on prior study at other UK universities. Experiential learning claims based on the knowledge and skills acquired in clinical practice may be possible in the future. Based on these considerations, the course team has decided to delay the introduction of an RPL process until the programme is well established.

Period of Study

18. Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph 17 above, the minimum and maximum periods of study required are:

Part-time		
	Minimum	Maximum
MSc	2 years	4 years

19. 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 4.13 *General Regulations*).

Programmes Structure

20. The structure of the programme is as follows:

MSc in Heart Failure (180 Credits) Modules 1-10 & Thesis					Thesis (60 Credits)
Module 1 Definitions / epidemiology/ aetiology of heart failure	Module 2 Diagnosis of heart failure	Module 3 Therapy and management of heart failure	Module 4 Co-morbidities in heart failure	Module 5 Management of arrhythmia and device therapies in heart failure	
Module 6 Advanced imaging in heart failure	Module 7 Advanced heart failure and management	Module 8 Multi-disciplinary team management and end-stage heart failure	Module 9 Acute heart failure	Module 10 Cardiac rehabilitation	(each module 12 credits)

MSc 180 credits

The MSc in Heart Failure is a modular two year (part-time) level 7 degree programme. Each taught module provides 12 credits and a total of 180 credits are required for the qualification of MSc. All 10 taught modules are compulsory. A compulsory research project provides 60 credits. To accommodate the individual needs of students and the complexity of different research projects the research module can be completed over a prolonged period of time with submission deadline at the end of the course.

Assessment

21. A combination of course work assignments and research dissertation are prescribed for the core modules and will be detailed in the module descriptors and relevant module handbooks.
22. The dissertation will take the form of a report on the research project conducted during the course. The research project has a word limit of 15,000.
23. Generic criteria for marking academic assessments will be published in the Student Handbook.
24. Candidates will be given a single final percentage mark for each module, taking into account the weightings of the elements prescribed in the module descriptors and relevant module handbooks. The pass mark for each assessment will be 50%.

25. The Course Committee shall agree, and from time to time make changes to, the Scheme of Assessment for the course. The Scheme of Assessment shall be approved by the Taught Postgraduate Courses Committee.
26. Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic performance at all the assessments specified in the Student Handbook. Coursework must be submitted by the deadlines specified in the relevant module handbook unless written permission for an extension is given.
27. The Board of Examiners will determine whether a student's progress is sufficient to merit the award of credit for each module completed.
28. The Board of Examiners will determine at the end of the year whether a part-time student's progress in first year assessments is sufficient to permit continuation to the second year of the programme. Examiners will determine at the end of the programme whether a student's progress is sufficient to merit the award of the qualification for which the student has registered.
29. Examiners will determine whether MSc students successfully completing module credits, but not completing the whole degree, are eligible for the Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate.

Re-Entry to Assessments

30. Students are entitled to two attempts at each assessment.
31. Course work assignments must normally be resubmitted within four weeks of receiving an initial fail mark. Marks for any module that involves a resubmission or resit will be capped overall at 50%. Students are required to pass each core module to complete the course. Students who persistently fail to submit course work by the deadlines specified may have their registration terminated.
32. 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 MSc but may be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma at the Examiners' discretion if they have successfully completed 120 credits at level 7.

Awards

33. Candidates for the award of MSc Heart Failure must obtain a pass in all modules undertaken within the maximum registration period specified.

Distinctions and Merits

34. Criteria for the award of distinctions and merits will be specified in the scheme of assessment. Outright distinctions will be awarded to MSc candidates obtaining an overall average assessment mark of $\geq 69.5\%$. Such candidates will be expected to pass each

component at first attempt. The award of merit will be given to MSc candidates obtaining an overall average assessment mark falling in the range 59.5-69.4%.

Date of award

35. 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.
36. A Board of Examiners shall be appointed annually with membership agreed by the Course Committee and approved by Senate. This membership shall include a Chair of the Board (who shall not be the Course Director), the executive course director, the head of assessment 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 Assistant Registrar (Postgraduate) or his/her nominee shall act as secretary to the Board.
37. 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.
38. Students enrolled on this programme are bound by the General Regulations in force at the time.