PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION	Newcastle University

1	**Awarding Institution**	Newcastle University
2	**Teaching Institution**	Newcastle University
3	**Final Award**	Master of Science Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate
4	**Programme Title**	See item 5
5	**Programme Code**	For candidates starting prior to September 2018: Postgraduate Certificate in Cancer Studies (60 credits) **3071P*** Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology (120 credits) **3459P*** Postgraduate Diploma in Palliative Care (120 credits) **3460P*** Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry (120 Credits) **3461P*** MSc in Oncology (180 credits) **5211P*** MSc in Palliative Care (180 credits) **5212P*** MSc in Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry (180 Credits) **5213P*** *These programmes are withdrawn and the programme specification is only available to students completing their course. For candidates starting from September 2018 onwards: Master of Science Oncology (Sept) **5397P** Master of Science Oncology (Jan) – **5398P*** Master of Science Palliative Care (Sept) **5399P** Master of Science Palliative Care (Jan) **5400P*** Master of Science Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry (Sept) **5401P** Master of Science Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry (Jan) **5402P*** Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology (Sept) **3506P** Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology (Jan) **3507P*** Postgraduate Diploma in Palliative Care (Sept) **3508P** Postgraduate Diploma in Palliative Care (Jan) **3509P*** Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry (Sept) **3511P** Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry (Jan) **3512P*** Postgraduate Certificate in Oncology (Sept) **3159P** Postgraduate Certificate in Oncology (Jan) **3160P***

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		Postgraduate Certificate in Palliative Care (Sept) **3161P** Postgraduate Certificate in Palliative Care (Jan) **3162P*** Postgraduate Certificate in Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry (Sept) **3163P** Postgraduate Certificate in Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry (Jan) **3164P*** Postgraduate Certificate in Cancer Studies (Sept) **3165P** Postgraduate Certificate in Cancer Studies (Jan) **3166P*** CPD in Oncology and Palliative Care **6041P** ***These programmes are suspended for 2021/22 entry**
6	**Programme Accreditation**	N/A
7	**QAA Subject Benchmark(s)**	N/A
8	**FHEQ Level**	Masters (7)
9	**Last updated**	July 2021

10	**Programme Aims**

The aim of the programme is to facilitate the development of practitioners within different fields of oncology/palliative care who are prepared to offer clinical leadership, clinical excellence, and cultivate interdisciplinary collaboration in the delivery of evidence-based oncology/palliative care. The programme also aims to introduce the basis of research in oncology/palliative care and to prepare participants for further active research within their own discipline.

11	**Learning Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

<div align="center">Knowledge and Understanding</div>

On completing the programme students will be able to:

A1 Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of cancer, its effects, its management, and the relief of symptoms associated with treatment and disease progression.

A2 Demonstrate an understanding of the current developments in cancer/palliative care/pharmaceutical industry

A3 Demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical basis of cancer research. (Specific to MSc level)

Teaching and Learning Methods

A1 and A2 are addressed via online tutorials and directed reading while formative MCQs and discussion activities allow students to consolidate their knowledge.
A3 is addressed via case studies of relevant research, and formative feedback which allows the student to develop their research proposal and dissertation project.

Assessment Strategy

A1 is assessed both formatively and summatively throughout all modules. MCQ tests and essays are used throughout the modules to assess students' knowledge of cancer management and the relief of symptoms associated with treatment and disease progression.

All written assessments and essays require students to show evidence of horizon scanning and knowledge of current research in the relevant field. (A2)

A3 is assessed via the research proposal and dissertation project.

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Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme, students will be able to:

B1 Draw upon relevant theories and evidence to constructively challenge existing practices.

B2 Demonstrate skills relevant to Practice Development via reflective practice and utilisation of research findings.

B3 Plan, conduct and report a programme of original research (Specific to MSc Level).

Teaching and Learning Methods

Online discussion activities require students to reflect on their current practice and consider how relevant theories could be applied (B1 and B2).

B3 is addressed via a series of formative activities and individual feedback which guides them to produce their own research proposal.

Assessment Strategy

B1 and B2 are assessed via written assessments which require students to critically appraise evidence, devise patient management plans and produce their own guidelines and practice development proposal for clinical scenarios.

B3 is assessed via the development of a research proposal.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students will be able to:

C1 Contribute to the development and evaluation of local cancer/palliative care services
C2 use e-learning technology such as virtual learning environments effectively

Teaching and Learning Methods

C1 is developed via directed reading, online tutorials. Activities incorporated in the tutorials include case studies which require students to contribute to online discussions and critically appraise existing practices.
C2 is addressed initially by an induction module and then throughout the programme through the method of delivery and by moderation of interactive activities by module leaders.

Assessment Strategy

C1 is assessed via a range of written assessments which require students to critically appraise evidence, devise patient management plans and produce their own guidelines for clinical scenarios.

C2 is assessed formatively throughout the course by moderation of collaborative activities and summatively through a participation mark (where appropriate).

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students will be able to:

D1 competently and sensitively disseminate new knowledge acquired to colleagues, patients and families

D2 assume responsibility for facilitating practice development within their respective discipline and workplace (specific to PGT Diploma/MSc level)

D3 actively promote seamless interagency and multi-professional care (specific to Diploma/MSc Level)

D4 communicate effectively in writing

D5 use library and other information sources skilfully and appropriately

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D6 plan, organise and prioritise work activities in order to meet deadlines

D7 work independently

D8 use e-learning skills to interact appropriately in on-line environments

Teaching and Learning Methods

D1-D3 are developed throughout the programme via directed reading, online tutorials and collaborative activities. Activities require reflection on current practice and discussion of practice development.

The course is designed in a way that requires students to address D4- D8 throughout its duration. These skills are developed through the requirement to carry out and produce written assignments in all modules and the dissertation. Formative feedback is given regularly throughout the modules by regular interaction with module leaders.

Assessment Strategy

D1 is summatively assessed via PowerPoint presentations which should be aimed at a group of peers and formatively via discussion activities where best practice is shared within the cohort. D2-D3 are assessed throughout the course via written assessments which require students to reflect on their own practice and consider issues in a multidisciplinary context.

D4- D8 These skills are formatively assessed through the written assignments and dissertation. D5 and D7 are not summatively assessed independently, although they are indirectly assessed through the successful production of written assignments and the dissertation. D8 is assessed formatively throughout the course by moderation of collaborative activities and summatively via a participation mark (where appropriate).

12	**Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features**

Basic structure of the programme

This programme is a part time, on-line programme which has three pathways: Oncology, Palliative Care and Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry.

A candidate shall be admitted as a part-time student and shall pursue a programme of part-time study comprising modules to a value of 180 credits, studied to a maximum of 5 years.

The three MSc pathways of Oncology, Palliative Care or Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry comprise of 180 credits. Alternatively, students can work towards a Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology, Palliative Care or Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry (120 credits) or a Postgraduate Certificate in Oncology, Palliative Care, Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry or Cancer Studies (60 credits).

A master's candidate shall study taught modules to a value of 120 credits and a dissertation project to a value of 60 credits.

A student may exit the programme prior to the award of the MSc, with either a Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology, a Postgraduate Diploma in Palliative Care or a Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry having gained 120 credits. Students may exit the Postgraduate Diploma or MSc programme with a Postgraduate Certificate in Oncology, a Postgraduate Certificate in Palliative Care, a Postgraduate Certificate in Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry or a Postgraduate Certificate in Cancer Studies having gained 60 credits.

Modules are either 10 or 20 credits, with the exception of the Dissertation module which is 60 credits. Full details of all modules are provided in the Degree Programme Handbook and module outline forms. Students are allowed to undertake up to 40 credits of modules per semester.

All modules are delivered on-line using the web-based Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The VLE uses web-based resources, assessment tools, discussion boards and the email support from module leaders. In addition, administrative, technical and library support is provided.

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All taught modules are available for study as standalone CPD, these allow a student to pick and choose single modules to study which are relevant to their line of work. The programme is modular so the student can choose which modules are most relevant to their circumstances. To study modules as accredited CPD students must register on the standalone programme code 6041P.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

This programme was the first web-based MSc programme in Oncology and Palliative Care to be offered. The Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry strand offers a qualification tailored to the needs of pharmaceutical industry professionals. This is in contrast to the broad-based Oncology and Palliative Care strands which offer a solid foundation to any professional wishing to pursue a career in Oncology and Palliative Care.

All modules are delivered entirely online allowing students to study at any time and from anywhere. Material and supporting reading can be accessed across devices including PCs, tablets and other mobile devices and the flexibility of part-time allows students to fit their studies around their professional commitments. Online networking with professionals across multiple disciplines provides the opportunity to discuss activities with an awareness of multi-professional perspectives. Students are studying from around the globe giving a variety of different viewpoints and experiences, enriching online discussions.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version home page)

https://teaching.ncl.ac.uk/docs/regsdocs2021/documents/-R5211P_3071P-5397P_3166P_vFinal.pdf

13   Support for Student Learning

*The link below contains information within Section 13 relating to Placements and is not relevant to this suite of programmes.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

14   Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

15   Regulation of assessment

*The link below contains information within Section 13 relating to Placements and is not relevant to this suite of programmes.

https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/

Programme Regulations see http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.