

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



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	<p>For candidates starting prior to September 2018:</p> <p>5261P Master of Science Clinical and Health Sciences with Clinical Research*</p> <p>*This programme is withdrawn. These specifications are only available to students completing their course.</p> <p>For candidates starting from September 2018 onwards:</p> <p>5403P Master of Science in Clinical and Health Sciences*</p> <p>5404P Master of Science in Clinical and Health Sciences with Ageing*</p> <p>5405P Master of Science in Clinical and Health Sciences with Clinical Research*</p> <p>5406P Master of Science in Clinical and Health Sciences with Molecular Pathology*</p> <p>3513P Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Sciences*</p> <p>3514P Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Sciences with Ageing*</p> <p>3515P Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Sciences with Clinical Research*</p> <p>3516P Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical and Health Sciences with Molecular Pathology*</p> <p>3167P Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Sciences*</p> <p>3168P Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Sciences with Ageing*</p> <p>3169P Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Sciences with Clinical Research*</p> <p>3170P Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Sciences with Allergy*</p> <p>3171P Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Sciences with Molecular Pathology*</p> <p>6047P CPD Clinical and Health Sciences</p>

	*These programmes are withdrawn and these specifications are only available to students completing their course.
6 Programme Accreditation	N/A
7 QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	N/A
8 FHEQ Level	7
9 Last updated	May 2022

10 Programme Aims

This programme has been designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop scholarship in a chosen area of Clinical and Health Sciences. The programme has been developed to ensure a flexible approach to learning to make it sustainable and compatible with modern career pathways and to address the needs of a modern health service. This programme enables students to tailor their studies to their own clinical and professional interests and create a bespoke programme of study. Our aims are:

- i) to enable students to gain an advanced knowledge and understanding of self-selected areas of Clinical and Health Sciences;
- ii) to equip students to critically appraise established practice and develop their own clinical practice, balancing receptiveness to new ideas with critical analysis;
- iii) to encourage the students to develop a range of professional and key skills which will enable them to engage in further study and/or research at an advanced level in higher education or in a senior professional capacity in other fields of employment

The Clinical and Health Sciences suite of programmes offers a Masters, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate and also offers the opportunity to specialise in different areas:

- i) Ageing
- ii) Clinical research
- v) Allergy
- vi) Molecular Pathology

In order to achieve these aims, and to achieve maximum flexibility for students, all modules are designed as e-learning modules and delivered via a virtual learning environment (VLE).

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. The outcomes for Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and Masters stages are indicated as appropriate.

Knowledge and Understanding

On completing the programme students will be able to:

- A1 demonstrate an advanced knowledge in self-selected areas of special interest or of professional relevance
- A2 apply an understanding of the current developments of, and theoretical basis in, areas of special interest or professional relevance to inform their own clinical practice
- A3 use an appropriate knowledge of the ethical principles and good research practice that under-pin their chosen area of study in the conduct of original research. (specific to Masters level).

Teaching and Learning Methods

Students select areas to study that are within their own areas of interest and that are key to developing a better understanding of their self-selected subject area. A1 and A2 are addressed through a mixture of directed learning, activities, and small group discussion,

augmented by independent study, directed by the provision of reading lists, resource materials and with feedback by tutors or peers on e-learning activities and in-course assignments. A3 is addressed for Masters students by compulsory study of Designing a Research Proposal module and the dissertation.

Assessment Strategy

Knowledge and understanding are assessed through a range of methods including in-course essays, MCQ tests, student presentations, data interpretation tests and critical appraisal of published works (A1-A3). Formative feedback is given throughout the module via interaction with the module tutor, small group discussion, collaborative activities and also via in-course assessment. Students receive detailed feedback for all summative assessment.

Intellectual Skills

On completing the programme, students should be able to:

- B1 source and evaluate current research evidence
- B2 formulate arguments and engage in academic debate about current research and research practice with regard to professional and/or clinical practice
- B3 critically review and appraise clinical practice
- B4 plan, conduct and report a programme of original research (specific to Masters level)
- B5 appreciate ethical issues in research and the need for ethical approval in research (specific to Masters level).

Teaching and Learning Methods

Students are expected to gradually develop these skills throughout the programme. B1 and B3 are addressed through a mixture of directed learning, activities and small group discussion, augmented by independent study, directed by the provision of reading lists, resource materials and with feedback on in-course assignments. B2 is addressed through the interactive activities such as wikis and blogs which enable students to debate issues and develop arguments with each other. B4 and B5 are addressed for Masters students by compulsory study of Designing a Research Proposal module and the dissertation.

Assessment Strategy

Intellectual skills are assessed through a range of methods including in-course essays, student presentations, data interpretation tests, personal reflection (where appropriate) and critical appraisal of published works (B1-B5). Formative feedback is given throughout the module via interaction with the module tutor, small group discussion, collaborative activities and also via in-course assessment. Students receive detailed feedback for all summative assessment.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- C1 identify practical and methodologically robust design solutions and apply to clinical and or professional practice (specific to Masters level)
- C2 select and apply relevant analysis techniques in an appropriate research setting (specific to Masters level)
- C3 identify key safety issues and procedures related to their own research project (specific to Masters level)
- C4 use e-learning technology such as virtual learning environments effectively

Teaching and Learning Methods

C1 is addressed through a mixture of activities and small group discussion, augmented by independent study, with feedback on in-course assignments. C2 and C3 are addressed for Masters students by compulsory study of Designing a Research Proposal and their dissertation. C4 is addressed initially by an induction programme and then throughout the programme through the method of delivery and by moderation of interactive activities by module leaders.

Assessment Strategy
Practical skills are assessed through a range of methods including in-course essays, student presentations, data interpretation tests, and critical appraisal of published works (C1). C2 and C3 are assessed through Designing a Research proposal and their dissertation. C4 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 should be able to: D1 communicate effectively in writing D2 use library and other information sources skilfully and appropriately D3 plan, organise and prioritise work activities in order to meet deadlines D4 work independently D5 use e-learning skills to interact appropriately in on-line environments
Teaching and Learning Methods
These skills are developed through the requirement to carry out and produce written assignments in all modules and the dissertation. The course is deliberately designed in a way that requires students to address D1 to D5 throughout its duration. Formative feedback is given regularly throughout the modules by regular interaction with module leaders.
Assessment Strategy
These skills are formatively assessed through the written assignments and dissertation. D2 and D4 are not summatively assessed independently, although they are indirectly assessed through the successful production of written assignments and the dissertation. D5 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 broad-based part-time e-learning programme has a modular structure. Level 7 (Masters) academic credits are accrued for each module completed successfully. 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. For the Masters the period of study shall be 2-5 years, for the PG Diploma 1-4 years and for the PG Certificate 1-2 years. The Clinical and Health Sciences suite of programmes offers a Masters, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical and Health Sciences and also offers the opportunity to specialise in different areas. Each specialist area (known as a strand) has a strand leader to ensure coherence across the specialist modules. The strand leader acts as a first point of contact for speciality queries. Masters students undertake 180 credits in total: 60 credits are assigned to the dissertation which is undertaken in the field of the degree programme studied; 20 credits are assigned to a compulsory module Designing a Research Proposal. The other 100 credits of modules are made up from the selection of modules within the Clinical and Health Sciences programme. For a subject specific award, at least 40 credits will be made up from subject specific modules (see the programme regulations). Postgraduate Diploma students undertake 120 credits in total: at least 40 of which are subject specific for a subject specific award (see the programme regulations).

Postgraduate Certificate students undertake 60 credits in total: 60 credits of modules where at least 20 credits are subject specific for a subject specific award (see the programme regulations).

Students shall select subject knowledge modules from a wide range of options for study. Subject knowledge module selection allows students a wide-choice, subject to module viability, timetabling and individual programme-specific requirements (see below) and is made in consultation with the Degree Programme Director or nominees, and subject to confirmation by the Degree Programme Director.

Students are also able to study modules on a continuing professional development (CPD) basis.

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

The key feature of this programme is the ability for the student to choose from a wide range of subject areas with the flexibility of an entirely e-Learning format. As such the programme offers a unique level of adaptability, allowing the busy health professional to mould their programme of study to their own professional needs and interests. Students may opt to graduate in one of the specialist areas or gain a general award.

The wholly e-learning format enables students to study at a time of their convenience and removes the need to visit the campus and so this programme is open to a national and international audience. The programme also offers the opportunity to network across different disciplines both nationally and globally. The part-time nature allows busy professionals to undertake modules on a flexible basis to fit in with their other commitments.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[-R5261P_6047P_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.

 [qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf](#)

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

 [qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf](#)

15 Regulation of assessment

*The link below contains information within Section 15 relating to Placements and is not relevant to this suite of programmes.

 [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/>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <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.