

## Programme Regulations: 2023/24

### Programme Title: Master of Dietetics (MDiet)

UCAS Code: B401

#### Notes

- (i) *These programme regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's Regulations for Taught Programmes.*
- (ii) *A compulsory module is a module which a student is required to study.*
- (iii) *A core module is a module which a student must pass, and in which a fail mark may neither be carried nor compensated; such modules are designated by the board of studies and HCPC as essential for progression to a further stage of the programme or for study in a further module.*
- (iv) *All taught modules are delivered in Linear mode.*
- (v) *As the Master of Dietetics (MDiet) is a qualification leading to professional registration, the University has an overriding duty of care to ensure that all students graduating from the programme not only meet the academic requirements but are also physically and mentally fit to practise and are of good character. The case of any student whose fitness for professional practice is a matter for concern shall be considered under the University Fitness to Practise Procedure.*
- (vi) *Students will be required to undergo appropriate DBS and Healthcare checks as stipulated in University and School policies.*
- (vii) *Students will be required to fulfil all requirements for placements (including clinical access) as dictated by the relevant Care Quality Commission Regulated provider.*

#### 1. Structure

- (a) The Master of Dietetics (MDiet) combines taught modules and placement practice into each of its stages. Stage 1 placement practice is embedded into DTC1001, which consists of a series of taught sessions on professional work skills and visits to practice learning sites to undertake observational and experiential learning. These experiences will continue in Stage 2 in module DTC2002 but will also include an assessed practice placement within an NHS Dietetic service (1 week). These experiences will prepare students for the assessed practice placements in Stages 3 and 4. Stage 3 placement practice, embedded within DTC3003, consists of a 12 week placement (37.5 hours per week) involving work in dietetic practice and is undertaken over Semesters 2 and 3. Stage 4 practice placement, embedded within module DTC4001, consists of a 12 week placement (37.5 hours per week) involving work in dietetic practice and is undertaken in Semester 1.

Note: Placement timings will be subject to availability and may differ from the published dates. Students will be notified in advance of their placement timings and should ensure that they are available to undertake their placements during the allocated times.

#### Stage 1

- (b) All candidates shall take the following compulsory modules:

Code	Descriptive title	Total Credits	Credits Sem 1	Credits Sem 2	Credits Sem 3	Level	Type	Mode
NUT1007	Introduction to Nutrition	10	10			4	core	
DTC1003	Introduction to Dietetics	10		10		4	core	

NUT1004	Fundamental Principles of Genetics and Biochemistry for Nutrition	15	15			4	core	
DTC1002	Food Studies	20	10	10		4	core	
NUT1005	Human Physiology and Practical Skills for Nutrition	30	30			4	core	
CMB1003	Microbiology and Immunology	15		15		4	core	
SES1002	Bioenergetics	20		20		4	core	

(c) Candidates must pass all modules to proceed to the next stage of the programme.

### Stage 2

(d) All candidates shall take the following compulsory modules:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Credits Sem 3</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
NUT2001	Macro- and Micronutrients	20	20			5	core	
NUT2006	Measurement and Assessment of Dietary Intake and Nutritional Status	20	20			5	core	
BMS3015	Health and Illness: Professional and Societal Perspectives	10	10			6	core	
DTC2001	Health Psychology and Behaviour Change	10		10		5	core	
DTC2002	Applied Therapeutic Diets	30	10	20		5	core	
NUT2003	Food Science and Technology	20		20		5	core	
NUT2005	Nutrition through the Lifecycle	10		10		5	core	

(e) Candidates must pass all modules to proceed to the next stage of the programme.

(f) Candidates who do not satisfy the examiners at the end of Practice Placement A (DTC2002) shall not be permitted to undertake any further additional practice hours unless given permission to do so by the relevant Board of Examiners, advised by the Degree Programme Director and Placement Supervisor (see Policy of Extended weeks of Placement A in Placement Handbook). Candidates cannot progress to Stage 3 of the programme until Practice Placement A is passed.

### Stage 3

(g) All candidates shall take the following compulsory modules:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Credits Sem 3</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
NUT3011	Nutritional Epidemiology and Public Health	30	20	10		6	core	

DTC3001	Clinical Medicine and Dietetic Practice	30	30			6	core	
NUT3009	Personalised Nutrition	10	10			6	core	
DTC3003	Consultation Skills for Dietetics	20		10	10	6	core	
DTC3002	Dissertation	30	10	20		6	core	

- (h) Candidates must pass DTC3001 Clinical Medicine and Dietetic Practice and the Observation of Professional Practice assessment from on campus simulations in DTC3003 prior to proceeding to the Practice Placement B component of DTC3003. A resit opportunity will be provided in April/May should this be required. Candidates who are unsuccessful in passing the resit assessment will not be allowed to progress to the placement and thus not be allowed to continue on the programme.
- (i) Candidates must pass all modules to proceed to the next stage of the programme.
- (j) Candidates who do not satisfy the examiners at the end of 12 weeks in the Practice Placement B (DTC3003) shall not be permitted to undertake any further additional practice hours unless given permission to do so by the relevant Board of Examiners, advised by the Degree Programme Director and Placement Supervisor (see Policy of Extended weeks of Placement B in Placement Handbook). Candidates cannot progress to Stage 4 of the programme until Practice Placement B is passed.

#### Stage 4

- (k) All candidates shall take the following compulsory modules:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Descriptive title</i>	<i>Total Credits</i>	<i>Credits Sem 1</i>	<i>Credits Sem 2</i>	<i>Credits Sem 3</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Mode</i>
DTC4001	Professional Practice in Dietetics	20	20			7	core	
DTC4002	Quality Improvement and Service Redesign	20	10	10		7	core	
DTC4003	Masters Research Project	60	20	40		7	core	
DTC4004	Practice-based Learning for Dietitians	20		20		7	core	

- (l) Candidates must pass all modules to be considered for the award.
- (m) Candidates who do not satisfy the examiners at the end of 12 weeks in the Practice Placement C (DTC4001) shall not be permitted to undertake any further additional practice hours unless given permission to do so by the relevant Board of Examiners, advised by the Degree Programme Director and Placement Supervisor (see Policy of Extended weeks of Placement C in Placement Handbook). Candidates cannot progress to the remainder of the final year modules until Practice Placement C has been passed.

## 2. Assessment methods

Details of the assessment pattern for each module are explained in the module outline.

### **3. Assessment and Progression**

- a) Candidates will be expected to demonstrate competence in the knowledge and skills element of the programme and be in good standing professionally in order to progress from one stage to another.
- b) Candidates must pass all modules in order to be considered for the award of Master of Dietetics (MDiet).
- c) Candidates must achieve a mark of 40 or above for all modules in Stages 1, 2 and 3 and a mark of 50 or above for all Stage 4 modules. In addition candidates must achieve at least 35 in each component of assessment within a module.
- d) Candidates who do not pass the Stage 2, 3 or Stage 4 Practice Placement (Practice Placement A, B and C) and who are eligible to undertake additional practice hours, in order to pass the placement, will undertake the additional practice hours as agreed by the Degree Programme Director and Placement Supervisor. The amount and timing of the additional practice hours will be agreed on a case by case basis. If possible the additional hours will be undertaken immediately after the end of the placement. If this is not possible candidates may be required to undertake the additional practice hours as an external candidate and return to full-time studies on successful completion of the placement.
- e) In considering whether an unsuccessful candidate is eligible to undertake additional practice hours the British Dietetic Association (BDA) Curriculum Framework for the Pre-Registration Education and Training of Dietitians will be adhered to. Further detail regarding eligibility is available in the Programme Handbook. Candidates who are not eligible to undertake additional practice hours will not be allowed to continue on the programme.
- f) Candidates who do not meet the Stage 2 progression requirements may be considered for an appropriate exit award. Candidates who do not pass the placement but pass the academic component of Stage 2 (120 credits) will be considered for the Higher Education Diploma in Nutrition Science or under DPD permission, may be considered for a transfer to Stage 3 of the BSc (Hons) Food and Human Nutrition. All other unsuccessful candidates will be considered for a Higher Education Certificate in Nutrition Science.
- g) Candidates who do not meet the Stage 3 progression requirements may be considered for an appropriate exit award, depending on the modules and amount of credit passed.
- h) Candidates who do not meet the Stage 4 requirements for the award of MDiet will be considered for an appropriate exit award. Candidates who pass DTC4001 but do not meet the requirements for the MDiet award will be considered for a BSc (Hons) Dietetics. This award is a registrable qualification with the HCPC. All other unsuccessful candidates will be considered for a BSc (Hons) Clinical Nutrition.
- i) No Aegrotat unclassified degree awards in Dietetics are conferred as they are not acceptable to the professional body for the purposes of registration.

#### 4. Degree Classification

- (a) Candidates will be assessed for the MDiet degree classification on the basis of all the modules taken at Stages 2, 3 and 4 with the weighting of the stages being 1:3:3 for Stage 2, Stage 3, and Stage 4 respectively.
- (b) Candidates will be assessed for the BSc (Hons) Dietetics degree classification on the basis of all modules taken at Stages 2 and 3 with weighting of the stages being 1:3 for Stage 2 and Stage 3 respectively.
- (c) Exit velocity will not be used (University's Taught Programme Regulations Section 33a iii): the stages are already weighted (1:3:3)
- (d) Performance in individual modules will not be used for promotion.
- (e) MDiet candidates will be promoted if their final weighted average lies within 1% of the borderline (after rounding) AND 50% or more of the module credits are in the higher degree class(es) at each of Stage 2, Stage 3 and Stage 4, with no more than 60 module credits in classes two or more below the proposed final class.
- (f) In accordance with university regulations, an MDiet candidate with a weighted average up to 2% below a classification borderline will be **considered** (with any special circumstances being noted) by the Board for promotion to the higher degree classification by the use of discretion. Note however that a requirement to *consider* using discretion is not a requirement to use discretion.

#### 5. Exit Awards

- (a) Candidates not meeting the MDiet programme requirements or who wish to withdraw from study may be considered for the following exit awards:
  - Higher Education Certificate in Nutrition Science
  - Higher Education Diploma in Nutrition Science
  - BSc Clinical Nutrition
  - BSc (Hons) Clinical Nutrition
  - BSc (Hons) Dietetics
- (b) Only the BSc (Hons) Dietetics exit award is a registrable qualification with the HCPC and leads to eligibility to apply for registration as a dietitian.
- (c) The normal period of study for the MDiet is 4 years. Candidates who have been given permission to extend their studies may do so to a maximum of seven years. Such decisions will be made on a case by case basis and subject to approval by the Degree Programme Director.

#### 6. Exemptions to the University's Taught Programme Regulations

- (a) Due to the professional and PSRB requirements of the programme exemptions have been granted to allow the following variations to University Regulations. In the event of any inconsistency between the Programme and University regulations, the Programme Regulations take precedence over the University Regulations.

## **Progress Regulations for Taught Programmes**

### **Taught Programme Regulations - Section I Principles of Discretion**

#### **Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) - Section D 54 – 58 Principles of Compensation**

#### **Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) - Section D 59 The Award and Classification of Degrees**

#### **Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) - Section D 64 Use of Discretion**

In order to meet professional standards and ensure competence in all learning outcomes students must pass all modules. To meet these requirements compensation is not used by the Board of Examiners when considering the MDiet award. Compensation may be used when considering exit awards, excluding the BSc (Hons) Dietetics award.

Discretion will not be used by the Board of Examiners for the MDiet award other than when considering borderline classifications of 68 or 69 and 58 or 59. Discretion may be used when considering exit awards, excluding the BSc (Hons) Dietetics award.

To be considered for the MDiet award the final stage programme average should be no less than 50, however in addition all modules across all stages must also be passed.

### **Taught Programme Regulations - Section J – Reassessment**

Students who do not achieve placement competencies, via the completion of the Portfolio, within the allocated time period may be allowed to complete additional placement hours to pass. Such decisions will be made by the Degree Programme Director and Placement Supervisor. In making this decision the BDA Curriculum Framework for the Pre-registration, Education and Training of Dietitians must be adhered to in relation to undertaking additional practice hours. Those students not eligible to complete additional practice hours will not be able to continue on the programme.

### **Taught Programme Regulations (Integrated) Section D Failing Performance by Integrated Master's Degree Students (Exit Awards)**

Titles of exit awards vary from those listed in University regulations. In addition to the standard university exit awards unsuccessful candidates may also be considered for a pass degree, an award not currently offered in the Integrated Masters Taught Degree Regulations.

### **Module Hours**

Due to the integration of taught and placement components, the following modules exceed the normal hours of a 20 credit module:

DTC3003

DTC4001

In the event of any inconsistency between the programme and University regulations in relation to the above exemptions, the programme regulations take precedence over the University regulations.

- (b) Further guidance is available in the programme handbook.

## **7. Professional Recognition**

- (a) The programme leads to the award of a degree which is accepted as a professional qualification by the British Dietetic Association and approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). Throughout the programme, students need to demonstrate Fitness to Practise in order to complete their practice placements and graduate from the programme.
- (b) Successful completion of the programme provides eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC. It is a legal requirement that anyone who wishes to practise using a title protected by the Health Professions Order 2001 is on the HCPC register. For more information, please see the HCPC website at: [www.hcpc-uk.org](http://www.hcpc-uk.org).