

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	MSc
4	Programme Title	Master of Science in Shipping and Logistics
5	Programme Code	5276F/P
6	Programme Accreditation	
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	Engineering
8	FHEQ Level	7
9	Last updated	November 2024

10 Programme Aims

This degree programme prepares graduates from a broad range of disciplines for exciting and diverse careers across the global shipping and logistics sectors. Students will learn how the different industries within these sectors operate and the challenges that they are facing. Particular foci of the programme include developing analytical and interpersonal skills, and on helping students to understand how global shipping and logistics can progress towards Net Zero and the sectors' responsibilities to society.

Specifically the programme aims to:

1. To develop knowledge and understanding (both of underlying theory and in practical application) in the range of subjects that underpin shipping and logistics.
2. To equip students with appropriate transferable practical skills in applications of information technology, data collection and analysis, problem formulation and solving, and communication skills both oral and written.
3. To enable students to enhance their learning experience, particularly in the context of the dissertation which has a central role in the programme, by benefiting from the school's exceptional research led teaching.
4. To encourage students to develop awareness and responsible attitudes towards the needs of society and the environment in the application of their knowledge.
5. To produce graduates who are recognised by the shipping and logistics industries worldwide as fully equipped to contribute at a professional level, especially where a Masters degree is required.
6. To instil in students an awareness of their professional responsibilities and the need for their own continuing professional development.
7. To contribute to the working environment within the school, such that students enjoy the University learning experience and wish to maintain contact with the School in its future activities, professionally as well as socially.
8. For non-native speakers of English, extend their English language skills appropriate to a future career in shipping and/or logistics through experience of life and study in a UK Higher Education institution.
9. Achieve the above in the context of the School, SAgE Faculty and University business plans, following the University's policies and procedures and conforming to the relevant sections of the QAA Code of Practice.

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 programme outcomes have reference to the benchmark statements for engineering.

Knowledge and Understanding	
On completing the programme students should have:	
A1	Detailed knowledge and understanding of facts, concepts, principles and theories relevant to shipping and logistics, and related transport modes.
A2	Knowledge of data sources, analysis approaches and IT applications in the context of shipping and logistics.
A3	Understanding of management principles and business practices, including professional and ethical responsibilities.
A4	Appreciation of the importance of the societal and environmental impact of shipping and logistics activities including too safety and security requirements.
Intellectual Skills	
On completing the programme students should be able to:	
B1	Think critically, evaluate current approaches, and apply their specialist knowledge to identify potential opportunities for improvement or innovation of processes and systems.
B2	Apply relevant research and information retrieval, data collection, analysis, and model/technique application to new or uncertain or complex problems.
B3	Apply relevant knowledge to support informed problem solving and decision making.
Practical Skills	
On completing the programme students should be able to:	
C1	Evidence detailed 'know how' of various operational aspects of shipping and logistics.
C2	Operate within the professional context of safe and secure systems of work and compliance with relevant codes of practice and conduct especially in relation to areas such as EDI, reporting and standards.
Transferable/Key Skills	
On completing the programme students should demonstrate:	
D1	Independent learning ability, self-direction and autonomy leading to the ability to continue to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills through further professional development.
D2	Transfer their learning to other transport modes and cognate industries.
D3	Ability to communicate effectively in English, presenting and discussing their work with others in the field of specialisation.

Teaching and Learning Methods
Key elements of professional Masters graduate employability are that employers need to be sure that graduates are able to take individual responsibility for their own and others' work without supervision, that they are capable of assimilating and organising complex information quickly and effectively, and that they are self-learners, capable of keeping abreast of new developments without organisational support. Our approach to teaching and learning is designed to produce Masters graduates who meet these criteria. From the outset, students will be expected to meet the basic professional requirement of taking responsibility for their own learning.

A combination of lectures (including guest lectures), tutorials and computer cluster practicals are scheduled throughout the programme. These are augmented by a number of site visits. In addition, students are assigned a personal supervisor for their dissertation. Modules are sequenced to ensure prerequisites are covered (especially around understanding of how the industries operate in practice) and both learning and industry knowledge scaffold along the programme leading ultimately to the student being able to tackle their chosen dissertation topic. Importantly the Research Methods module is scheduled early in the programme so that students can employ the insights gained from this module to the research they need to undertake for subsequent modules and ultimately the dissertation. Throughout the programme the student is encouraged to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learned and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject. The dissertation – which has a central role in the programme – provides a key opportunity for students to practise and develop their data gathering and analysis skills, and develop deep domain knowledge on their chosen shipping / logistics topic. Furthermore, all students are exposed throughout the programme to each other's ongoing dissertation research thus enhancing peer to peer learning.

Assessment Strategy

Formative assessment occurs through tutorial examples and selected coursework. Factual knowledge and understanding is assessed via a mix of both closed book examinations (e.g. in modules where detailed domain knowledge and recall is necessary) and in-depth assessed courseworks (e.g. in modules where data and insights need to be gathered independently from secondary sources or arising from field trips, analysed and insights and recommendations validated). Detailed individual learning forms a key part of the dissertation, which is assessed by ongoing written submissions and a final oral presentation to class.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

The MSc comprises a 12 month programme taught over two semesters with examinations at the end of each semester and the third semester focused on the dissertation. There are a total of 180 credits - 100 credits of taught modules (8 x 10 credit modules and 1 x 20 credit module) and the dissertation is worth 80 credits (20 credits are allocated across semesters one and two reflecting the effort required for literature review and proposal development, with the remaining 60 credits allocated to semester three).

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

This MSc programmes provide students with a solid foundation in shipping and logistics and upon graduating students are 'industry ready' for the workplace. Students benefit from use of our extensive facilities (including our school research vessel) and from interacting with both lecturers with wide ranging experience (including lecturers from industry) and also with peers from a wide range of countries and backgrounds and who are studying this and related programmes. The shipping and logistics industries are truly globalised and these programmes equip students for an exciting and rewarding career.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[5276F/P:](#)

13 Support for Student Learning

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.
[Generic Information](#)

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

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[Generic Information](#)

Accreditation reports

16 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[Generic Information](#)

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

The University Prospectus: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/degrees/>

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. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.