



Programme Specification

Health and Care Research

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Contents

Programme Specification	1
Section 1: Key Programme Details	2
Part A: Programme Information	2
Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes	2
Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes	2
Part B: Programme Structure.....	7
Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis	10
Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks	10
Part E: Regulations	11

Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Health and Care Research

Highest award: MRes Health and Care Research

Interim award: PGCert Health and Care Research

Interim award: PGDip Health and Care Research

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: Yes

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CHSS School of Health and Social Wellbeing, College of Health, Science & Society

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Modes of delivery: Full-time, Part-time

Entry requirements:

For implementation from: 01 September 2024

Programme code: B79L12

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The MRes Health and Care Research programme provides a strong foundation in health and care research. It will enable learners to understand the nature of research evidence and its application for informing practice and policy, provide formal training in research methods, and develop the knowledge and skills to manage and deliver research that aligns to contemporary research needs and priorities. The programme is suitable for registered healthcare, social work and public health professionals from any setting (primary care, acute care, community and social services) who are interested in a research career or research as part of a portfolio career. A multi-disciplinary and multi-professional approach is central to the delivery of the programme and the programme is supported by local and regional NIHR organisations and NHS service providers reflecting the diversity of health and care research and the research landscape.

The normal registration period for the MRes programme is one year for full-time students and two years for part-time students. The programme is based on a modular approach to learning with compulsory modules contributing 150 credits and optional modules contributing 30 credits to the 180 credits required for the Masters award. Three compulsory taught modules provide training in research methodologies from research conception to dissemination and implementation. Optional modules allow student to tailor their learning programme to their professional or research interests. The compulsory extended research project module accounts for 50% of the credits for the MRes programme. Students will plan and conduct a research project with an experienced supervisor that would be appropriate to prepare and submit for publication in a scientific or professional peer-reviewed journal.

Features of the programme: The extended research project module (UZYYP-90-M) provides a practice-based research experience to develop research knowledge and skills. Deciding on a research focus can be challenging for early career professionals and to address this challenge, a range of research topics aligned to research priority areas and funded research programmes, and led by experienced researchers in NIHR and NHS organisations and academic research teams will be available as research project options for students. Students will develop and deliver their selected research project with supervisory support. We would usually expect students to have successfully completed UZYYP-30-M Preparation for Health and

Care Research, UZYYNN-15-M Qualitative Health and Care Research and UZYYNR-15-M Quantitative Health and Care Research prior to undertaking the extended research project module.

The MRes Health and Care Research includes 30 credits from optional modules and students can access a broad range of CPD modules to complete the programme. This allows students to tailor the programme to their individual professional or research interests to support their career development. Guidance will be provided by the programme team. The MRes programme also offers a unique opportunity to undertake research practice placement as an optional module that is supported by NIHR organisations, NHS research delivery and academic research teams. Designed as an enrichment opportunity, it provides insights into research practice and delivery in real world contexts.

The MRes programme uses blended learning as a mode of delivery to support student learning and provides flexible learning opportunities to fit with part-time study. In person learning sessions will usually be scheduled for two days only within a week. It is expected that full-time students will use the remaining days for self-guided individual study and project work and part-time students will allow for further time during the week for self-guided individual study.

Educational Aims: The MRes in Health and Care Research equips graduates with the skills to develop focused research questions, analyse diverse data, and communicate findings clearly. This translates into the ability to manage and deliver research and to apply their research knowledge and skills to real-world scenarios, ultimately contributing to positive change in health and care practice and preparing for a career in health and care research.

Furthermore, the program prepares students for further research. By mastering research methodologies and communication, graduates gain the foundation necessary for successful clinical and practitioner academic careers and for doctoral studies in health and care fields.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

- PO1. Formulate well-defined research questions and develop robust research proposals that address contemporary problems in health and social care fields.
- PO2. Critically evaluate and apply various research methodologies in the context of health and care research.
- PO3. Interpret and critically evaluate research results in the context of existing research and theory.
- PO4. Integrate knowledge from diverse sources (quantitative and qualitative data, research literature, practical experience), identify connections and relationships between seemingly disparate pieces of information to form a comprehensive understanding of a topic.
- PO5. Master effective academic writing and research communication, including skills in scientific writing, publication preparation, and presenting research findings.
- PO6. Communicate complex research ideas and findings effectively to different audiences using appropriate language in written and oral formats.
- PO7. Apply research knowledge and skills and understanding of the principles of implementation to inform and improve clinical/health and care practice.
- PO8. Prepare students for pursuing further research and clinical/practitioner academic careers.

Assessment strategy: This programme utilises a variety of assessments to determine achievement of modular and programme learning outcomes. We have designed the assessments to build students' confidence in knowledge and understanding of research principles and their application, while equipping them with the skills and experience relevant to health and care research practice. Core knowledge and understanding are evaluated through written tasks and examination, while skills and experience are developed through assessments that emulate contemporary practice, such as oral presentations and portfolios. We have been mindful to ensure skills learned early in the programme are progressively developed

and applied in subsequent modules.

We have taken a programmatic approach to ensures that assessments are complementary and support students to reach their potential and our goal is to ensure that assessment timelines are realistic and feasible to manage for part-time and full-time study. Across the programme, the assessments enable development of students' professional and research interests with a focus on personal development through experiential learning and our approach recognises student diversity and variation in experience at the start of the programme. We have designed assessments to encourage outputs that relate to real-world research practice and build skills that will be useful for a future career in health and care research and/or as a health and care practitioner.

Throughout the programme there will be strong links with health and care research organisation, clinical academic and practitioner partners to ensure that academic development is aligned with professional practice and employability. While our assessments are individual to the student, cross-disciplinary interaction is encouraged and promoted to share learning experiences and to stimulate curiosity and enthusiasm for the breadth of health and care research.

Student support: As part of the NIHR INSIGHT programme, there are opportunities to engage with students on the MRes course at Bournemouth University and to present their research work at a regional research showcase conference. Students will also be invited to engage and contribute to the NIHR INSIGHT Innovative Engagement workstream.

Students undertaking research practice placements may undertake Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training and gain their GCP certificate.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

The modules that full time and part time students are expected to complete in Year 1 are detailed below.

The requirements for the interim awards are as follows:

Postgraduate Certificate in Health and Care Research: requires 60 credits of which at least 45 credits must be from the compulsory modules listed. The Programme Leader must verify the suitability of any contributing CPD modules.

Postgraduate Diploma in Health and Care Research: requires 120 credits of which at least 60 credits must be from the compulsory modules listed. The Programme Leader must verify the suitability of any contributing CPD modules.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Full Time Students)

Full time students must take 150 credits of compulsory modules and take a further 30 credits from options available in the University CPD module portfolio to complete for the MRes Health and Care Research award.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZYQNQ-90-M	Extended Research Project 2024-25	90
UZYYPN-30-M	Preparation for Health and Care Research 2024-25	30
UZYYPN-15-M	Qualitative Health and Care Research 2024-25	15
UZYYPN-15-M	Quantitative Health and Care Research 2024-25	15

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Part Time Students)

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZYYPN-30-M	Preparation for Health and Care Research 2024-25	30

UZYNN-15-M	Qualitative Health and Care Research 2024-25	15
UZYNR-15-M	Quantitative Health and Care Research 2024-25	15

Year 1 Optional Modules (Full Time Students)

Full time students must study a minimum of 30 credits through optional modules to achieve the credit requirements for the Masters programme. A wide range of modules are available through the University CPD module portfolio and the MRes programme also offers Research Practice Placement modules as an option. Module choices will be selected in discussion with the programme leader or member of the MRes Programme team to meet clearly defined professional or research need.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UWECPD	Optional Continuing Professional Development Module Portfolio 2024-25	0
UZYNT-15-M	Research Practice Placement 1 2024-25	15
UZYNS-15-M	Research Practice Placement 2 2024-25	15

Year 1 Optional Modules (Part Time Students)

Part time students must study a minimum of 15 credits through optional modules in Year 1. A wide range of modules are available through the University CPD module portfolio and the MRes programme also offers a Research Practice Placement module as an option. Module choices will be selected in discussion with the programme leader or member of the MRes Programme team to meet clearly defined professional or research need.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UWECPD	Optional Continuing Professional Development Module Portfolio 2024-25	0
UZYNT-15-M	Research Practice Placement 1 2024-25	15

Year 2

Only Part Time students will undertake Year 2.

The requirements for the interim awards are as follows:

Postgraduate Certificate in Health and Care Research: requires 60 credits of which at least 45 credits must be from the compulsory modules listed. The Programme Leader must verify the suitability of any contributing CPD modules.

Postgraduate Diploma in Health and Care Research: requires 120 credits of which at least 60 credits must be from the compulsory modules listed. The Programme Leader must verify the suitability of any contributing CPD modules.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Part Time Students)

Part time students must take 90 credits from the compulsory Extended Research Project module and if required, take at least 15 credits from optional modules available in the University CPD module portfolio for Year 2 to achieve the credit requirements for the Masters programme.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZYYNQ-90-M	Extended Research Project 2025-26	90

Year 2 Optional Modules (Part Time Students)

Part time students must study a further 15 credits through optional modules in Year 2 to achieve the credit requirement for the MRes award. A wide range of modules are available through the University CPD module portfolio and the MRes programme also offers a Research Practice Placement module as an option. Module choices will be selected in discussion with the programme leader or member of the MRes Programme team to meet clearly defined professional or research need.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UWECPD	Optional Continuing Professional Development Module Portfolio 2025-26	0
UZYYNS-15-M	Research Practice Placement 2 2025-26	15

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

The programme prepares health and care professionals for research careers within their field of practice. It equips students with the ability to identify research gaps, formulate research questions, and design studies that address real-world issues.

The programme fosters the integration of knowledge from diverse sources, enabling students to develop a comprehensive understanding of health issues and contemporary practice in health and care research and how to disseminate research effectively to various audiences.

The programme helps students to develop an in-depth understanding of research and the skills required to manage and deliver research and to apply their research skills to improve clinical practice and inform healthcare decision-making, ultimately leading to a positive impact on patient care. It also prepares graduates for further research endeavours, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in doctoral studies and future health research careers or portfolio careers.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

QAA The Frameworks for higher education qualifications of UK Degree-awarding bodies (2nd Edition Updated February 2024)

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/qualifications-frameworks>

NIHR INSIGHT Programme guidelines (June 2023)

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/insight-inspiring-students-into-research-scheme-guidance-notes-round-1/33665>

NHS England Multi-professional Practice-based Research Capabilities Framework (First Edition 2024)

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/multi-professionalframeworkforadvancedclinicalpracticeinengland.pdf>

UWE Strategy 2030

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures