



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information	
Awarding Institution	UWE
Teaching Institution	UWE
Delivery Location	UWE Glenside
Study abroad / Exchange / Credit recognition	
Faculty responsible for programme	Health & Applied Sciences
Department responsible for programme	Allied Health Professions
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links	Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education
Highest Award Title	MSc Medical Ultrasound
Default Award Title	
Interim Award Titles	Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Ultrasound Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Ultrasound
UWE Progression Route	N/A
Mode of Delivery	PT
ISIS code/s	B80042
For implementation from	January 2020

Part 2: Description

The MSc Medical Ultrasound Programme offers an opportunity to healthcare professionals looking to achieve a recognised qualification in Medical Ultrasound and enables healthcare practitioners and medical professionals from a variety of backgrounds to study a number of specialties.

The Programme is designed to prepare students with the knowledge, skills and attributes to practice safely and effectively in the field of Medical Ultrasound. The educational aims of this programme are to produce a competent autonomous ultrasound practitioner with the:-

- ability to assimilate complex theories so that an informed knowledge base can enlighten practice;
- proficient skills to practice medical ultrasound in a safe, competent, and professional manner;
- appropriate interpersonal skills to enable effective interaction with users and multi-professional groups;
- necessary skills to communicate the findings of the ultrasound examination, whilst working within an ethical, legal and professional framework;
- ability to integrate and evaluate a range of professional issues within a framework of effective, rational decision making;
- ability to critically evaluate the contribution of ultrasound to the overall management of the patient;
- opportunity to apply this knowledge in a reflective and critical manner to their practice, with consideration of technical, clinical and ethical issues;
- ability to actively challenge, and critically evaluate current practice as a result of a knowledge of the evidence that represents best practice;
- cognitive abilities commensurate with study at Masters level;
- investigative skills to underpin research or problem solving in ultrasound practice;
- ability to critically analyse their own contribution to the practice of ultrasound, including a consideration of personal career aspirations.

This is a practice-based Programme which normally requires students to complete on average a minimum of 15 hours per week in a relevant practice setting per professional practice module.

Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

This Programme recognises the role of the specialist ultrasound practitioner and adopts the philosophy that such a practitioner must be in the possession of the critical and evaluative skills, which facilitate advanced decision making in a practice setting. Such abilities require the integration of higher cognitive and experiential learning which are best facilitated through programmes of study at postgraduate level.

The course is designed specifically to produce clinically competent reflective advanced practitioners who need to deliver ultrasound services in a fast moving healthcare environment with the ability to critique and review research evidence to inform practice. They will undertake multi-professional team working and communicate effectively with service users and will adhere to professional codes of conduct and ethics and upon qualification be fit to practice.

Regulations

Approved to [University Regulations and Procedures](#)

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme														
Learning Outcomes:	UZYSPPH-30-M GMUS	UZYSPPJ-30-M Obs	UZYSPPQ-30-M U Tech	UZYY8P-15-M- Fundamentals of UT	UZYY8Q-15-M- Contem Advances in UT	UZYY8S-15-M- Prof Issues	UZYY8R-15-M- Gynae US	UZYSPPK-30-M NegSpc 1	UZYSPLL-30-M NegSpc 2	UZYSPPM-15-M NegSpc3	UZYSRX-15-M NegSpc 4	UZYSPP-15-M NegSpc 5	UZWSPPX-15-M ResMeth	UZWSRV-15-M ResMeth
A) Knowledge and understanding of:														
1. The physical, clinical and life sciences which underpin the practice of ultrasound;	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		
2. The medico-legal, professional and ethical frameworks within which they practice	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
3. The implications of research-based evidence used to inform and guide practice	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. The efficacy of various scanning protocols, techniques and equipment which may be utilized	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
(B) Intellectual Skills														
1. The capacity for enquiry, inductive and deductive reasoning and critical analysis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. The ability to demonstrate independent learning and contribute to peer learning and support	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3. A creative approach to learning and begin to contribute to new developments in theory and practice	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. The ability to evaluate a wide range of research strategies that are appropriate to the field of medical ultrasound	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. The ability to synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6. The ability to disseminate and communicate ideas and findings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

	UZYSPH-30-M GMUS	UZYS PJ-30-M Obs	UZYS PQ-30-M U Tech	UZY8P-15-M-Fundamentals of UT	UZY8Q-15-M-Contem Advances in UT	UZY8S-15-M-Prof Issues	UZY8R-15-M-Gynae US	UZYSPK-30-M NegSpc 1	UZY SPL-30-M NegSpc 2	UZY SPM-15-M NegSpc3	UZY SRX-15-M NegSpc 4	UZY SPP-15-M NegSpc 5	UZWSPX-15-M ResMeth	UZW SRV-15-M ResMeth	UZWSPY-45-M & UZWS4W-60-M Dissertation
(C) Subject/Professional/Practical Skills															
1. Undertake skilled competent, safe, evaluative and reflective medical ultrasound within a legal and ethical context	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
2. Optimise, manipulate and evaluate diagnostic images, or data, in a critical manner	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			
3. Communicate effectively with both users, interprofessional groups and the general public establishing professional and ethical relationships	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
4. Utilise appropriate strategies in order to solve problems that may be complex in nature	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. Make evaluative judgements on the outcomes of an ultrasound examination and report the findings accordingly	X	X					X	X	X	X	X	X			
6. Recognise and take appropriate action in situations where the limits of their skill or knowledge are being approached (cognisance).	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
(D) Transferable skills and other attributes															
1. Extract, evaluate, synthesise and present information gained from primary and secondary sources (critical thinking)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Manage change effectively and respond to changing demands	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3. Manage and resolve complex issues in a variety of theoretical and practical situations	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Reflect and evaluate their own academic, professional and clinical performance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. Manage time and prioritise workloads, and recognise and manage personal emotions and stress	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
6. Exercise autonomy in the management of their learning and Continuing Professional Development	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Part 3: Learning Outcomes of the Programme

7. Use Information Technology competently and effectively to support both academic studies and ultrasound practice.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Part 4: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **a student** including:

- level and credit requirements
- interim award requirements
- module diet, including compulsory and optional modules

This is a practice-based Programme which normally requires students to complete on average a minimum of 15 hours per week in a relevant practice setting per professional practice module.

ENTRY	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Awards
	<p>Year 1</p> <p><i>UZZY8P-15-M</i> Fundamentals of Ultrasound Technology</p> <p><i>UZZY8S-15-M</i> Professional Issues in Ultrasound</p> <p>Year 2</p> <p><i>UZZY8Q-15-M</i> Contemporary Advances in Ultrasound Technology</p> <p>Year 3</p> <p><i>UZWSPX-15-M</i> Health and Social Care Research: Methods and Methodologies</p> <p>or</p> <p><i>UZWSRV-15-M</i> Health and Social Care Research: Methods and Methodologies (Distance Learning)</p> <p><i>UZWSUL-45-M</i> Masters Dissertation</p> <p>or</p> <p><i>UZWS4W-60-M</i> Dissertation* (by agreement with the programme leader only)</p>	<p>Year 1</p> <p>30 credits of optional modules to be taken from the list below.</p> <p>Year 2</p> <p>45 credits of optional modules to be taken from the list below.</p> <p>*Where students are intending to take the 60 credit dissertation module, they only need to complete 30 credits of optional modules.</p> <p>Year 3</p> <p>No optional modules to be taken.</p> <p><i>In years 1 and 2, students may select optional modules from the following list:</i></p> <p><i>UZYSPPH-30-M</i> General Medical Ultrasound in Practice</p> <p><i>UZYSPPJ-30-M</i> Obstetric Ultrasound in Practice</p> <p><i>UZZY8R-15-M</i> Gynaecological Ultrasound in Practice</p> <p><i>UZYSPPK-30-M</i> Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 1</p> <p><i>UZYSPLL-30-M</i> Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 2</p> <p><i>UZYSPPM-15-M</i> Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 3</p> <p><i>UZYSPPR-15-M</i> Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 4</p> <p><i>UZYSPPP-15-M</i> Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 5</p>	<p>PG Certificate Medical Ultrasound</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit requirements <p>60 credits at level M <i>(The Fundamental Ultrasound Technology and Professional Issues in Ultrasound modules are compulsory components of this award)</i></p> <p>PG Diploma Medical Ultrasound</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit requirements <p>120 credits at level M <i>(The Fundamental Ultrasound Technology, Professional Issues in Ultrasound, and Contemporary Advances in Ultrasound Technology modules are compulsory components of this award)</i></p> <p>MSc Medical Ultrasound</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit requirements <p>180 credits at level M <i>(To include all compulsory modules)</i></p>

Part 5: Entry Requirements**Standard Entry:**

Standard entry to the programme requires:

- A first degree in a relevant subject area;
- Access to an appropriate clinical area in order to fulfil the practice requirements of this programme;
- Commitment from manager to support clinical learning;
- An appropriately qualified individual who will act as clinical appraiser (supervisor and assessor).

Non-standard Entry:

We also welcome applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds who do not have the entry requirements outlined above. The University will consider applicants on an individual basis, on the basis of evidence of personal, professional and educational experience which indicates an applicant's ability to meet the demands of a postgraduate degree programme in this subject area. Applicants who do not meet the entry requirements detailed above will be assessed on an individual basis via an interview and submission of written evidence.

Students are able to apply for recognition of prior learning if they have it in a relevant area.

All applicants:

Any applicant whose first language is not English must have a minimum IELTS score of 7 overall with a minimum of 6.5 in any section, (or equivalent).

Previous ultrasound/diagnostic imaging experience is desirable.

Consideration will also be given to individuals' background/life experiences, for example from the first degree or relevant work experience opportunities in relation to their knowledge and understanding of Medical Ultrasound.

Satisfactory Health and Disclosure and Barring Service status, through employer confirmation.

Part 6: Reference Points and Benchmarks

Set out which reference points and benchmarks have been used in the design of the programme:

QAA UK Quality Code for HE

The programme has been developed in accordance with QAA statements on postgraduate qualifications, and in relation to QAA Masters level descriptors (2010). The level of the programme accurately reflects the level of achievement at Masters level that a qualifying student will progress to. In particular, the level 7 learning outcomes as advocated by the QAA document include the development of transferable skills such as exercising initiative and personal responsibility, critically evaluating current research and the undertaking of independent learning in line with continuing professional development.

The programme structure, module content and delivery mechanisms are therefore geared towards:

- Imparting a systematic and deep understanding of modern healthcare environments with specific reference to the field of Medical Ultrasound practice
- Enabling the students - through clarity of conceptual understanding, establishing a knowledge base, training in critical evaluation and research methodologies – to evaluate current research and advance the current standing of the profession.

Typically, holders of the qualification will have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:

- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
- decision-making in complex and sometimes unpredictable situations
- independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

and be able to

- deal with complex issues, make sound judgments, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non- specialist audiences.

Professional Body Accreditation

The programme is accredited by the Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE). This professional body represents the educational and training needs of the majority of healthcare professions involved in the practice of medical ultrasound. Accreditation is gained following the satisfaction that a course meets the professional and educational criteria established by the professional body, in order that graduates have the requisite attributes to develop into autonomous practitioners. The annual monitoring process through CASE also enables the programme to benchmark its progress against national norms and other HEI provision.

The development of the structure and content of the programme, and modules, has been planned in full consultation with CASE and meets the requirements outlined in the CASE Validation and Accreditation Handbook 2015.

<http://www.case-uk.org/app/download/8547269/CASE+Handbook+2015+%28revision+28.11.18%29.pdf>

Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences (HAS) Marking Criteria

The QAA Framework provides the points of reference for setting standards across various levels of education and UWE has incorporated these into its assessment and grading profiles. The HAS marking criteria have been used to establish the level of the programme and its subsequent modules, to inform the learning outcomes and assessment criteria at Masters level.

These criteria inform the following:

- Development of subject specific knowledge and understanding, generic cognitive and intellectual skills, key/transferrable skills, and subject specific practical skills.

Part 6: Reference Points and Benchmarks

- Teaching, learning and assessment strategies that deliver, ensure and assess the attainment of these levels
- The programme level learning outcomes that are reinforced by the modular learning outcomes, teaching, learning and assessment strategies described in individual module specifications.

University Policy

The programme contributes to the four priority areas outlined within the UWE Bristol strategy 2020:

1.Outstanding learning

The main aim of the programme is to produce a competent ultrasound practitioner with the potential to become a fully autonomous practitioner It achieves this by integrating clinical practice, classroom learning, evidence based learning and self-study. Embedded throughout the programme is the use of a blended learning approach with a range of TEL to help the students work independently and to develop their academic practical skills.

2.Ready and able graduates

The course has been planned and designed through collaboration with stakeholders to ensure that students have the necessary knowledge, understanding and skill sets to be well prepared for a wide range of ultrasound-related careers. Although students are employed by the clinical departments when undertaking the course and therefore are not under pressure to find employment at the end of their training programme, some do decide to move to new departments in order to expand their breadth of experience.

3.Research with impact

This master's level programme has a research theme embedded throughout. Students will be introduced to research skills such as literature searching, review and critical writing during the first year, which will be reinforced in subsequent years. Students will also have the opportunity to complete a 45 credit substantial piece of research at M Level which will be underpinned by a 15 credit methods and methodologies research module.

4.Strategic partnerships

Commitment to the Programme from clinical departments and clinical stakeholders in the South West remains high, and this close working relationship and engagement has reinforced the successes of the Programme and ensures that the educational content of the award remains 'fit for purpose'.

Another aspect to the strategic partnership theme is around "Making Knowledge Exchange and Public Engagement thrive throughout UWE" by ensuring external facing provision is accessible, visible, and engages with interested users. As an applied discipline, medical ultrasound modules are very attractive to potential students/practitioners in the workplace wishing to study them as part of their CPD. This programme gives a route to not only attract such students in, but retain them with the potential of a full MSc award.

UWE Enhancement Framework:

The Enhancement Framework (EF) for Academic Programmes and Practice reflects the key principles of Strategy 2020 and covers the design, development, approval and review of all programmes together with the teaching, learning and assessment practices. The programme has considered and aligns to the three interconnected phases and the six core design principles of this.

This ensures that academic standards are set and maintained, and that the programme offered to students provide a comprehensive range of opportunities which enable the intended learning outcomes to be achieved.

Programme Team

The programme is supported by a programme team who are members of a number of external professional bodies which ensures their awareness of current issues and developments within the field.

Part 6: Reference Points and Benchmarks

Wide consultation with relevant professional bodies and individuals enables integration of developments elsewhere to be incorporated into the programme.

The programme team works closely with clinical departments to ensure an understanding of the requirements of department managers and their staff. This results in effective working relationships with a number of departments and personnel, and opens communication channels beneficial for all.

All members of the Ultrasound programme team endeavour to continue to practice in various fields of medical ultrasound. This ensures they retain close contact with issues relevant to clinical practice and the current ultrasound workforce.

Clinical stakeholder/Student interaction and feedback

Opportunities for discussion about the course content, structure and future direction are always incorporated into the Clinical Appraisers workshops to ensure the Programme continues to evolve to meet clinical stakeholder needs.

Student feedback is obtained from regular Student Representative Staff Forums (SRSF), individual module evaluation on BlackBoard and via the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), in addition to less formal feedback opportunities such as during and after teaching or tutorial sessions. This feedback is scrutinised by the Programme team and helps inform the design and the future direction of the Programme and to assess and enhance the student experience.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

First CAP Approval Date	9 July 2017			
Revision ASQC Approval Date	28 November 2017	Version	8	link to RIA 12456
	29 August 2019		9	
Next Periodic Curriculum Review due date				
Date of last Periodic Curriculum Review				