



Programme Specification

Medical Ultrasound [Glenside]

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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	3
Part B: Programme Structure.....	7
Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis	10
Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks	11
Part E: Regulations	12

Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Medical Ultrasound [Glenside]

Highest award: MSc Medical Ultrasound

Interim award: PGCert Medical Ultrasound

Interim award: PGDip Medical Ultrasound

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:

Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE)

Modes of delivery: Part-time

Entry requirements:

For implementation from: 01 January 2023

Programme code: B80042

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: 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.

Features of the programme: 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.

Educational Aims: 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.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

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

Knowledge and Understanding

- A1. The physical, clinical and life sciences which underpin the practice of ultrasound
- A2. The medico-legal, professional and ethical frameworks within which they practice
- A3. The implications of research-based evidence used to inform and guide practice
- A4. The efficacy of various scanning protocols, techniques and equipment which may be utilised

Intellectual Skills

- B1. The capacity for enquiry, inductive and deductive reasoning and critical analysis
- B2. The ability to demonstrate independent learning and contribute to peer learning and support

- B3. A creative approach to learning and begin to contribute to new developments in theory and practice
- B4. The ability to evaluate a wide range of research strategies that are appropriate to the field of medical ultrasound
- B5. The ability to synthesise information from a number of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice
- B6. The ability to disseminate and communicate ideas and findings

Subject/Professional Practice Skills

- C1. Undertake skilled competent, safe, evaluative and reflective medical ultrasound within a legal and ethical context
- C2. Optimise, manipulate and evaluate diagnostic images, or data, in a critical manner
- C3. Communicate effectively with both users, interprofessional groups and the general public establishing professional and ethical relationships
- C4. Utilise appropriate strategies in order to solve problems that may be complex in nature
- C5. Make evaluative judgements on the outcomes of an ultrasound examination and report the findings accordingly
- C6. Recognise and take appropriate action in situations where the limits of their skill or knowledge are being approached (cognisance)

Transferable Skills and other attributes

- D1. Extract, evaluate, synthesise and present information gained from primary and secondary sources (critical thinking)
- D2. Manage change effectively and respond to changing demands
- D3. Manage and resolve complex issues in a variety of theoretical and practical situations
- D4. Reflect and evaluate their own academic, professional and clinical performance
- D5. Manage time and prioritise workloads, and recognise and manage personal emotions and stress

- D6. Exercise autonomy in the management of their learning and Continuing Professional Development
- D7. Use Information Technology competently and effectively to support both academic studies and ultrasound practice

Assessment strategy: 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 Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences 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.

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.

Student support: 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.

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.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

PG Certificate Medical Ultrasound

Credit requirements: 60 credits at level M

(The Fundamental Ultrasound Technology and Professional Issues in Ultrasound modules are compulsory components of this award)

Year 1 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
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UZY8P-15-M	Fundamentals of Ultrasound Technology 2023-24	15
UZY8S-15-M	Professional Issues in Ultrasound 2023-24	15

Year 1 Optional Modules

The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZYSPH-30-M	General Medical Ultrasound in Practice 2023-24	30
UZY8R-15-M	Gynaecological Ultrasound 2023-24	15
UZYSPK-30-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 1 2023-24	30
UZYSPH-30-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 2 2023-24	30
UZYSPM-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 3 2023-24	15
UZYSRX-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 4 2023-24	15
UZYSPP-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 5 2023-24	15
UZYMF-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 6 2023-24	15
UZYSPJ-30-M	Obstetric Ultrasound in Practice 2023-24	30

Year 2

PG Diploma Medical Ultrasound

Credit requirements: 120 credits at level M

(The Fundamental Ultrasound Technology, Professional Issues in Ultrasound, and Contemporary Advances in Ultrasound Technology modules are compulsory components of this award)

Year 2 Compulsory Modules

The student must take 15 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZY8Q-15-M	Contemporary Advances in Ultrasound Technology 2024-25	15

Year 2 Optional Modules

The student must take 45 credits from the modules in Optional Modules. Where students are intending to take the 60 credit dissertation module, they only need to complete 30 credits of optional modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZYSPH-30-M	General Medical Ultrasound in Practice 2024-25	30
UZY8R-15-M	Gynaecological Ultrasound 2024-25	15
UZYSPK-30-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 1 2024-25	30
UZYSPK-30-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 2 2024-25	30
UZYSPM-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 3 2024-25	15
UZYSRX-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 4 2024-25	15
UZYSPK-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 5 2024-25	15
UZYMF-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 6 2024-25	15
UZYSPJ-30-M	Obstetric Ultrasound in Practice 2024-25	30

Year 3

MSc Medical Ultrasound

Credit requirements: 180 credits at level M

(To include all compulsory modules)

Year 3 Compulsory Group 1

The Student must take 15 credits from the modules in Compulsory Group 1

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZWYRE-15-M	Health and Social Care Research: Methods and Methodology (Distance Learning) 2025-26	15
UZWSPX-15-M	Health and Social Care Research: Methods and Methodology 2025-26	15

Year 3 Compulsory Group 2

The student must select one of the Dissertation modules in Compulsory Group 2. (UZWS4W-60-M to be taken by agreement with the programme leader only).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZWS4W-60-M	Dissertation 2025-26	60
UZWSUL-45-M	Masters Dissertation 2025-26	45

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

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.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

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>

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.