



Programme Specification

Medical Ultrasound [Glenside]

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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 the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

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.

Placement learning: all students must have a practice placement with an identified clinical placement supervisor.

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 service user;

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.

Programme Learning Outcomes

- PO1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of professional regulation and accountability to be able to practice safely within the legal and ethical boundaries of ultrasound practice and extended roles.
- PO2. Critically discuss and debate the issues and impact of culture, equality and diversity on practice and the wider healthcare team.
- PO3. To practice effectively and critically reflect on their own practice, recognising the role that healthcare teams and external agencies have in the management and support of a service user's health and wellbeing.
- PO4. Engage in effective communication with service users, their families, stakeholders, and healthcare professionals, reflecting critically on the effectiveness of their communication skills and level of care provided.
- PO5. Demonstrate in-depth understanding and critical knowledge of the relevant ultrasound physics, equipment and instrumentation, and contemporary advances in ultrasound technology.

- PO6. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of bio-effects and the potential hazards to ensure the safe use of ultrasound within the current internationally recognised recommendations.
- PO7. Competently and professionally plan, perform, interpret and independently report ultrasound examinations according to the evidence base and local policies.
- PO8. Critically evaluate the use of ultrasound relevant to their chosen area of practice, with active contributions to the multi-disciplinary healthcare team and where appropriate, propose follow-up and alternatives for improved service-user care and management.
- PO9. Critically analyse international, national and local legal, ethical, professional and organisational principles that underpin ultrasound practice and apply these to assist in the leadership and innovation of change within the clinical setting.
- PO10. Critically evaluate and synthesise evidence, including theoretical concepts, research and audit, in order to improve service provision and service-user centred care, and to inform future practice.

Assessment strategy: The QAA Framework provides the points of reference for setting standards across various levels of education and UWE Bristol has incorporated these into its assessment and grading profiles.

A range of assessments are utilised , both summative and formative. These include written assignments, unseen examinations, presentations, oral assessments, as well as building a clinical portfolio of evidence of competencies.

The College of Health Science and Society 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 Master's level.

The programme consists of both compulsory and option modules; students will be supported by the programme team to select option modules appropriate to their practice setting. In order to meet the current and future needs of a multi-professional sonographic workforce, there are a number of option modules giving sufficient choice of credit size and speciality areas to align to the individual student in the context of their employment. All option modules that are practice-based have two assessment

tasks; this ensures both that competence will be assessed (in the practice environment) and that an assessment will be graded (in the academic environment) to assess the underpinning knowledge, understanding, and decision-making.

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 Medical 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 via VLE and 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 to inform the design and 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
UZZY8P-15-M	Fundamentals of Ultrasound Technology 2025-26	15
UZZY8S-15-M	Professional Issues in Ultrasound 2025-26	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 2025-26	30
UZZY8R-15-M	Gynaecological Ultrasound 2025-26	15
UZYSPK-30-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 1 2025-26	30
UZYSPK-30-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 2 2025-26	30
UZYSPM-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 3 2025-26	15
UZYSRX-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 4 2025-26	15

UZYSPP-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 5 2025-26	15
UZYMF-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 6 2025-26	15
UZYS PJ-30-M	Obstetric Ultrasound in Practice 2025-26	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 2026-27	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 and can commence UZWYRE-15-M/UZWSPX-15-M in Year 2. They may take either of these modules, or another optional module in consultation with their tutor if they subsequently decide to exit with a PGDip at the end of Year 2. The optional choices cannot be a combination of UZYSJB-15-M and UZWR1P-15-M.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZYSJB-15-M	Evidencing Work Based Learning (Distance Learning) 2026-27	15
UZWR1P-15-M	Independent Study 2026-27	15
UZYS PH-30-M	General Medical Ultrasound in Practice 2026-27	30

UZY8R-15-M	Gynaecological Ultrasound 2026-27	15
UZYSPK-30-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 1 2026-27	30
UZYSP-30-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 2 2026-27	30
UZYSPM-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 3 2026-27	15
UZYSRX-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 4 2026-27	15
UZYSPP-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 5 2026-27	15
UZYMF-15-M	Negotiated Specialist Ultrasound Practice 6 2026-27	15
UZYS PJ-30-M	Obstetric Ultrasound in Practice 2026-27	30

Year 3

MSc Medical Ultrasound

Credit requirements: 180 credits at level M

(To include all compulsory modules)

Year 3 Compulsory Modules Choice Group 1

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

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZWYRE-15-M	Health and Social Care Research: Methods and Methodology (Distance Learning) 2027-28	15
UZWSPX-15-M	Health and Social Care Research: Methods and Methodology 2027-28	15

Year 3 Compulsory Modules Choice Group 2

The student must select one of the Dissertation modules in Compulsory Modules Choice Group 2.

(UZWS4W-60-M to be taken by agreement with the programme leader only).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZWS4W-60-M	Dissertation 2027-28	60
UZWSUL-45-M	Masters Dissertation 2027-28	45

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

This programme recognises the specialist role of the ultrasound practitioner and is founded on the need for critical, evaluative, and advanced decision-making skills in clinical practice. These skills are developed through integration of higher-level cognitive and experiential learning at postgraduate level.

The course prepares clinically competent, reflective advanced practitioners capable of delivering high-quality ultrasound services in a fast-paced healthcare environment. Graduates will critically appraise research to inform practice, work effectively within multi-professional teams, communicate clearly with service users, adhere to professional and ethical standards, and be fully fit to practise on qualification.

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 (2020). 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.

They will 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 2025:

<https://www.case-uk.org/handbook/>

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.