Programme Specification

Genomics [Frenchay]

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Genomics [Frenchay]

Highest award: PGCert Genomics

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: No

Year abroad: No

Sandwich year: No

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CHSS School of Applied Sciences, College of Health, Science & Society

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Modes of delivery: Part-time

Entry requirements:

For implementation from: 01 September 2025

Programme code: C45000

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The UK is a global leader in genetics and genomics and has made a vast contribution to this rapidly evolving field. The UK set out, in its policy paper “Genome UK: the future of healthcare”, in Sept 2020, its ambition to create the most advanced

genomic healthcare system in the world. The policy outlined that the latest genomics advances will be incorporated into routine healthcare to improve the diagnosis, stratification and treatment of illness, and support prevention and research.

Adoption of genomics into routine care requires a workforce understanding how and where genomics fit into current clinical pathways. Nursing is one of the largest groups within the NHS, it is imperative to ensure they have the right knowledge, skills, and behaviours to deliver the service. A genomic healthcare system cannot be realised without giving those who care for patients the skills and tools to do their jobs effectively.

This vision will be achieved by workforce development and engagement with genomics through training, education, and new standards of care. Significant investment was made in 2014 (£20 million) by Health Education England (HEE) via launching the Genomics Education Programme (GEP). This supported upskilling the specialist workforce through for example the Genomic Medicine Master's framework. However, there is a gap in suitable programmes for the non-specialist workforce particularly for the upskilling of nurses (Jisc Further Education and Skills Strategy 2020-2023, 2021).

UWE is currently the sole Higher Education (HE) provider of genomic CPD aimed specifically for nurses and fully funded by HEE. UWE now supports the delivery of this new PgCert leading to a novel NHS recognised career route for nurses in genomics.

This is an 18-months part-time postgraduate programme that integrates fundamentals of genetics, genomics, and inheritance; genetic counselling skills; research and service evaluation skills; and leadership skills. The research and evaluation skills will prepare participants to lead genomics projects within the Genomic Medicine Service Alliance (GMS Alliance). Using evidence-based methodologies, participants will work with partners (e.g., local quality improvement and transformation teams, HEE, AHSNs, Cancer Alliances, charities, professional networks, and others) to test changes and embed genomics into clinical practice. Knowledge and case studies will be shared cross-regionally and nationally to

illustrate the positive impacts that genomics focussed care pathways have on health outcomes for patients and families. The programme will provide lots of opportunities to practice genetic counselling and conversation skills with active participation of patients.
On this programme participants will have access to extensive academic, scientific, and clinical expertise who will be delivering content of the programme. UWE has close active links with NHS GMS Alliances and Genomic Laboratory hubs (GLHs). The programme was co-created with the involvement of HEE, Macmillan Cancer Support, the British Heart Foundation, the South West Genomic Laboratory Hub and Genomics England.

Anticipated outcomes for the wider health system include:

Provision of evidence for competency frameworks in genomics for nurses/midwives

Strengthening collaboration for building provision of quality education between academic institutes and the wider healthcare system

The development of recognised career pathways for nurses and midwives in genomics

Features of the programme: This is an award winning programme (recipient of the AdvanceHE Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence in Aug 2024), the only such genomic programme in the UK for nurses and healthcare professionals. We work very closely with the Genomic Medicine Service and many professionals contribute to teaching delivery across England. It is a multi-professional course with clear practice relevance. All assessments are aimed to be practice oriented. Furthermore, our learners are encouraged and supported to harness digital technology and data for nursing. We are applying for Royal College of Nursing Accreditation for the programme in spring 2025.

Educational Aims: This programme aims to deliver an innovative, blended learning, flexible provision that enables students to develop, advance and maximise their knowledge, skills and application of the rapidly-developing field of genomics. The

programme is based on, and will deliver, the most current knowledge and evidence in the field of genomics. It aims to produce practitioners who are confident in the subject area and who are competent in applying skills with respect to genetic counselling and patient consent.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

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

Programme Learning Outcomes

PO1. Demonstrate critical and/or original application of genomic science to clinical practice.

PO2. Apply critical evaluation and informed decision making when identifying patients who may benefit from genomic testing.

PO3. Apply appropriate genetic counselling skills when conducting genomic conversations with patients and colleagues.

PO4. Apply critical thinking skills and independent decision making in the delivery of nursing care, supporting patients and their families through their genomic pathway.

PO5. Operate effectively within complex professional contexts and networks, and be actively involved with the development of strategies that benefit the inter-professional community.

PO6. Critically evaluate practice and service improvements to effectively support development and delivery of genomic transformation projects in healthcare.

PO7. Design and undertake systematic investigations that define and critically evaluate problems, apply core research methods, collect and analyse data and interpret different types of evidence.

Assessment strategy: All assessments have been designed with a focus on a programmatic approach, to provide a varied experience for learners, whilst ensuring all key attributes and skills are appraised. Assessments have been designed to have an applied and practice-led focus, for example, the integrated portfolio within the Evidencing work based learning module providing key skills essential for learners to advance within their chosen field.

Key skills and knowledge will be developed and assessed within modules studied early in the programme, to aid learner progression and growth, and to allow both formative and summative feedback to be fed forward into subsequent assessments.

The range of assessment types utilised within this programme is varied, aiming to accommodate different learners and learning styles. A focus on applied, problem-based and scenario-based learning lends itself to hands-on assessments such as patient information leaflet and a work-based project. These will be completed alongside assessments such as written tasks and oral/poster presentations, and innovative assessment types such as development and evaluation of patient clinical pathway.

Within planned assessments there are opportunities for flexibility, with learners able to adapt their studies according to their interests and career goals. For example, topics within an assessment can be focused on a particular speciality (rare genetic conditions, cancer genetics etc.). The research/evaluation project, and location for the project to be undertaken can also be adapted, for example undertaking a specific project to enhance current clinical practice within a place of work e.g. an NHS or third sector such as the British Heart Foundation.

A strong link with professional bodies is maintained throughout the programme as a whole, ensuring a focus on professionalism and key employability skills gained alongside academic skills.

Student support: The unique partnership between UWE, HEE, NHS, the British Heart Foundation, Macmillan Cancer Support will enable students to access support and guidance from all partners with varying expertise and backgrounds, as well as potentially from other sources, such as the student's own place of employment.

Alongside face-to-face support from tutors, and through the virtual learning environment, learners will be able to access study skills training through the library, in addition to disability support, student advisors, and employability and enterprise

advisors.

Students on the Programme are also supported by the SW GLH Education and Training Lead who provides an effective link for UWE to the SW GMSA and SW GLH in the region, clinical and laboratory colleagues and to the wider NHS workforce nationally. They have full understanding of the Genomics Service in the NHS, the structure of the SW GLH, the national drives for genomics education of nurses and midwifes.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1
The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Year 1

Year 1 Compulsory Modules
The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USSJK7-15-M	Genomic and Counselling skills for Nurses and Healthcare Professionals 2025-26	15
USSJQG-15-M	Genomic conversation, research and evaluation skills 2025-26	15

Year 2
The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Year 2

Year 2 Compulsory Modules
The student must take 30 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USSJQF-30-M	Evidencing Work Based Learning (Genomics) 2026-27	30

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Successful graduates will have developed an in-depth knowledge of genomics, set within the context of current regulatory frameworks, existing practise and real-world healthcare challenges. Graduates will have benefitted from working with both academic and practice-based leaders in the field. The applied nature of each module will have enabled analytical and critical evaluation skills to be developed, crucial for a range of careers. Development of transferrable and leadership skills will have equipped students with a skill set critical for many advanced nursing and management roles, fostering leaders of the future in this field.

Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

The learning outcomes for this programme have been designed according to the UWE Enhancement Framework, QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ). In addition, the following have also been carefully considered:

HCPC Standards of Proficiency for Biomedical Scientists (2014)
QAA subject Benchmark Statement for Biomedical Sciences (October 2019)
QAA subject Benchmark Statement for Biosciences (October 2019)
QAA subject Benchmark Statement for Health Studies (November 2019)
UK Quality Code for Higher Education (October 2019)
Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) – Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education (May 2018)
UWE Bristol Strategy 2030, aligning particularly with the inclusivity and collaborative focus, with this programme contributing to the key priority areas for course development in ‘health and wellbeing’.

We worked closely with stakeholders (Health education England, the British Heart Foundation, Macmillan Cancer Support, Royal Collage of Nursing, Genomics England) to ensure that the course provides students with the skills that employers are seeking.

Part E: Regulations

A: Approved to University Regulation and Procedures.