Programme Specification

Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science [NHSBT]

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Contents

Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science [NHSBT]

Highest award: MSc Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science

Interim award: PGCert Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science

Interim award: PGCert Applied Transfusion Science

Interim award: PGCert Applied Transplantation Science

Interim award: PGCert Clinical Services and Development

Interim award: PGDip Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science

Interim award: PGDip Applied Transfusion Science

Interim award: PGDip Applied Transplantation Science

Interim award: PGDip Clinical Services and Development

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Affiliated institutions: NHS Blood and Transplant

Teaching institutions: NHS Blood and Transplant, 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: Full-time, Part-time

Entry requirements:

For implementation from: 01 September 2025

Programme code: C99S12

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The MSc in Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science has been developed to address the current skills gap and shortage of specialists in transfusion and transplantation throughout the UK and beyond, cultivating scientists and future leaders in this field.

This programme is delivered as a one year full-time or two year part-time postgraduate programme, delivered in partnership between UWE Bristol and NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). Additionally, all of the modules comprising the programme can be undertaken individually as standalone Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses.

The unique partnership between UWE and NHSBT provides an ideal environment for this programme, combining excellence in teaching with current practice-led real-world expertise with internationally-renowned research. NHSBT manage all blood donation and provision of blood to hospitals throughout England, alongside tissue, stem cell and organ donation and transplant services for the whole of the UK. NHSBT also performs Diagnostic and Therapeutic services for NHS and private patients, and others such as the Ministry of Defence. A world-leading research programme and clinical trials continually seek to improve safety and inform best practice guidelines nationally and internationally. Complementing this, UWE's thriving collaborative networks between the School of Applied Sciences and other Schools and Colleges, provide scientific and healthcare expertise, and state-of-the-art technology, combined with established delivery of blended learning approaches. This collaborative approach is emphasised and valued throughout the programme, with taught material and assessments delivered by experts at both Institutions.

The degree offers the opportunity to gain advanced knowledge in both transfusion and transplantation science and its application to real-life clinical scenarios. You will develop real-world skills in laboratory management, and cultivate business development skills within health technology, taking an idea through the design, development and implementation process. The extended research project offers flexibility to work alongside experts on cutting-edge projects, or alternatively using the expertise in your place of work, giving the opportunity to adapt your degree to best suit your needs and career goal.

Features of the programme:

Educational Aims: This programme aims to provide:

Opportunities to develop skills needed in a clinical laboratory environment, including leadership and management and quality management systems

Learning experiences to enable students to gain specialist knowledge in transfusion and transplantation science applied to the clinical setting

An appreciation of relevant regulatory bodies and frameworks governing transfusion and transplantation

Opportunities for students to apply their knowledge towards addressing real world global challenges

Opportunities within a research project setting to further develop laboratory skills, as well as data analysis, critical analysis and synthesis of information from published literature.

Programme Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

PO1. Apply in-depth knowledge to case study-based scenarios, demonstrating advanced level understanding of the biology and processes involved in transfusion and transplantation

PO2. Appreciate the regulatory frameworks governing the transfusion and transplantation fields and how these apply to the provision, management and enhancement of a clinical service

PO3. Provide students with an understanding of business plans, enabling them to create plans and presentations that showcase innovation and leadership

PO4. Appreciate the principles of Research Governance and its importance in healthcare-based research and practice

PO5. Interpret quantitative research data and methodology, and apply appropriate statistical techniques in research

PO6. Demonstrate skills in project, time and self-management to successfully complete a research project

PO7. Critically evaluate current and future techniques and practice within transfusion and transplantation settings

PO8. Demonstrate the ability to draw valid conclusions based on experimental outcomes or implementing changes in current practice, and critically assess the contributions of these outcomes to existing research or clinical practice

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 Management of Clinical Services 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 laboratory practicals and an extended project. These will be completed alongside assessments such as written tasks and oral/poster presentations, and innovative assessment types such as development of a business case and reflection on a major change management process.

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 current scientific development or technological challenge. The extended research 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 transfusion laboratory.

A student that has already passed the 60 credit research project module USSJ6C-60-M as part of another MSc is not permitted to retake this module or re use this credit; they would be required to take an alternative module to be agreed with the programme leader.

The assessment strategy for this programme has been designed with an emphasis on professional body requirements, such as the IBMS, and societies such as the British Blood Transfusion Society. 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: Students can also choose to become members of the British Blood Transfusion Society (BBTS), (which does incur an additional fee, payable directly to BBTS), offering access to many resources, support and further CPD activities. All BBTS members in addition have access to a wide selection of material via the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) Education area via an ISBT affiliate membership.

The unique partnership between UWE and NHSBT will enable students to access support and guidance from staff at both institutions 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 at both UWE and NHBST, 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.

Part B: Programme Structure

Year 1

Full time students must take 180 credits from the modules in Year 1.
Part time students must take 90 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Full time)
Full time students must complete 180 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full time).

The following awards are available:
MSc Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science:
The student must complete all 180 credits.

PGDip Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science:
The student must complete 120 credits including Applied Transfusion Science and Applied Transplantation Science.

PGDip Applied Transfusion Science:
The student must complete 120 credits including Applied Transfusion Science.

PGDip Applied Transplantation Science:
The student must complete 120 credits including Applied Transplantation Science.

PGDip Clinical Services and Development:
The student must complete 120 credits, not including Applied Transfusion Science or Applied Transplantation Science.

PGCert Applied Transfusion Science:
The student must complete 60 credits including Applied Transfusion Science.

PGCert Applied Transplantation Science:
The student must complete 60 credits including Applied Transplantation Science.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USSJNK-30-M	Applied Transfusion Science 2025-26	30
USSJPJ-30-M	Applied Transplantation Science 2025-26	30
USSJM6-15-M	Enterprise and Innovation 2025-26	15
USSJQ8-30-M	Management of Clinical Services 2025-26	30
USSJQB-15-M	Research Methodology and Statistics 2025-26	15
USSJ6C-60-M	Research Project 2025-26	60

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Part time)
Part time students must complete 90 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part time).

The following awards are available:

PGCert Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science:
The student must complete 60 credits including Applied Transfusion Science and Applied Transplantation Science.

PGCert Applied Transfusion Science:
The student must complete 60 credits including Applied Transfusion Science.

PGCert Applied Transplantation Science:
The student must complete 60 credits including Applied Transplantation Science.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USSJNK-30-M	Applied Transfusion Science 2025-26	30
USSJPJ-30-M	Applied Transplantation Science 2025-26	30
USSJM6-15-M	Enterprise and Innovation 2025-26	15
USSJQB-15-M	Research Methodology and Statistics 2025-26	15

Year 2
Part time students must take 90 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Part time)
Part time students must take 90 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part time).

The following awards are available:

MSc Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science:
The student must complete all 180 credits.

PGDip Applied Transfusion and Transplantation Science:
The student must complete 120 credits including Applied Transfusion Science and Applied Transplantation Science.

PGDip Applied Transfusion Science:
The student must complete 120 credits including Applied Transfusion Science.

PGDip Applied Transplantation Science:
The student must complete 120 credits including Applied Transplantation Science.

PGDip Clinical Services and Development:
The student must complete 120 credits, not including Applied Transfusion Science or Applied Transplantation Science.

PGCert Clinical Services and Development:
The student must complete 60 credits, not including Applied Transfusion Science or Applied Transplantation Science.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
USSJQ8-30-M	Management of Clinical Services 2026-27	30
USSJ6C-60-M	Research Project 2026-27	60

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

Successful graduates will have developed an in-depth knowledge of applied transfusion and transplantation science, 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 scientific 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 QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. 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)

UK quality Code for Higher Education (October 2014)

BBTS Specialist Certificate in Transfusion Science Practice.

IBMS Specialist Diploma in 'Transfusion Science', and 'Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics'.

IBMS Higher Specialist Diploma Indicative syllabus, for 'Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics', 'Transfusion Science' and 'Laboratory Management and Leadership' (January 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’, ‘meeting the needs of an ageing society’ and ‘digital futures and creative technologies’.

A survey, which included responses from a range of managers in NHSBT and the wider NHS, was developed with collaborative input from both industry experts and current managers of Transfusion and Transplantation laboratories to ensure that the course provides students with the skills that employers are seeking.

Staff research projects (including at NHSBT, and potential types of projects that could be offered in practice elsewhere, e.g. to students employed in the wider NHS).

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.