

Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	MSc Clinical Microbiology PGDip Clinical Microbiology
Name of Interim Award(s)	PGDip/PGCert
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	1 year FT
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	MSc - A3U1 / PGD A3E2
QAA Benchmark Group	
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	29 July 2019
Responsible School / Institute	Blizard Institute

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

Programme Outline

The programme will provide the essential and underpinning academic learning for the continuing professional development of clinicians.

Teaching will be delivered by day release (part time students) or full time study and distance learning methodologies. The programme includes input by specialism experts in NHS service roles and is closely linked by partnership working with the work-place. It delivers research-informed teaching from within a research-rich environment.

Throughout the course interprofessional learning is strongly encouraged as the students study with other healthcare science professionals and scientists who are following the MSc in Biomedical Science (Medical Microbiology) or the MSc Clinical Science (Infection Science)

Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to develop the understanding and knowledge of clinical microbiology and associated topics as required by clinicians and other professionals with a specialist interest in this field. The syllabus is aligned with the curriculum for Speciality training in Medical Microbiology as approved by the joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board in preparation for the Fellowship examination of the Royal College of Pathologists.

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What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

Students will be expected to achieve the following:

Academic Content:

A 1	Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of medical microbiology and its applications, and awareness of current problems and research approaches
A 2	Demonstrate a knowledge of skills in and appropriate attitudes towards the diagnosis, investigation and management of patients with infectious diseases.
A 3	Critique the principles of research and audit within NHS and roles of clinicians for patient benefit and innovation

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Demonstrate a broad knowledge and critique of common and important infectious diseases at a level appropriate to underpin clinical experience and support independent practice
B 2	Search for and interpret the literature to apply results from the relevant clinical sciences to the management of the patient
B 3	Interpret diagnostic tests and critically evaluate data from diagnostic methodologies
B 4	Evaluate epidemiological or research data using a range of relevant techniques, including the appropriate use of statistical methodologies.

Attributes:

C 1	Adapt current understanding to evaluate complex issues systematically and creatively for communicating findings to patients, specialists and other professional groups.
C 2	Work independently, reflect on practice and use initiative in solving diverse problems encountered within the working environment.
C 3	Develop a responsible attitude to the promotion of new developments and the maintenance of standards of care within the clinical setting.
C 4	Demonstrate an understanding and appraisal of the principles and practices of independent learning as required for continuing professional development

How Will You Learn?

Formal teaching comprises of lectures, workshops, practicals and demonstrations. The lecturers are specialists in their field and are invited from many institutions in the UK.

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The practical classes are an important component of the course and are designed to give the maximum hands-on experience, particularly in medical microbiology. Students are encouraged to relate current practices in their sponsoring institution to their studies, and to discuss and critically evaluate these techniques with their colleagues in the light of their formal teaching. The practical classes are taught in the purpose-built teaching laboratory, which is well equipped with all necessary materials and is based on a routine clinical microbiology laboratory.

In addition to the formal face-to-face teaching, students use on-line learning materials in the university's electronic learning environment QMPlus. These materials include discussion threads, chat rooms, lecture notes (PDF documents) and quizzes.

Self-directed learning, by reading and reviewing literature to supplement the lectures, is essential and you are encouraged to use the library facilities of the department and the University. All students have access to the library and computing facilities of the University.

To enable the full-time students to participate fully in discussions about laboratory techniques and clinical cases with their part-time colleagues who are attending by day-release, additional tuition is provided during the attachment to the Blizard Institute. The additional tuition provides further hands-on practical experience using material designed to reflect the clinical samples and laboratory procedures in a routine hospital laboratory. The students are encouraged to complete the practical work as individuals to gain maximum experience, but discussion within the group and with the tutor is encouraged.

Additional theoretical tutorials are also used throughout the year to broaden the students' experience of clinical microbiology. These tutorials include case presentations to and by the students, workshops, discussion sessions, question-and-answer sessions, and oral presentations by the students. Full-time students receive additional assignments to be completed throughout the year to allow them to monitor their own progress. Full-time students are also encouraged to attend the regular clinical journal club and research meetings within the Centre.

How Will You Be Assessed?

The assessment strategies are designed to allow all students to be assessed in a variety of styles throughout the course from traditional written and practical examinations, essays, and MCQ to scientific presentations, data interpretation and case presentations. Professional reflective learning is also included within learning and assessment strategies.

How is the Programme Structured?

Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if appropriate).

The programme comprises 8 modules. All modules are compulsory and all are at level 7. Some of the taught material will be shared with students on the MSc Biomedical Science (Medical Microbiology) and the MSc Clinical Science (infection science) allowing the cohort to mix with scientists and other professionals from the NHS and recent graduates.

The modules are supported by electronic learning. Modules and the semesters in which they are taught, are listed below.

MSc Students will be required to prepare for and complete the final module "Research Project"

Full time students will also attend additional teaching (this is not a clinical attachment) to support their learning in place of the work based experience of the part time students.

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Introduction to clinical microbiology	ICM7092	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1-3
Molecular biology and pathogenesis	ICM7093	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Antimicrobials in clinical practice	ICM7041	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Communicable Disease: Prevention and Control in the Hospital and in the Community.	ICM7043	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2 & 3
Diagnosis and management of human infectious disease		30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2 & 3
Advanced Clinical Microbiology and Laboratory management	ICM7044	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1-3
Project and dissertation	ICM7039	60	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2 & 3
Formative studies	ICM7040	0	7	Study only	1	Semesters 1 & 2

What Are the Entry Requirements?

A GMC recognized medical degree or a 2:1 BSc or equivalent in pharmacy or other subject allied to clinical microbiology. Applicants who are in full time employment within the NHS but who do not reach academic standards but have appropriate work based experience may be considered for a place on the course at the discretion of the Dean of Postgraduate Studies (SMD).

Non-native English speakers must achieve a minimum of IELTS 7.0 and provide certification of this. Students are required to achieve a minimum of 6.5 in their written element. Students must be able to sit examinations at a British Council Centre, or a similar approved centre, under invigilation or be able to attend examinations in the UK.

If the offer of a place is conditional upon achieving the above standard in an English language test and the student has achieved IELTS 6.5 within the last 12 months at the discretion of the course organiser, they can be offered the opportunity to attend the preessional course for at least 5 weeks. At the end of the preessional course the student will be assessed by the Queen Mary Language and Learning Unit to confirm that the student has the language skills to complete the course.

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

Students are given the opportunity to give direct anonymous feedback on lectures and practicals via the electronic learning environment.

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before

submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the PGTS and module evaluations.

Academic Support

The first few weeks of the course are based around induction the development of key laboratory and study skills. Formative assessments take place early in the year to enable students to understand the principles of essay writing, good referencing techniques and interpretation of feedback from Turnitin. Every student is assigned a personal tutor for support.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

The course content is reviewed annually to ensure continuing relevance to the curriculum for Speciality training in Medical Microbiology as issued by JRCPTB and RCPATH.

There is a formal programme management committee where patients, lay members of the public and employers are represented.

For students who are not clinicians you will be equipped with a board range of laboratory skills and knowledge of medical microbiology which may be utilised in the pharmaceutical industry, research environments, environmental health services and other health science careers. Graduates also apply for postgraduate medicine courses.

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Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Michele Branscombe

Person responsible for management of programme

Michele Branscombe

**Date Programme Specification produced/amended
by School Learning and Teaching Committee**

29.07.19 (for 2019/20)

**Date Programme Specification approved by
Taught Programmes Board**

29 July 2019
