

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 in Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	1 year
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	A3TR
QAA Benchmark Group	
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	
Responsible School / Institute	Blizard Institute of Cell and Molecular Science

Schools also involved in teaching part of the programme
Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry
Blizard Institute of Cell and Molecular Science

Programme Rationale

This course is designed as a curriculum in adult and paediatric gastroenterology (GI), hepatology and nutrition. For new entrants in these fields, it will provide the necessary theoretical and clinically applied knowledge for diagnosis and treatment of GI diseases that will facilitate their future specialist training. For those already in these fields, the course will provide updates on new developments in diagnostic techniques and the management of digestive diseases. The programme also focuses on the relevant basic sciences and research techniques that prepare physicians for careers in academic gastroenterology.

Throughout the whole course, students are encouraged to observe clinical activities such as outpatient clinics, ward rounds, endoscopy sessions and departmental meetings.

Educational Aims of the Programme

This is a further development of the long established MSc in Gastroenterology (on site) which has identical core modules in the taught part of the course. This MSc allows students who are more clinically oriented to undertake the newly approved project and dissertation module ICMM947.

The aims are to teach the basic sciences and research techniques underpinning the clinical specialities of gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition. Program graduates are expected to be able to apply the theoretical knowledge for diagnosis and management of patients in the clinics, and in their project to develop the skill of writing patient case reports as an important factor in medical education, research and publication.

Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced to the relevant QAA benchmark statement(s) (see above) and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2008), and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education 2003 and Queen Mary Statement of Graduate Attributes have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Knowledge and understanding of:	
A 1	Basic sciences and both laboratory and clinical research techniques underpinning gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition.
A 2	Clinical manifestations of gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary and nutritional disorders
A 3	Current and future options and techniques for diagnosis and management of gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary and nutritional disorders
A 4	Principles of research including literature review, forming of hypothesis, planning and completion of methods (including statistics), analysis and discussion of data.
A 5	Presentation of information, written in a clear and well-structured manner

Intellectual skills - able to:	
B 1	Make differential diagnosis of common complaints related with the gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary tracts
B 2	Identify appropriate investigations in order to confirm diagnosis
B 3	Recognise suitable treatments according to the clinical scenarios
B 4	Critically assess and understand relevance of research and data in this field to enhance clinical decision making both for individual patients and the broader patient population.
B 5	Application of the principles of research to prepare a manuscript

Transferable skills - able to:	
C 1	Identify risk factors for and strategies for the prevention of disease in this field
C 2	Ability to critically evaluate published research in this area
C 3	Ability to write scientifically both essays and dissertation

C4	Use of statistics in research
C5	Ability to give oral presentations/teaching
C6	Application of theoretical knowledge of diagnostic techniques and management to patients in the clinics

Practical skills - able to:

D1	Basic skills in upper and lower GI endoscopy using a simulator
D2	Carry out a diagnostic procedure recognising typical lesions
D3	Communicating ideas and relevant information with colleagues effectively

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

Teaching and learning strategies for the Taught course include lectures , tutorials , self directed learning activities and the use of a simulator for training in endoscopy.

Each module in the taught course are compulsory (Modules 1-6, ICMM 933-938 see below) and are examined by:

1. A written paper of 1.5 or 2 hours each at the end of each module (70 % of marks for that module)
2. Coursework (which will be set at the start of the module) is either an essay (max 2000 words), or an oral presentation on a topic agreed by the examiners (10 minutes) or a poster presentation to the examiners (30 % of the marks).

Dissertation - Clinical Case Reports will be an alternative to Module 7 for students who are more clinical oriented. In this module, students have to write up four case reports of patients from their clinical practice. The student should describe the case using skills and knowledge acquired from previous modules. In addition, they will be expected to relate each case to basic science and/or research relevant to the case (e.g. evidence for treatment, pathology of disease, etc.). The completion of this module will lead to the award of MSc in Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

Programme Structure(s) and Requirements, Levels and Modules

This is a one-year full-time course.

The first part is the taught course (120 credits, equivalent of a Diploma) which is divided in 6 modules (ICMM 933-938 see below); all modules within the Taught Course are compulsory, and it runs from October until the next Easter (April).

Module 7 (60 credits) consists of a dissertation - Clinical Case Reports should be short, no more than 2000-3000 words for each case with a maximum of 15 references and 3 figures for each case.

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
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Programme Title: MSc in Gastroenterology

X	The Basis of GI Diseases	ICMM933	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
X	Liver and Pancreatic Diseases	ICMM934	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
X	Adult GI Diseases: Luminal Diseases	ICMM935	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
X	Neurogastroenterology: Advanced Functional GI diseases	ICMM936	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
X	Paediatric and Adolescent GI, Liver and Nutritional Diseases, including GI Infections	ICMM937	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
X	Introduction to Endoscopy	ICMM938	15	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2
X	Dissertation - Clinical Case Reports	ICMM947	60	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

Criteria for Admission to the Programme

Minimum requirements for applications to the course are MB BS or basic medical degree recognised by the University of London and an IELTS score of 6.5 (or equivalent) as required by QMUL and the UKBA.

Allied Health professionals can be admitted on the basis of working as a specialist in the field and with a science based degree with a 2:1 or above

Students are expected to demonstrate a clear commitment to the speciality.

Quality Assurance Mechanism

Include details of: SSLC meetings, student feedback mechanisms, personal tutor arrangements, programme induction, programme review and monitoring.

MSc Gastro Exam sub board meets twice - in May [for approval of progress to the Research project and plans for resits] and again in September [after presentation and viva voce for the Research project].

Resits will be sat in the same academic year late summer after submission of the projects (and will be confirmed at the SEB in May).

Student evaluation and feedback will be requested after the completion of each module.

Personal tutors allocated to individual students.

Programme review is continuous and discussed at the Subject Exam Board and with External examiners in May and September or by email in between.

Programme-specific Assessment Regulations (if applicable)

In the case of programmes that deviate / do not comply with the Academic Regulations further information regarding the nature of any difference and/or deviation should be stipulated in detail.

Special Regulations:

- The overall assessment of the modular format (Pass, Merit and Distinction) will follow University Regulations, apart from:
 - a. Distinction for the MSc will only be awarded if the student has achieved Distinction standard in the project and dissertation (ICMM939), as well as over the whole year. This is permissible under the Regulation 4.59 of the Academic Regulations 2009-2010.
 - b. Progression - In order to progress to the research project (ICMM947), the students must pass at least 60 credits during the taught course (unless there are extenuating circumstances). Progression will be finally considered by the SEB in May after the Diploma [taught course] has been completed.

c. All students will register initially for the MSc in Gastroenterology. However they can change the pathway to the MSc in Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology if they decide they wish to undertake the case based reports as the dissertation

Employers Links

Please provide details of any links with employers e.g.

- Details of advisory panels that include current or potential employers;
- Organisations that regularly employ graduates from this programme and the roles that graduates undertake.
- Student prizes donated by organisations that may offer employment to graduates from this programme.

If there are no links with employers consider the learning outcomes and transferable skills and explain how these might be used to inform employers about the qualities and skills a graduate from this programme might be expected to have.

All students are clinicians who return to work in a large variety of healthcare settings both within and outside the UK. No formal links with specific employers.

The course has been seen and approved by two Professional societies, the British Society for Gastroenterology and the United European Gastroenterology Federation.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Dr. A. E. Green/Dr N M Croft

Person responsible for management of programme

Dr. N M. Croft

Date Programme Specification produced/amended by School or teaching and learning committee

Date Programme Specification approved by Programme and Module approval Board