

Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	Postgraduate Diploma in Gastroenterology Distance Learning (Full Time/Part Time) MSc in Gastroenterology (Full Time/Part Time) MSc in Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology (Full Time/Part Time)
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	1 year (full time), 2 years (part time)
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	A3D9 **part time options to be added)
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

The distance learning version of the taught course allows students unable to spend a year in London to access the teaching provided within the on site Gastroenterology taught course and is fully approved.

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 gastrointestinal and liver 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 that prepare physicians for careers in academic gastroenterology.

The part time courses are to simply to allow students wishing to undertake the Diploma DL (and the MSc) as part time options over 2 years. Most students undertaking distance learning continue to work full time in busy clinical jobs so the ability to spread the courses over 2 years will be a major advantage.

Educational Aims of the Programme

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.

Those completing the MSc in Gastroenterology will also learn the methodology and practicalities of conducting a research project or in the case of the MSc in Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology four research based case studies.

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 (for those doing the MSC)
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

C2	Ability to critically evaluate published research in this area
C3	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	n/a

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

Teaching and learning strategies for the Diploma include recorded teaching from the on site course plus live on line teaching including lectures , on-line tutorials , and self directed learning activities .

Each module in the taught course are compulsory (Modules 1-6, ICMM 941-946 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).

Form the MSc in Gastroenterology the project (Module 7, ICMM939) has an allocated supervisor and must be approved by members of the subject exam board. The project usually generates new data and shall be examined by a dissertation of about 10,000 words (70% of total mark) with presentation and viva on the project (30%) .

For the MSc in Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology the project module will be based around clinical case studies, in general this is more feasible for students working outside QMUL. 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.).

Programme Structure(s) and Requirements, Levels and Modules

The full time course will be taken over one year. It is divided in 6 modules (ICMM 941-946 see below) (total 120 credits); all modules within the Taught Course (PG Diploma) are compulsory.

Part-time course means the same modules can be taken over 2 years which is expected to be the majority of the students.

All students would initially register on the Diploma distance learning (part or full time) (they cannot register straight onto the MSc as projects can not be guaranteed at the start of the course), they would only be able to transfer to the MSc on the condition there is a suitable project and supervisor (see below) and they have satisfied the requirements for progression to Module 7 within the MSc in Gastroenterology full time. They will complete the college transfer form which will need to be approved by the course director or other member of the SEB. This transfer will be noted at the next SEB meeting (May or September).

Year 1: Must complete minimum 60 and max 120 credits and must include the first basic science module (ICMM941)

Year 2: must complete between minimum 0 and maximum 75 credits of the remaining taught modules plus completion of the research project.

Students would decide at the start of the first year which modules they plan to take in the first year, they will be able to change

this in advance of individual modules as long as they complete module 1 and take 45 credits in the first year.

Module 7 (60 credits) consists of a project (with a named supervisor) on a topic to be approved by the Course Organiser, Centre Lead or Chair of the MSc in Gastroenterology Examination Board; to be examined by a written dissertation of about 1000 words and an oral presentation and viva in September. Details for allocation of these projects are included in the update version of the module ICMM939, June 2011.

Dissertation - 4 detailed clinical Case Reports should be 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
X	The Basis of GI Diseases	ICMM941	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
X	Liver and Pancreatic Diseases	ICMM942	15	7	Compulsory	1 or 2	Semester 1
X	Adult GI Diseases: Luminal Diseases	ICMM943	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2	Semesters 1 & 2
X	Neurogastroenterology: Advanced Functional GI diseases	ICMM944	15	7	Compulsory	1 or 2	Semester 2
X	Paediatric and Adolescent GI, Liver and Nutritional Diseases, including GI Infections	ICMM945	15	7	Compulsory	1 or 2	Semester 2
X	Introduction to Endoscopy	ICMM946	15	7	Compulsory	1 or 2	Semesters 1 & 2
X	Research Project in Gastro-Intestinal Science	ICMM939	60	7	Elective	1 or 2	Semester 2
X	Dissertation - Clinical Case Reports	ICMM947	60	7	Elective	1 or 2	Semester 2

Criteria for Admission to the Programme

Minimum requirements for applications to the Diploma 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.

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.

To transfer to the MSc requires, an agreed project and supervisor plus fitting the criteria for progression already approved in ICMM 939.

Students are expected to demonstrate a clear commitment to Gastroenterology as a speciality.

Quality Assurance Mechanism

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

MSc Gastro sub subject Exam 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]. Reports to the Blizard SEB. Resits will be sat in the same academic year end of August/early September 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 are the same as in the on site course:

- 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 (ICMM939), 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. If it is clear from the available results of modules 1-4 in April that the students cannot satisfy the regulations for progression then a project will not be allocated, if there is any doubt and the students wish to progress then it will be allocated and finally confirmed (or not) at the May SEB.

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

3 Jun 2011

Programme Title: MSc in Gastroenterology

**Date Programme Specification approved by
Programme and Module approval Board**