

## 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 Forensic Medical Sciences
Name of Interim Award(s)	PGDip/PGCert
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	1 Year full time
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	A3Q3
QAA Benchmark Group	Medicine
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	8th June 2016 (for Sept 2016 Start)
Responsible School / Institute	William Harvey Research Institute/ SMD

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

N/A

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

### Programme Outline

There is a national and international need for professionals who can apply a critical and scientific approach to their forensic practice, and who want to have a broad understanding of the various interrelated disciplines of forensic medicine and science. This programme answers that need, and provides you with theoretical knowledge of the forensic medical sciences. It will train students to critically evaluate and interpret forensic medical and scientific evidence.

The programme will cover a wide range of specialist topics under the umbrella of the forensic medical sciences, coupled with the opportunity to carry out research in a specialist area.

Students will study forensic pathology and will visit mortuaries to observe autopsies, attend court hearings, gaining knowledge of how injuries are interpreted and how cases are prepared for court. In clinical forensic medicine you will study the role of the doctor in assessing persons in custody, assault victims, child maltreatment, assessing torture victims, etc.

Other areas which are covered include drugs, alcohol and their misuse, and how these substances are detected and quantified. Attendees will also study the various methods that deceased and living persons can be identified by both as single cases and in mass disasters, including by DNA, dental and other methods.

## Aims of the Programme

Programme will allow students to gain a broad understanding of the related disciplines of science and forensics  
Help students gain theoretical knowledge of forensic medical sciences  
Teach students to evaluate and interpret forensic evidence  
Give students the option to specialize in areas of your interest

## What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

Acquisition of an understanding of the fundamental concepts of clinical forensic medicine in particular the assessment of trauma in living patients and the treatment of persons in detention.  
Demonstrate a good ability to understand and critically evaluate different types of forensic evidence  
Understand the British Legal system and be able to prepare statements and give evidence at hearings  
Understand the role of the clinical forensic practitioner, particularly in relation to custody medicine, sexual abuse and wound interpretation

### Academic Content:

A 1	Demonstrate a good core understanding of the forensic medical sciences
A 2	Demonstrate a good ability to understand and critically evaluate different types of forensic evidence
A 3	Contribute to the research process through experience of a library or laboratory (depending on availability) project placement
A 4	Understand the ethical framework of the research process
A 5	Acquisition of an understanding of the fundamental concepts of clinical forensic medicine in particular the assessment of trauma in living patients and the treatment of persons in detention.

### Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Understand the British Legal system and be able to prepare statements and give evidence at hearings
B 2	Appreciate the basic concepts of forensic pathology and the role of the autopsy and be able to differentiate different types of wounds and their causation
B 3	Be able to interpret evidence particularly in relation to DNA and toxicology
B 4	Have a basic knowledge and awareness of all methods of identification and their application in different circumstances as well as limitations
B 5	Understand the role of the clinical forensic practitioner, particularly in relation to custody medicine, sexual abuse and wound interpretation
B 6	Understand the principles of research both laboratory and library based

Attributes:	
C 1	Understand the skills of forensic practice
C 2	Engage critically with the forensic scientific community
C 3	Acquire research skills
C 4	Understand overall global values in forensic medicine and ytheir application in the pursuit of justice

### How Will You Learn?

Whole-group seminars and lectures on specific topics. Tutors and students will be encouraged to develop a tutorial atmosphere in which dialogue and discussion can take place.

- Whole-group practical classes in pairs or small groups to address a specific practical method or topic. These will be recorded in the student's practical files.
- Whole-group demonstrations: These will take place in the field and in the Institute laboratories or the class-room to address specific technologies or methods.
- Development of written and presentation skills will be ongoing, through student presentations in tutorials as well as individual tuition within the Project Module.
- Data interpretation will be taught through research paper discussion and both supervised and self-directed assignments.
- Individual tuition will take place for all students during the library/laboratory based project, or for students who require additional input in a particular topic area.
- Key generic skills will be acquired from each of the above. Students will maintain a file of practical work carried out in the core module which could be used subsequently during the project module.
- As self-directed learning is the major component of each module, students will be encouraged to be pro-active in identifying their own learning needs as modules progress.
- Students will have full access to the college/medical school library and student computing facilities.
- Students will be encouraged to attend seminar programmes which will be run from time to time in the College.
- Lecture notes and handout material are currently available electronically on a secure website.

### How Will You Be Assessed?

Taught modules are assessed through course work assignments and by written examination.

### How is the Programme Structured?

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

The modules are organised over three semesters. In the first Semester the order is Forensic Pathology, Legal Aspects of Medicine. Forensic Human Identification straddles the first and second semester. There then follows clinical forensic medicine and toxicology. The third semester is the project.

There are in-course assignments in Forensic pathology, Clinical forensic medicine, Identification and Legal aspects of medicine

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comprising a ten minute presentation and 1,500 word essay based on the presentation. In toxicology there is a practical examination.

Students are advised by the Programme Director (Prof. Peter Vanezis) during their first semester to explore project topics with the Director or an appropriate specialist in their area of interest. In The vast majority of projects are library based although a few do involve field or lab work. PV is on hand to supervise , offer advice personally or direct to the appropriate specialist as necessary. We have supervisors in all the main module topics.

Project work may begin at any time during the year but usually, at the end of the second semester as soon as the written examinations are finished. Ethical approval is sought where required. Projects must be completed and submitted by the end of the first week in September as advised in the handbook.

The written examination for all topics is at the end of the second semester.

Resits are in September.

See below details of credits for each module:

Legal and Ethical Issues Relevant to Forensic Medicine and Science (15 credits module)

Clinical Aspects of Forensic Medicine (30 credits module)

Forensic Pathology (30 credits module)

Forensic Toxicology (15 credits module)

Forensic Human Identification (30 credits module)

Research project (60 credits module)

## Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Clinical Aspects of Forensic Medicine	WHRM924	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Forensic Pathology	WHRM925	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Forensic Human Identification		30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Legal and Ethical Issues Relevant to Forensic Medicine and Science	WHRM930	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Research project	WHRM931	60	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3
Forensic Toxicology	WHRM932	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2

## What Are the Entry Requirements?

Entry requirements:

To join the course, you will need either an appropriate life sciences degree (minimum 2.2) or equivalent from a recognized academic institution, or an appropriate professional qualification or experience acceptable to the Programme Director.

Students from outside of the UK:

For detailed country specific entry requirements please visit the International section of QM website.

If applicants' first language is not English, evidence of your English language proficiency is needed (IELTS 6.5).

## How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

Students on our courses are never seen as "silent partners" in the enterprise of improving teaching. One way their voices can be heard is through completion of electronic feedback forms for each module. Student feedback is acted upon in real time and discussed with the lecturer who is encouraged to make necessary changes following student suggestions.

Also, student feedback enables us to assess whether the learning outcomes are appropriate. This ensures that the student faculty develops at the right pace in order to gain the appropriate knowledge and skills required to succeed in the professional workforce.

As part of QMUL quality assurance and enhancement processes, student feedback is sought by a variety of means (<http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/quality/student-feedback/index.html>). Internal mechanisms include:

- informal staff/student discussions
- focus groups
- Student-Staff Liaison Committees (SSLCs)
- Student Module Evaluation; The purpose of student-staff committees is to ensure that there is an effective channel for formal communication between students and staff in each school or institute, through which students can reflect and give feedback on their programme of study as an integral part of QM's systems and procedures for assuring academic standards and enhancing the student learning experience.

## Academic Support

All students will be allocated a personal tutor who can be contacted during office hours.

The role of the personal tutor is advice on any issues relating to the academic aspects of the course that the student may wish to raise.

A senior tutor is also available for consultation if their own tutors are not unavailable or if for any reason, unsuitable.

## 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

Programme Title: MSc Regenerative Medicine

- Special arrangements in examinations

Programme Title: MSc Forensic Medical Sciences

- 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

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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification**

Dr Nina Ravic, Prof Peter Vanezis

**Person responsible for management of programme**

Dr Nina Ravic, Prof Peter Vanezis

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

8th June 2016

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

8th June 2016 (for Sept 2016 Start)