



Programme Specification (PG)

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| 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 full time or 2 years part time (MSc) / 18 month PT (PgD) |
| Queen Mary programme code(s): | A3U1 (full time) A3U2 (part time) |
| QAA Benchmark Group: | |
| FHEQ Level of Award: | Level 7 |
| Programme accredited by: | |
| Date Programme Specification approved: | |
| Responsible School / Institute: | Blizard Institute |

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

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Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

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Programme outline

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

Teaching will be delivered using both inperson and asynchronous content. The programme includes input by specialism experts in NHS service roles and is closely linked working in partnership with the work-place. It delivers research-informed teaching from within a research-rich environment.

Throughout the course inter-professional 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.

What will you be expected to achieve?

A broad knowledge of medical microbiology with a focus on the patient, laboratory medicine and laboratory management;

Academic Content:

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| A 1 | Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of medical microbiology and its applications, and awareness of current problems and research approaches to solutions |
| 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 for patient benefit and innovation in service |

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

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

Attributes:

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| C 1 | Adapt current understanding by evaluating complex issues systematically and creatively and appropriately communicate the 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 diagnostic and 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 lectures, workshops, problem based learning, practicals and demonstrations. The lecturers are specialists in their field and are invited from many institutions in the UK. This material will be delivered using both inperson and asynchronous content.

The practical classes are an important component of the course and are designed to give you the maximum hands-on experience, particularly in medical microbiology. You are encouraged to relate current practices in your sponsoring institution to your studies, and to discuss and critically evaluate these techniques with your colleagues (including clinicians and clinical scientists). 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.

Asynchronous learning uses on line learning materials in the university's electronic learning environment QMPlus. These materials include discussion threads, chat rooms, recorded materials and recommended journal articles.

All students have access to the onsite and virtual library and computing facilities of the University.

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 structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

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.

Full time students undertake years one and two of the part time course concurrently in one academic year. All content is delivered by synchronous onsite learning and asynchronous blended learning. For part time students the credit weighting of the first year is lower than usual to enable the student to develop a balance of work, homelife and study.

Part time students will be required to prepare for and complete the final module "Research Project" throughout years 1 and 2. Organisation, timing and delivery of the research project will be discussed individually with the students and their NHS project supervisor at the earliest opportunity during the first year in order to maximise flexibility, within constraints for assessment deadlines required to complete the course. Fulltime students undertake a project within the research teams of the Blizard Institute

Postgraduate Diploma.

PgDip students follow the MSc Part time diets to complete 120 credits. PgDip students are not required to take the 60 credit Research Dissertation module.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Programme Title: Clinical Microbiology

| 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 |
| Professional and research skills | ICM7091 | 15 | 7 | Compulsory | 1 | Semesters 1 & 2 |
| Clinical microbiology and infection | ICM7094 | 15 | 7 | Compulsory | 1 | Semesters 2 & 3 |
| Antimicrobials in the laboratory and clinical practice | ICM7042 | 15 | 7 | Compulsory | 1 | Semester 1 |
| Prevention and Control of Communicable Disease in the Hospital and in the Community | ICM7046 | 15 | 7 | Compulsory | 1 | Semester 1 |
| Research dissertation | ICM7099 | 60 | 7 | Core | 1 | Semesters 2 & 3 |
| Advanced clinical microbiology and laboratory management | ICM7044 | 15 | 7 | Compulsory | 1 | Semesters 1-3 |
| Formative studies | ICM7040 | 0 | 7 | Study only | 1 | Semesters 1 & 2 |

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 1

| 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 |

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 2

| Module Title | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Professional and research skills | ICM7091 | 15 | 7 | Compulsory | 2 | Semesters 1 & 2 |

| Module Title | Module Code | Credits | Level | Module Selection Status | Academic Year of Study | Semester |
|---|-------------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Clinical microbiology and infection | ICM7094 | 15 | 7 | Compulsory | 2 | Semesters 2 & 3 |
| Antimicrobials in the laboratory and clinical practice | ICM7042 | 15 | 7 | Compulsory | 2 | Semester 1 |
| Prevention and Control of Communicable Disease in the Hospital and in the Community | ICM7046 | 15 | 7 | Compulsory | 2 | Semester 1 |
| Research dissertation | ICM7099 | 60 | 7 | Core | 2 | Semesters 1-3 |
| Advanced clinical microbiology and laboratory management | ICM7044 | 15 | 7 | Compulsory | 2 | Semesters 1-3 |

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).

Applicants for part time study must hold a full-time appointment or attachment in a medical/clinical microbiology department of a medical school, hospital, PHE or other appropriate institution for the duration of their studies. The employing Institution must confirm they will be able to provide and support the research project at the place of work.

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 the student may be offered the opportunity to attend the appropriate preessional course at QMUL. 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 will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to 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 Blizard institute Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the Institute and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the Institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the 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.

The Blizard Institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, which advises the 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 information from the SSLC and consideration of student surveys.

The institute operates an Annual Programme Review for every course. 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 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.

What academic support is available?

The first few weeks of the course are based around induction, an introduction to the support services such as DDS and the library and study skills team and includes 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 adviser for support. For part time students the personal adviser will liaise closely with employers and workplace tutors.

Programme-specific rules and facts

Applicants for part time study must hold a full-time appointment or attachment in a medical/clinical microbiology department of a medical school, hospital, PHE or other appropriate institution for the duration of their studies. This home institution must be able to support the student throughout their studies and will host the student's project.

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

All students attend sessions when DDS and the study skills teams explain possible support available to them. The course and module handbooks are available in both printed form and online. These handbooks contain information about courses and all learning outcomes and key information about assessment. The course utilises the Tallis on line reading list system and this is reviewed annually specifically to ensure key texts are available both electronically and in print. The majority of lectures unless they contain sensitive data are lecture captured to allow students to review the content after a lecture. Asynchronous blended learning includes discussion boards, FAQ, quizzes and images from practical sessions. All content uploaded to QMplus should be checked against the accessibility standards. Personal advisers are encouraged to discuss openly at the first meeting the mechanisms of support available for the student.

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 broad 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.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Michele Branscombe

Programme Title: Clinical Microbiology

Person responsible for management of programme:

Michele Branscombe

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

9/8/2021 (for Sept 2021)

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