



Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	MSc Clinical Science (Infection Science)
Name of interim award(s):	PGDip/PGCert
Duration of study / period of registration:	Part time, 3 academic years
Queen Mary programme code(s):	PSCLZ -A3U5
QAA Benchmark Group:	Not applicable
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS) re accreditation and renewal of Health Education England (HEE) contract annually in Spring
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	Blizard Institute

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

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

Programme outline

The MSc Clinical Sciences (Infection Science) is designed to provide students with a knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of clinical microbiology.

Students will develop the transferable, intellectual and professional skills to permit them to develop their academic and professional potential throughout their career by fostering lifelong learning in the pursuit of excellence in scholarship and professional practice.

The programme includes input by specialism experts in NHS service roles, is closely linked by partnership working with the work-place and 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 clinicians who are following the MSc in Clinical microbiology or the MSc Biomedical Science(Medical Microbiology)

Aims of the programme

The programme provides the academic content required for completion of the STP training and registration as a clinical scientist by the Health and Care Professions council (HCPC).

The programme aims to

Equip students with knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of clinical microbiology and infection science.

Produce graduates with a critical understanding of how data generated by microbiology service laboratories is employed to develop a clinical diagnosis, and how this information can be logically and systematically employed to deliver effective day to day management of common medical conditions.

Contribute to innovation, change and service developments in clinical science at both the laboratory and institutional levels by equipping students with a systematic and critical understanding of relevant knowledge, theoretical frameworks and advanced skills.

Enhance career-long development and promote lifelong learning in students in order to support and enhance best practice in medical microbiology and infection science.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Students who successfully complete this programme will be able to

Academic Content:

A 1	Exhibit knowledge of the scientific basis and practice of microbiology, and a critical understanding the role the discipline plays in the investigation, diagnosis and management of disease.
A 2	Critically evaluate the performance of new analytical technologies in the context of the specific requirements of the health service.
A 3	To synthesis, analyse and systematically combine information obtained from different sources to develop a defined original research question and then to address it through the development of a coherent research project

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Effectively communicate with colleagues within the pathology service and clinical staff through the presentation of verbal and written reports
B 2	Design a scientifically valid experimental strategy to address a specific research question relevant to modern clinical science practice.
B 3	Contribute to the advancement of effective and timely patient diagnosis through a knowledge and understanding of the multidisciplinary environment of the pathology service within the modern health service.
B 4	Display a critical understanding of the regulatory processes and practices involved in conducting research in a health service or academic setting.

Attributes:

C 1	Communicate effectively in a variety of settings with a range of individuals.
C 2	Reflect on their own academic and clinical performance and utilise strategies to improve these.
C 3	Use logical and systematic approaches to problem-solving and decision-making.

How will you learn?

Formal teaching comprises lectures, workshops and problem based learning. The lecturers are specialists in their field and are invited from many institutions in the UK. To enable STP trainees to access the formal teaching these sessions are delivered using mixed mode education methods. Students can attend on campus or join the sessions via live streaming.

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

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 short answer questions to scientific presentations and case presentations. Professional reflective learning is encouraged 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 course 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 Clinical Microbiology and MSc Biomedical Science giving the cohort experience of multi-professional learning with clinicians and other professionals. The academic face-to-face learning is delivered during years one and two. The research project usually commences in year two and is completed during year three. The organisation, timing and delivery of the research project will be discussed individually with the students and their NHS trainers at the earliest opportunity during the second year in order to maximise flexibility for the students workplace, whilst considering constraints for assessment deadlines and the requirement to complete the course and graduate by summer of the

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third year.

Students who are unable to complete a project can be considered for the award of Postgraduate diploma in clinical science. Students who leave the STP training but have sufficient credits can be considered for the award of the postgraduate certificate or diploma in clinical science.

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Professional foundations for the clinical scientist	ICM7192	15	7	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Molecular biology, immunology and pathogenesis for infection science	ICM7195	15	7	Core	1	Semester 1
Introduction to clinical microbiology: bacteriology and virology	ICM7193	15	7	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to clinical microbiology: parasitology and mycology	ICM7194	15	7	Core	1	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Research skills for healthcare science	ICM7196	15	7	Core	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Antimicrobial therapy and the control of antimicrobial resistance	ICM7198	15	7	Core	2	Semester 1
Public health and infection prevention and control	ICM7197	15	7	Core	2	Semester 2
Infectious diseases: Clinical presentations and laboratory diagnosis	ICM7199	15	7	Core	2	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Clinical science project	ICM7209	60	7	Core	3	Semesters 1 & 2

What are the entry requirements?

All students on this course must hold an appointment as an STP trainee and are registered with the NSHCS.

Applicants must have 1st or 2:1 in either an undergraduate honours degree or an integrated master's degree in a life science degree with modules including microbiology or infection science. Alternative qualifications and relevant work based experience will be considered on an individual basis.

English language requirements: If you obtained your degree in an English speaking country or if it was taught in English, and you studied within the last five years, you might not need an English language qualification.

We accept IELTS Academic: 7.0 overall including 6.5 in Writing, and 5.5 in Reading, Listening and Speaking or TOEFL: 100 overall including 24 in Writing, 18 in Reading, 17 in Listening and 20 in Speaking.

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

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 NSS and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

Each student is assigned a QM adviser who is able to give general academic guidance and signpost students to appropriate university support services such as disability and dyslexia services, advice and counselling, academic skills.

Programme-specific rules and facts

Applicants for the course must hold a STP training post.

If a student leaves the STP training scheme they can no longer continue on the MSc Clinical Science(Infection Science) but can be considered for the PG certificate or diploma as an exit award.

All modules on the course are core and must be passed. No module failure can be compensated.

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

The use of mixed mode teaching enables those students unable to commute to London on a once a week basis to participate

fully in the learning alongside those who are on campus.
Where possible lectures are also recorded and made available for revision purposes.
Lecture notes are available before the session
reading lists are reviewed annually and include materials which are available electronically and reading lists are collated in the library online reading list system.
Material used in QMplus is checked for accessibility and modifications made wherever possible to increase accessibility.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

The course is accredited with the NSHCS and HEE and forms the academic component of STP training which can lead to state registration as a clinical scientist with the HCPC.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Michele Branscombe

Person responsible for management of programme:

Michele Branscombe

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:

24/01/2025 (for Sept 2025)

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: