

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

### KEY FACTS

Programme name	Clinical Research
Award	Masters in Research (MRes)
School	Health Sciences
Department or equivalent	Division of Health Services Research and Management
Programme code	PSMRCR
Type of study	Full-time Part-time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

### PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MRes in Clinical Research in the School of Health Sciences aims to provide you with background knowledge and in-depth understanding of appraising, evaluating and conducting a range of different types of research in the clinical setting in which you work. The programme focuses on formal training in research methods for evidence based and on applied data analysis, both quantitative and qualitative research and statistical methods. It also provides opportunities for supervised application of research in clinical settings. Through the allocation of a City-based supervisor and a practice-based clinical mentor, the module will prepare you for the conceptual, methodological, ethical and logistical challenges faced by all researchers and, where relevant, lay the groundwork for advancement to doctoral studies.

By completing the MRes in Clinical Research you will have demonstrated an understanding of applied research methods and you will have designed and conducted a research project relevant to your clinical practice area.

If you exit the programme at postgraduate certificate level you will be able to examine theories related to clinical research and will be able to synthesise and apply these to practice. You will have gained critical insight into problems that may arise in this area and be able to consider problem solving mechanisms. You will also be able to use a range of techniques to undertake your scholarly work.

#### Aims

This programme is specifically tailored for qualified healthcare professionals from a range of primary care or allied health disciplines seeking a career in, or currently engaged in, clinical research. The programme aims to support you to develop your clinical academic research career and become a leader in your clinical field. The programme provides opportunities for you to become a proficient clinical researcher and educator. The programme provides you with in-depth background knowledge and understanding of applied research methods for undertaking evidence-based practice. You will be supported in analysing and appraising evidence as well as conducting a range of clinical research in your specific clinical area and context.

You will be introduced to issues pertaining to research management and governance and to the involvement of patients and the public in clinically focused research. You will develop an awareness of the importance of communicating / commercial exploitation of research findings and the links between research activities and innovation. The programme will enable you to design ethically sound, robust and rigorous studies including collecting and analysing data and produce and evaluate written reports, research papers and grants.

Under the guidance of methodological and profession specific experts, the course will provide members of different health related professions the opportunity to explore the application of advanced-level research and undertake high quality, publishable research (via their dissertation), that can be used to influence and lead health service related delivery, policy and innovation at the population and community levels.

## **WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

**On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:**

### **Knowledge and understanding**

- Demonstrate an in-depth critical understanding of methodological traditions and the nature of scientific research
- Have a clear understanding of the hierarchies of evidence and its application to research undertaken in their clinical area
- Recognise and critically appreciate the elements of the research process and apply this to research design
- Differentiate clinical research from clinical practice and understand the role and responsibilities of the clinical researcher in clinical practice
- Show an in depth understanding of experimental design; cross-sectional and longitudinal designs; single-case study designs; systematic reviews and their strengths and weaknesses
- Demonstrate understanding and critical appraisal of measurement and evaluation issues in health services research
- Show a working knowledge and application of advanced qualitative and quantitative data analysis
- Demonstrate an understanding of research governance and ethical approval in clinical practice

### **Skills**

- Search literature, critically appraise research studies and assess data quality (statistical evidence) and synthesise/integrate this data (which may come from a range of disciplines)
- Critically evaluate the importance of locating your research within an ethical framework and understand the process of receiving ethical approval for your research from appropriate bodies
- Critically evaluate processes and outcomes in clinical practice
- Apply research findings to improve health and the effective delivery of health services
- Evaluate, design and undertake small scale supervised clinical related research to support own evidence based practice

- Use statistical software to test statistical significance and association between variables
- Undertake observation, data collection and data coding
- Write an extended research narrative in the form of a dissertation
- Communicate the main aspects of their research project via a research poster and/or research paper
- Work effectively independently and in groups/teams (discussion, critique, report, feedback)
- Present orally and in writing individual and group research work
- Present data analyses and critical appraisals of a variety of research designs/studies
- Manage, reflect on, and develop one's own learning
- Develop mentoring skills to support other clinicians to undertake appropriate research

### **Values and attitudes**

- Show respect and tolerance for other course participants.
- Correctly reference the work of others and adhere to City regulations regarding plagiarism and academic misconduct.
- Show consideration for the rules and regulations of City.
- Develop collaborative, inter-disciplinary and ethical approaches to research and work
- Respect the opinions of others and behave with integrity
- Recognise one's own and others skills and limitations
- Be sensitive to and respect the diversity of individuals and communities
- Respect privacy and confidentiality (especially within the research context)
- Support the principle of reflective, self-directed, life-long personal development and learning

## HOW WILL I LEARN?

Teaching is conducted via a mixture of lectures, class discussions and seminars, student presentations, poster presentations, analysis of case studies, worked examples, interactive computer-based exercises, an online Virtual Learning Environment and self-directed reading. You may access other support services provided by City, such as the Library Information Service, Computing Service, the Open Learning Centre, and other sources of personal support.

During the MRes you will be required to undertake one 30-credit module and four 15-credit taught modules, plus a research-based dissertation (90 credits). Taught modules typically involve 150 hours of study, comprising approximately 30 contact hours (lectures and group work) and 130 hours of self-directed study. The Dissertation involves 900 hours of study, comprising around 18 hours of individual supervision and 882 hours of self-directed study.

The programme is offered as both a full-time and a part-time programme:

- Full-time students attend the taught component of the programme for one year.
- Part-time students study over 24 months.
- Academic years consist of 3 terms: The Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

<b>MRES in Clinical Research: full-time and part-time modes of study</b>			
	Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
Full-time	HRM001 (30 credits)  CRM002 (15 credits)	HRM002 (15 credits) HRM003 (15 credits)  CRM001 (15 credits)	CRM003 Dissertation module (90 credits)*
Part-time year 1	HRM001 (30 credits)	CRM001 (15 credits)	Directed self-learning
Part-time year 2	CRM002 (15 credits)	HRM002 (15 credits) HRM003 (15 credits)	CRM003 Dissertation module (90 credits)**
* **Although you will enrol in your dissertation module in the Summer term, supervision of the dissertation will start at the beginning of Spring term, year 1 for full-time students and at the beginning of Spring term, year 2 for part-time students.			

## **WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

### Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessment methods vary by module. Please see individual module specifications for further information.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade- Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

### Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

[https://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/68921/assessment\\_and\\_feedback\\_policy.pdf](https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf)

### Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The pass mark for each module is 50%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

**Resit:** you will normally be offered one resit attempt. However, if you did not participate in the first assessment and have no extenuating circumstances, you may not be offered a resit.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

[http://www.city.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc](http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc)

## WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

### MRes Clinical Research:

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught	7	90	50	With Distinction	70
Dissertation	7	90	50	With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

### Postgraduate Certificate:

	<b>HE Level</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Weighting (%)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>% required</b>
Taught	7	60	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Research you will be required to successfully complete three core modules and any other 15-credit module.

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences you will be required to achieve 60 credits by successfully completing any combination of modules from the range of core and optional elective modules.

Your Programme Director will advise you in your choice of modules.

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Postgraduate students are expected to allocate an average of 150 hours of taught and self-directed learning per 15 credit module.

Please see the grid below for an outline of the modules:

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis	HRM001	30	Core	No	7
Advanced Research Methods	HRM002	15	Core	No	7
Advanced Research Methods for Applied Data Analysis	HRM003	15	Core	No	7
Work Based Clinical Placement	CRM001	15	Core	No	7
The Application of Research in Clinical Settings	CRM002	15	Core	No	7

#### Dissertation component

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Clinical Research Dissertation	CRM003	90	Core	No	7

You are normally required to complete all the taught modules successfully before progressing to the dissertation. You may begin carrying out your dissertation during the year but you are only able to submit it once you have completed all the taught modules successfully.

#### **TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?**

- The programme will provide transferable skills applicable to all health/medical related clinical careers where attention to detail, conducting research and evaluation for evidence based practice, and report writing is an expectation.
- The programme provides research and academic training that will enable you to become a clinical academic researcher in your place of work, across all health service settings, including the NHS, charities, industry, government, private practice as well as academic and research settings.
- A number of Masters students in the School go onto further academic attainment via doctoral level training.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

#### **HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

- A good honours degree, upper second-class or equivalent
- An upper second class or higher mark in undergraduate or postgraduate dissertation

- In addition, we consider applications from individuals with significant clinical experience, who demonstrate the ability to undertake Level 7 academic studies as determined by successful completion of a recognised HEE/NIHR Integrated Clinical Academic Programme Internship.
- At least one year experience of working as a clinician in the health sector
- Be registered with a relevant UK professional body
- currently employed by the NHS or other healthcare organisation commissioned to provide services to the NHS
- In addition we consider applications from capable individuals who may not have prior experience of working within the health sector but have clear plans for a future career path in clinical academic research
- For students whose first language is not English: International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) a score of 7.0 is required with no subtest scoring below 6.5.

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