

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Programme name	MSc Adult Mental Health (Contemporary Studies)
Award	MSc; PG Diploma
School	School of Health & Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent	Nursing
Programme code	PSAMHC
Type of study	Full-time Part-time
Total UK credits	PG-Diploma 120; MSc 180
Total ECTS	PG-Diploma 60; MSc 90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MSc Adult Mental Health (Contemporary Studies) is aimed at all healthcare professionals working in mental health services or those with a view to undertake a career related pathway. The course will equip you with the skills, knowledge and awareness in the assessment and formulation of mental health problems, evidence-based psychosocial interventions in mental health and contemporary issues in mental health. You will have the opportunity to discuss key debates in health and social care provision in multi-professional and interdisciplinary contexts. This course is designed to enhance the abilities of health professionals to critically evaluate approaches to mental health care and consider innovative ways of meeting the mental health needs of individuals and communities.

In this programme you will be encouraged to examine the differing professional experiences of other students and to think about effective and competent ways of working collaboratively. You are encouraged to share knowledge gained from your professional backgrounds and consider the challenges of, and barriers to working together. This programme is also committed to ensuring the meaningful participation of both service users and their carers and we seek opportunities to involve the user or carer in the classroom to enable them to share their experiences.

The programme may be undertaken on a full or part-time basis.

The MSc Adult Mental Health (Enhanced Studies) course offers teaching in the latest theoretical and clinical developments relating to adult mental health. It develops your research skills and critical thinking and provides the opportunity to conduct a research project under expert supervision, laying the foundations for independent research in the future.

This programme enables you to develop the appropriate knowledge and skills and to engage in a more critically informed way with contemporary issues in mental health.

By completing the MSc Adult Mental Health (Contemporary Studies) you will have demonstrated original application of knowledge to the field of mental health and clinical decision making in relation to practice. You will have been engaged in research that contributes new views to this area.

By completing the Postgraduate Diploma Adult Mental Health (Contemporary Studies) you will have explored knowledge related to the field of health and social care with a particular

focus upon mental health practice to broaden your expertise and skills. You will also have critically evaluated current evidence in the field and provided appropriate critiques of knowledge and techniques in relation to this.

If you exit the programme at Postgraduate Certificate level you will have been enabled to examine theories focus upon mental health and be able to synthesize and apply these to practice. You will have gained critical insight into problems that may arise 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

The aim of this programme is to facilitate professionals and practitioners to:

- Work more effectively in an inter-professional context with practitioners and professionals within mental health, social care and associated fields.
- Develop skills and confidence to support autonomous specialist mental health practice.
- Understand approaches to mental health promotion at individual, community and wider societal levels.
- Develop strategies to overcome barriers to interagency and inter-professional working and promote the wider social inclusion of people with mental distress.
- Critically apply theory, evidence and personal experience to practice to promote more effective care and support to people experiencing mental distress, and their carers.
- Consider the needs and experiences of the users of mental health services within the context of interagency and inter-professional work.
- Critically review the prevalence and impact of mental disorders in relation to other health and social problems at local, national and international level.
- Demonstrate understanding of contemporary approaches to the assessment of mental health problems.
- Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of evidence-based psychosocial interventions contemporary issues in mental health practice.
- Evaluate existing knowledge and determine areas for development within multi-professional and interdisciplinary contexts.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:

- Show knowledge and critical understanding of the principles of research design and statistics.
- Critically appraise the nature of health and social care provision

Skills:

- Practice as an autonomous practitioner capable of leading professional developments.
- Undertake either an empirical research investigation, a work based project or an evaluative exposition of the literature.
- Critically evaluate theories, concepts and research and articulate implications for mental health practice development and innovation.

Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of complying with ethics requirements for conduct of research with human participants.
- Provide value free and non-discriminatory advice for colleagues, service users and their carers that is appropriate to the management of people with mental health conditions.
- Show an insight into and respect for the experience of service users, their relatives and other health, social work and social care providers and participants in research.
- Show insight into the importance of positively managing risk, when working in a range of health, social work and social care environments, to ensure compassionate care.
- Construct and manage a personal and professional development plan which reflects a commitment to lifelong learning.
- Provide advice for colleagues, patients and their carers that is non-discriminatory and informed by a broader understanding of health and illness.

Registration Period

The normal period of registration for the MSc is one year's taught programme for full time students (plus up to one year for dissertation) or two years' taught programme for part time students (plus up to one year for dissertation).

The maximum period of registration for part time students is 5 years and the maximum period of registration for full time students is 3 years.

The normal period of registration for the Postgraduate Diploma award is one year for full time students or two years for part time students. The maximum period of registration for full time students is three years and for part time students is 5 years.

If you registered for and successfully completed the PG-Dip Adult Mental Health (Contemporary Studies) at City, University of London and wish to convert that award to a MSc you will be required to undertake, and successfully complete, the 60 credit dissertation module. This must be completed within 5 years from starting the PG-Diploma. You will be required to rescind your PG-Dip award.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

A blended approach to learning and teaching is adopted including university-based taught modules; e-learning and work-based learning. Modules are run by experienced practitioners

and leading researchers, using a variety of direct and interactive teaching methods. You will learn in large and small multi-professional and multi-disciplinary groups and will be supported and encouraged to participate in independent learning.

You will experience a range of teaching, learning and assessment strategies throughout the programme aimed at developing and assessing different knowledge, skills and attitudes. Lectures are used to provide knowledge about topics. Students undertaking this programme will be encouraged to learn knowledge and skills to enable them to work interprofessionally. The range of teaching methods include: lectures; self-directed study; tutorials; class-based seminars; reflective study; enquiry based learning; workshops; Moodle; individual and collaborative activity; and presentations.

At masters level these strategies are aimed at developing your ability to challenge current limits of theory and research and creatively use solutions to solve problems. You will engage in full professional and academic communication critically debating and evaluating personal performance and that of others.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessments are varied to meet the practice and academic challenges of a Masters level course, while recognising the need for motivating, realistic and relevant activity.

Assessment is diverse and includes essays; reflective practice; practice based assessments; poster presentations; case studies; data analysis; and seminar presentations with supporting papers.

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 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 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/0009/452565/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, you will normally be offered one resit attempt. If you did not participate in the first assessment you will be offered a resit, whether or not you have extenuating circumstances.

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 component(s) that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass 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:

https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/453652/s19.pdf

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

If you are undertaking the MSc:

Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	120	66.5	With Distinction	70
Dissertation	7	60	33.5	With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

Postgraduate Diploma (Exit Awards):

To exit with a Postgraduate Diploma Adult Mental Health (Contemporary Studies) you will be required to complete the discipline specific modules, the two core modules and additional elective module(s), at level 7. The choice of these should be undertaken in consultation with your Programme Director.

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required	
Taught	7	120	100		With Distinction	70	
					With Merit	60	
					Without classification	50	

If you are undertaking the Postgraduate Diploma:

Postgraduate Diploma Programme

If you are undertaking the Postgraduate Diploma in Adult Mental Health (Contemporary Studies) you will be required to complete the discipline specific modules, the two core modules and additional elective modules, at level 7. The choice of these should be undertaken in consultation with your programme director.

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required	
Taught	7	120	100		With Distinction	70	
					With Merit	60	
					Without classification	50	

Postgraduate Certificate (Exit Awards):

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Adult Mental Health (Contemporary Studies) you will be required to complete three discipline specific core modules and one 15-credit module from the range of modules available. The choice of the optional module should be undertaken in consultation with your Programme Director.

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 elective modules.

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

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

If you are working towards the PG-Diploma and the MSc you will study two core modules, three discipline-specific modules and two elective modules at level 7. If you are part-time, you take two modules per term over two years. If you are full-time, you take four modules per term over one year. If you are on the MSc programme you will also need to undertake the 60 credit Dissertation module

You will find your core and discipline-specific modules listed in the table below. You can see a full list of possible elective modules from the range of MSc programmes offered in the School of Health & Psychological Sciences at <https://www.city.ac.uk/about/schools/health-sciences/courses>.

Some modules are only run every second year so it is important to make your module choice in advance and in close consultation with your programme director. If an elective module has less than a certain number of registered students (typically around 10) it may not run, or may only be offered every second year so please check with your programme director.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Discipline-specific core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis	HRM001	30	Core	No	7
Critical Approaches to Advanced Practice	APM001	15	Core	No	7
Assessing and Understanding Mental Health Problems	APM004	15	Discipline Specific Core	No	7
Evidence-based Psychosocial Interventions in Mental	APM005	15	Discipline Specific Core	No	7
Contemporary Issues in Mental Health	APM006	15	Discipline Specific Core	No	7

Dissertation Component

The dissertation is a core module for completion of the MSc. See the dissertation module and dissertation handbook for more information. 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.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
MSc Dissertation	APM002	60	core	No	7

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

N/A

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

No

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

As a graduate you will have gained a deep understanding and knowledge of adult mental health to enable you to work effectively and collaboratively across professional agencies and boundaries. Previous students have gone on to secure influential roles within the professional areas of mental health and social care, the voluntary sector and health policy and management.

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>.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are no study abroad options available on this programme.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

All entrants to the programme must be in possession of relevant first degree, normally of a least 2.2 level. Applicants without a first degree will be considered.

Students applying for the PG-Diploma and the MSc Adult Mental Health (Contemporary Studies) programme are expected to have a professional qualification and/or have experience of at least 1 year in, for example: voluntary sector, social work, education, primary care, mental health nursing, psychology, psychiatry, criminal justice, residential workers and who are currently working in an agency with responsibility for aspects of inter-professional practice relating to their own discipline.

There are a certain number of commissioned places available in association with the East London NHS Foundation Trust, who have a formal agreement with City. Prospective students can approach their Line Managers or the Trust Education Lead regarding these.

We very much welcome service users onto the programme who may have voluntary or paid experience in health and social work fields.

For students whose first language is not English, the following qualifications will meet the English language requirement for entry to a post graduate course of study:

- A first degree from a UK university
- A first degree from an overseas institution recognised by City as providing adequate evidence of proficiency in the English language, for example, from institutions in Australia, Canada or the USA
- International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) a score of 7.0 is required with no subtest scoring below 6.5.
- Pearson Test of English (Academic) score 72 required
- Other evidence of proficiency in the English language, which satisfies the Board of Studies concerned.

RPL Requirements

In line with Senate Regulation 19, recognition of prior learning (RPL) will be considered for any student who has pursued appropriate studies in this or another institution or who possesses appropriate qualifications. RPL may be claimed for core and elective modules,

subject to the following City Assessment Regulations:

9(c)(ii): RPL will be permitted where the Programme Committee has assessed the claim in terms of acceptability, sufficiency, authenticity, currency and level and can demonstrate that the student's previously assessed or experiential learning meets all the learning outcomes stated in the Module Specification for the module for which they are to be awarded credit.

9(e)(iii): The limit to the volume of credit that can be permitted through RPL will be up to one third of the total credits for the Programme where the prior learning relates to credit previously awarded by City as CPD.

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