

Postgraduate Programme Specification

MSc Advanced Practice

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate where full advantage is taken of all learning opportunities offered. Further details on the learning, teaching and assessment approach for the programme and modules can be accessed on the University website and Virtual Learning Environment, GCU Learn. All programmes of the University are subject to the University's [Quality Assurance](#) processes.

GENERAL INFORMATION			
Programme Title	MSc Advanced Practice		
Final Award	MSc Advanced Practice MSc Advanced Practice (Musculoskeletal Health) MSc Advanced Practice (Diabetes Care) MSc Advanced Practice (Travel Medicine) MSc Advanced Practice (Expedition & Wilderness Medicine)		
Awarding Body	Glasgow Caledonian University		
School	School of Health and Life Sciences		
Department	Physiotherapy and Paramedicine		
Mode of Study	Full-time Part-time		
Location of Delivery	Glasgow Campus		
UCAS Code	N/A		
Accreditations (PSRB)	N/A		
Period of Approval	From:	September 2021	To: August 2026

EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF PROGRAMME

The overall aim of MSc Advanced Practice is to provide educational experiences, which promote reflective, analytical and critical thinking, enabling students to meet political, workplace and practice demands. It is anticipated that a flexible approach to practice experience coupled with advanced knowledge and skills can facilitate positive change within workplaces and communities. The programme focuses on four pillars of advanced practice namely Clinical Practice, Facilitation of Learning, Leadership, and Evidence/Research & Development (NES 2021a).

Specific aims of MSc Advanced Practice are:

- (i) to provide innovative and relevant learning and teaching opportunities based on applied research and scholarship
- (ii) to meet the diverse needs of a range of learners and employing organisations, within a knowledge economy, taking account of the value of social enterprise
- (iii) to promote an understanding of service users' and carers' perspectives, and to enable students to integrate these within the development of policy, practice and educational initiatives
- (iv) to facilitate and engender independent lifelong learning, in line with University,
- (v) Government and Professional Body objectives
- (vi) to expose students to worldwide perspectives on health and social care, thus enabling them to participate as global citizens influencing local, national and international health and social care agendas to equip students with the knowledge and skills to embrace and promote professional leadership, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to the development and modernisation of integrated health and social care delivery

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

A: Knowledge and understanding;

- A1. A knowledge that covers and integrates the key areas of a particular speciality, including boundaries, terminology and conventions
- A2. An ability to critically appraise a range of specialised theories, principles and concepts related to professional practice
- A3. A systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current issues including new insights at the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice
- A4. An ability to critically appraise current issues in a subject /discipline, and one or more specialisms
- A5. A comprehensive knowledge and critical understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry in their chosen area.

B: Practice: Applied knowledge, skills and understanding;

- B1. Practise in a manner which draws on critical reflection of their own and others roles and responsibilities
- B2. Take responsibility for their own work, fully utilising the wide range of resources and information sources available
- B3. Use a range of specialised practice skills and techniques, which are at the forefront, or informed by the forefront of knowledge in a particular discipline

- B4. Deal with complex ethical and professional issues and make informed judgements
- B5. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- B6. Practice in a wide and often unpredictable variety of professional level contexts.

C: Generic cognitive skills;

- C1. Apply critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis to issues which are at the forefront or are informed by the forefront of a subject / discipline
- C2. Identify, conceptualise and define new and abstract problems and issues
- C3. Develop original and creative responses to problems and issues
- C4. Critically review, consolidate and extend knowledge, skills, practices and thinking in a subject / discipline
- C5. Deal with complex issues, both systematically and creatively and make informed judgements in the absence of complete or consistent information/ data

D: Communication, numeracy and ICT skills

- D1. Use a range of specialised skills to communicate with a range of audiences with differing levels of knowledge and expertise
- D2. Communicate effectively with peers, more senior colleagues, discipline specialists and professionals from other disciplines in health and social care
- D3. Use a range of numerical and graphical data handling and presentation methodologies

E: Autonomy, accountability and working with others.

- E1. Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in professional and equivalent activities.
- E2. Take responsibility for own work and/or significant responsibility for the work of others.
- E3. Take responsibility for a significant range of resources.
- E4. Demonstrate leadership and/or initiative and make an identifiable contribution to change and development.
- E5. Practise in ways, which draw on critical reflection on own and others' roles and responsibilities.
- E6. Deal with complex ethical and professional issues and make informed judgements on issues not addressed by current professional and/or ethical codes or practices

LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

The programme provides a variety of learning and teaching methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the learning and teaching methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the learning and teaching methods and approaches may include the following:

- Lectures
- Seminars
- Practical classes
- Placements
- Simulation experiences
- Groupwork
- Flipped classroom approaches
- Online learning

The above approaches may be delivered either in person or online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

The programme provides a variety of formative and summative assessment methods. Programme and Module specific guidance will provide detail of the assessment methods specific to each module.

Across the programme the assessment methods may include the following:

- Written coursework (essays, reports, case studies, dissertation, literature review)
- Oral coursework (presentations, structured conversations)
- Practical Assessment (Placement, VIVA, Laboratory work)
- Group work
- Blogs and Wikis
- Portfolio Presentations
- Formal Examinations and Class Tests

The above assessments may be delivered either in person and online as appropriate and determined at module level by the Module Leader.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Specific entry requirements for this programme can be found on the prospectus and study pages on the GCU website at this location: www.gcu.ac.uk/study

The Course webpage specific to this Programme is:

All students entering the programme are required to adhere to the [GCU Code of Student Conduct](#).

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND AVAILABLE AND FINAL EXIT AWARDS¹

The following modules are delivered as part of this programme:

Module Code	Module Title	Core or Optional	SCQF Level	Credit Size	Coursework %	Examination %	Practical %
MMB724491	Advanced Research Methods	Core	11	30	100	0	0
MMB726664	Dissertation	Core	11	60	70	30	0
MMB726826	Advanced Leadership for Health and Social Care Practitioners	Optional	11	30	100	0	0
MMB824475	Principles of Practice in Medical Ultrasound	Optional	11	30	50	50	0
MMB723192 / MMB723193	Work-Based Advanced Skills & Innovative Practices	Optional	11	15	100	0	0
MMB723194 / MMB723195	Work-Based Advanced Skills & Innovative Practices	Optional	11	30	100	0	0
MMB726669	Developing Advanced Practice	Optional	11	30	100	0	0
MMB126657	Advanced Assessment and Management of Illness and Injury	Optional	11	30	50	50	0
MMB726148	Prescribing for Healthcare Professionals	Optional	11	30	50	50	0
MMB725021	Social Action Approaches in Public Health	Optional	11	15	100	0	0
MMB725785	Applied Pathophysiology for Advancing Professional Practice	Optional	11	15	0	100	0
MMB826391	Foundations of Radiographic Image Interpretation	Optional	11	30	100	0	0
MMB725030	Infection Prevention and Control in a Global Context	Optional	11	15	100	0	0
MMB726807	Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice	Optional	11	30	0	100	0
MMB125973	Advancing Practice in Neurological Rehabilitation	Optional	11	30	0	100	0
MMB726815	Advancing Professional Practice	Optional	11	30	100	0	0
MMB824473	General Medical Ultrasound	Optional	11	30	60	40	0
MMB726315	Recognition and Management of the Acutely Unwell Adult	Optional	11	30	50	50	0
MMB726314	Advanced Clinical Assessment and Decision Making in Acute and Primary Care	Optional	11	15	100	0	0
MMB826611	Clinical Investigations	Optional	11	30	0	100	0
MMB826610	Surgical Management of the Foot	Optional	11	15	100	0	0

¹ Periodically, programmes and modules may be subject to change or cancellation. Further information on this can be found on the GCU website here: www.gcu.ac.uk/currentstudents/essentials/policiesandprocedures/changesandcancellationtoprogrammes

MMB126817	Human Movement and Musculoskeletal Analysis	Optional	11	30	100	0	0
MMB722903	Supporting Anticipatory Care for Long Term Conditions Management	Optional	11	15	100	0	0
MMC126416	Diabetes Care- A Multi-professional Approach	Optional	11	20	50	50	0
MMB730171	Pathophysiology and Chronic Complications of Diabetes	Optional	11	15	50	50	0
MMB312643	The Lower Limb and Foot in Diabetes- Evaluation of Risk	Optional	11	15	0	100	0
MMC122348	Nutrition and Lifestyle Management of Diabetes	Optional	11	15	30	70	0
MMC924988	Topics in Diabetes Care and Management	Optional	11	15	100	0	0
MMB726911	Non-Medical Cystoscopy Theoretical Preparation	Optional	11	30	100	0	0

The following final and early Exit Awards are available from this programme²:

Possible Exit Awards:*

MSc Advanced Practice – 180 credits

180 credits gained from agreed modules within the masters' suite of postgraduate programmes, MUST include Advanced Research Methods (30 credits), and Dissertation (60 credits)

PgD Advanced Practice – 120 credits

120 credits gained from agreed modules within the masters' suite of postgraduate programmes, MUST include Advanced Research Methods (30 credits)

PgC Advanced Practice – 60 credits

60 credits from agreed modules within the masters' suite of postgraduate programmes

MSc Advanced Practice (Musculoskeletal Health) 180 credits

180 credits gained from agreed modules within the masters' suite of postgraduate programmes, MUST include Advanced Research Methods (30 credits), Human Movement & Musculoskeletal Health (30 credits) and Dissertation (60 credits)

PgD Advanced Practice (Musculoskeletal Health) 120 credits

120 credits gained from agreed modules within the masters' suite of postgraduate programmes, MUST include Advanced Research Methods (30 credits) and Human Movement & Musculoskeletal Health (30 credits)

² Please refer to the [GCU Qualifications Framework](#) for the minimum credits required for each level of award and the Programme Handbook for requirements on any specified or prohibited module combinations for each award.

PgC Advanced Practice (Musculoskeletal Health) 60 credits

60 credits gained from agreed modules within the masters' suite of postgraduate programmes, MUST include Human Movement & Musculoskeletal Health (30 credits)

MSc Advanced Practice (Diabetes Care) - 185 credits

180 credits gained from agreed modules within the masters' suite of postgraduate programmes, MUST include Advanced Research Methods (30 credits), Diabetes Care: A Multi-professional Approach (20 credits), Pathophysiology and Therapeutics of Diabetes (15 credits), Lower Limb and Foot in Diabetes- Evaluation of Risk (15 credits), Nutrition and Lifestyle Management of Diabetes (15 credits) and Dissertation (60 credits)

PgD Advanced Practice (Diabetes Care) – 125 credits

120 credits gained from agreed modules within the masters' suite of postgraduate programmes, MUST include Advanced Research Methods (30 credits), Diabetes Care: A Multi-professional Approach (20 credits), Pathophysiology and Therapeutics of Diabetes (15 credits), Lower Limb and Foot in Diabetes- Evaluation of Risk (15 credits), Nutrition and Lifestyle Management of Diabetes (15 credits)

PgC Advanced Practice (Diabetes Care) - 65 credits

Students must undertake the following modules: Diabetes Care: A Multi-professional Approach (20 credits), Pathophysiology and Therapeutics of Diabetes (15 credits), Lower Limb and Foot in Diabetes- Evaluation of Risk (15 credits), Nutrition and Lifestyle Management of Diabetes (15 credits)

PEC Advanced Practice (Diabetes Care) - 20 credits

Students must undertake the following module: Diabetes Care: A Multi-professional Approach (20 credits),

MSc Advanced Practice (Travel Medicine)- 180 credits

Students must have successfully completed the Diploma in Travel Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow (RCPSG), or equivalent, and must complete the Dissertation module at GCU to obtain the MSc Advanced Practice (Travel Medicine) exit award.

MSc Advanced Practice (Expedition & Wilderness Medicine)- 180 credits

Students must have successfully completed the International Diploma in Expedition and Wilderness Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow (RCPSG), or equivalent, and must complete the Dissertation module at GCU to obtain the MSc Advanced Practice (Expedition & Wilderness Medicine) exit award

****Normally, opportunity will also be available for students to study individual or selected postgraduate modules on a Continuing Professional Development basis.***

ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the GCU Assessment Regulations that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students. These can be found at:

www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/supportservices/qualityassuranceandenhancement/regulationsandpolicies

In addition to the GCU Assessment Regulations noted above, this programme is subject to Programme Specific Regulations in line with the following approved Exceptions:

Exceptions Case 122 & 177

- (i) MMB724475 Principles of Practice in Medical Ultrasound

Minimum threshold pass marks for each item of assessment

- (ii) MMB726148 Prescribing for Healthcare Practitioners

Minimum threshold pass marks for each item of assessment

- (iii) MMB826610 Surgical Management of the Foot

Minimum threshold pass marks for each item of assessment

- (iv) MMB826611 Clinical Investigations

Minimum threshold pass marks for each item of assessment

VERSION CONTROL (to be completed in line with AQPP processes)**Any changes to the PSP must be recorded below by the programme team to ensure accuracy of the programme of study being offered.**

<i>Version Number</i>	<i>Changes/Updates</i>	<i>Date Changes/Updates made</i>	<i>Date Effective From</i>
1.0	Addition of Non-Medical Cystoscopy module to optional module list and removal of PEC award.	09/05/24	09/05/24
2.0	Addition of PEC award following Programme Board approval.	03/04/25	01/09/25