



Glasgow Caledonian
University



Queen Margaret University

EDINBURGH

**School of Health and Life Sciences
Department of Psychology, Social Work and
Allied Health Sciences**

MSc Theory of Podiatric Surgery

**Programme Specification Document
(extract)**

April 2015

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **Programme Title:** MSc Theory of Podiatric Surgery
2. **Final Award:** MSc Theory of Podiatric Surgery
3. **Exit Awards:** MSc/PgD/PgC Theory of Podiatric Surgery
4. **Awarding Body:** Glasgow Caledonian University
5. **Approval Date:** 10th April 2015
6. **School:** School of Health & Life Sciences GCU
7. **Host Division/Dept:** Department of Psychology Social Work and Allied Health Sciences (GCU)
8. **UCAS Code:** Not applicable
9. **PSB Involvement:** Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists (SOC&P)
10. **Place of Delivery:** Glasgow Caledonian University and Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
11. **Subject Benchmark Statement:** Not applicable to post-graduate programmes
12. **Dates of PSP preparation/revision:** February 2015

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

Programme philosophy

The programme philosophy has its foundation in the belief that at Master's level, the educational process will have a positive effect on the development of cognitive leadership and practical skills leading to enhancement of patient management and professional practice. The modules are designed to facilitate the development of higher order processes to enable the Health and Care Professions Council registered podiatrist to conscientiously achieve maturity and leadership as a scientist practitioner.

Providing intellectual challenge within a student-centred learning environment, students can develop a wider perspective for developing the role of the podiatric surgeon and/ or advanced practitioner within the health care team. This is achieved through a range of key note lectures from both practicing podiatric surgeons and other health professionals who work alongside and support the podiatrist working in a surgical environment. A broader awareness of those factors which have an influence on health will foster an understanding of the effects of both positive as well as negative health on the individual and society.

This modular programme aims to provide an academic underpinning in preparation for podiatric surgery and conceptualises the podiatrist as a critical, problem solving, reflective clinical practitioner who is able to act autonomously in planning and implementing professional tasks. The programme utilises a wide variety of contemporary learning and teaching approaches which challenges the students to work independently as well as fostering an appreciation of the value of a team approach to care. These key generic skills are developed and utilised to promote the highest quality of practice and enable the students to use the best available evidence as well as widening their scope of practice.

The programme aims to produce a practitioner who is able to gather systematically, appraise, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, utilise the best available evidence for practice and disseminate this information to other colleagues and the broader healthcare community.

Programme Aims

The aims of the programme are to produce postgraduates who can:

- I. Develop the theoretical underpinning required before surgical training as a podiatric surgeon can commence;
- II. further the progression of the profession into the specialist areas of podiatric surgery and other related specialisms such as musculo skeletal management;
- III. cultivate the development of critical skills and scientific understanding to enable them to

- develop into effective and reflective practitioners of evidence-based practice in podiatric surgery and related specialisms;
- IV. develop a critical and evaluative approach to current research relevant to podiatric surgery;
 - V. demonstrate independent research competence with supervision.
 - VI. provide innovative and relevant learning and teaching opportunities based on applied research and scholarship.
 - VII. meet the diverse needs of a range of learners and employing organisations, within a knowledge economy.
 - VIII. facilitate and engender independent lifelong learning, in line with University, Government and Professional Body objectives.

4. PROGRAMME STRUCTURES AND REQUIREMENTS, LEVELS, MODULES, CREDITS AND AWARDS

The MSc Theory of Podiatric Surgery complies with the GCU exit requirements for a Master's programme. This modular programme reflects the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) and follows the standard Glasgow Caledonian University structure for Postgraduate programmes, which normally comprise 180 credits. The programme will be offered on a part time basis – normally 3 years.

The MSc Theory of Podiatric Surgery programme will be hosted by the Masters Framework in Advancing Practice. The credit structure for this programme will accord with accumulating 180 Masters level credits by undertaking a combination of mandatory core school modules (equalling 90 M level credits) and mandatory core profession specific modules (equalling 90 credits). School core modules within this programme involve study of Research Methods, and a Research Dissertation, these modules can be undertaken at GCU or QMU. The core profession specific modules that are required to be taken are made up of six (15 credit) modules delivered by GCU and QMU (three from GCU and three from QMU):

- Principles of Diagnostic Investigations (GCU) 15 credits
- Diagnostic Imaging (GCU) 15 credits
- Pharmacology (QMU) 15 credits
- Medicine and Pathology (QMU) 15 credits
- Anatomy for surgical practice (GCU) 15 credits
- Mechanics (QMU) 15 credits

Two of these modules require some face-to-face delivery, Anatomy for Surgical Practice and Mechanics, the rest of these modules are delivered on-line.

The time frame in which the student chooses to complete their award will reflect; work load commitments, personal work life balance, initial confidence in studying at M-level, and for self-funding students the impact of module fees. For these reasons the programme has been designed to be very flexible so that it will meet the needs and aspirations of a wide range of students. Below is an example of the part time study route.

A worked example of the MSc part-time student experience over 3 years:

Year 1 = 60 credits

<p><i>Trimester A</i></p> <p>Delivered face to face</p> <p>Anatomy for Surgery (15 credits)</p> <p>Podiatric mechanics (15 credits)</p>	<p><i>Trimester B</i></p> <p>Delivered on-line</p> <p>Choose 2 modules from the 4 on-line options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of Diagnostic Investigations (GCU) 15 credits • Diagnostic Imaging (GCU) 15 credits • Pharmacology (QMU) 15 credits • Medicine and Pathology (QMU) 15 credits
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Year 2 = 60 credits

<p><i>Trimester A</i></p> <p>Delivered on-line or face to face</p> <p>EEDRIP / Research methods (GCU) 30 credits</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Research Methods (runs over Tri A & B) 30 credits</p>	<p><i>Trimester B</i></p> <p>Delivered on-line</p> <p>Choose 2 modules from the 4 on-line options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of Diagnostic Investigations (GCU) 15 credits • Diagnostic Imaging (GCU) 15 credits • Pharmacology (QMU) 15 credits • Medicine and Pathology (QMU) 15 credits
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Year 3 = 60 credits

<p><i>Trimester A</i></p> <p>Dissertation GCU or QMU</p>	<p><i>Trimester B</i></p> <p>Dissertation (60 credits)</p>
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Awards - Exit Credits for Post-Graduate Awards

Award Title	Credit points and minimum level
Post-graduate Certificate Theory of Podiatric Surgery	60 credits: With all 60 credits made up from 4 of the six available profession specific modules
Post-graduate Certificate - Podiatry	60 credits: Which can be made up of Research Methods and 2 x 15 credit modules.
Post-graduate Diploma Theory of Podiatric Surgery	120 credits
Master of Science Theory of Podiatric Surgery	180 credits

8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Glasgow Caledonian University Assessment Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Programmes 2015-16:

<http://www.gcu.ac.uk/media/gcalwebv2/theuniversity/gaq/gaqfiles/assessmentregulations/Concise%20Guide%20to%20Assessment%20Procedures%202015-16.pdf>

There are no exceptions from the University's assessment Regulations.

Clarification required for section 7: Maximum Period of Registration

7.1 The maximum period of study is:

In the case of awards for which the period of study is specified as 3 years or more, then a period can be extended by a maximum of 2 years.

The recommended route through this programme would be to complete the MSc before embarking on a surgical trainee post. In England podiatrists can apply and take up a 2 year surgical trainee posts with a Postgraduate Diploma. These two years would be considered as part of their education process therefore opt out of the programme after PgD and return to complete their masters programme and the two year extension period will still stand.