



## Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	Laparoscopic Surgery & Surgical Skills
Name of interim award(s):	PGDip Laparoscopic Surgical Skills PGCert Laparoscopic Surgical Skills
Duration of study / period of registration:	2 years DL PT (MSc/PGD)
Queen Mary programme code(s):	PMSP-DLCANC1 - PLSU - A3VA
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	04.06.2020
Responsible School / Institute:	Barts Cancer 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 programme has two key aims; to provide trainee surgeons with a safe environment in which to develop the practical skills required to fast-track their surgical training and prepare them for their surgical career, and to provide a valuable opportunity to understand the basics of research methodology with a hope to encourage more doctors to become clinical scientists/ academics.

On successful completion of the programme students will be able to perform the following in a simulated environment:

1. basic laparoscopy tasks
2. laparoscopic suturing
3. laparoscopic procedure - Cholecystectomy
4. open surgical skills for bowel anastomosis

Through a study of Research Methods and an in depth dissertation, students will also gain an understanding of the methodologies for conducting research and how to formulate a structured and critical argument for a research question. For suitably able students, the course will provide an excellent foundation for MS/MD or MPhil/PhD studies and obtaining grants, in

open competition, from the work carried out in their dissertation.

### Aims of the programme

The box trainer and VR touch surgery technology based training aims to accelerate surgical training and improve surgical skills that are essential for building confidence in clinical practice.

Through the Research Methods module and completion of a dissertation, students should gain experience in research design, methodology, analysis and presentation of work for publication.

### What will you be expected to achieve?

The aim of this program is to provide practical skills training by simulation to perfect laparoscopic technical skills necessary to meet the standards set by The Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland for obtaining LapPass – “The Laparoscopic Passport”.

Through the Research Methods module and completion of a dissertation students will be able to identify and apply the most appropriate research techniques to gather, record, and critically appraise research data.

#### Academic Content:

A 1	identify and apply the most appropriate research techniques to gather, record, and critically appraise research data
A 2	explain the principles and practice of laparoscopic surgery and bowel anastomosis
A 3	perform literature searches and critically review literature
A 4	critically analyse steps for troubleshooting and managing complications in laparoscopic surgery

#### Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	perform basic and advanced laparoscopy tasks
B 2	perform laparoscopic suturing
B 3	perform laparoscopic procedure - Cholecystectomy
B 4	perform bowel anastomosis
B 5	present, explain and defend their research in a concise manner

Attributes:	
C 1	knowledge of laparoscopic instruments and stapling devices and how they work
C 2	demonstrate competence in laparoscopic skills, laparoscopic suturing and laparoscopic cholecystectomy
C 3	conduct and present academic research
C 4	critically analyse the role of simulation in surgical skills acquisition
C 5	research capacity - combine theoretical knowledge and practical skills to investigate a research problem and to critically appraise the results and findings.
C 6	make informed decisions based on knowledge of patient physiology that is affected by laparoscopic surgery

### How will you learn?

Theoretical aspects of the course will be delivered through online recorded lectures and reading material. Webinars will also be offered.

Practical skills will be taught through online video demonstrations via QMplus. Each student will be sent a portable laparoscopic box trainer on payment of their tuition fees. The box trainer will be used to practice and enhance these skills.

As self-directed learning is the major component of each module students will be encouraged to identify their own learning needs as modules progress.

Teaching will be delivered using QMplus and will make use of online discussion forums, video conferencing facilities, online quizzes to monitor learning and progression as well as the provision of teaching materials and video demonstrations.

### How will you be assessed?

Assessment of individual taught modules includes coursework for theory aspects of the course and assessment of practical skills, except for the Research Methods module where the assessment is by coursework only.

Assessments include written assignments, MCQs, poster submission, presentations and practicals skills assessment.

The semester 3 dissertation is submitted as an assessed 10,000 word report. The overall module mark also includes a mark for an oral presentation of the project.

### 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 full Masters course involves studying 180 credits. This includes:

- 120 credits of compulsory taught modules
- 60 credits for dissertation

The structure of the MSc will be as follows:

Year 1

Programme Title: Laparoscopic Surgery & Surgical Skills

<p>Laparoscopic Skills (15 credits)                  Laparoscopic Suturing Skills (30 credits)                  Laparoscopic Procedure Skills (15 credits)</p> <p>Year 2                  Research Methods (30 credits)                  New module: Bowel Anastomosis Skills (30 credits)                  Dissertation (60 credits)</p> <p>There will also be an optional summer school at the end of each year of study. The summer school will cover practical skills and optional onsite assessment for "Lap Passport".</p> <p>Alternative awards are available as follows:</p> <p>PGDip Laparoscopic Surgical Skills</p> <p>Year 1                  Laparoscopic Skills (15 credits)                  Laparoscopic Suturing Skills (30 credits)                  Laparoscopic Procedure Skills (15 credits)</p> <p>Year 2                  Research Methods (30 credits)                  Bowel Anastomosis Skills (30 credits)</p> <p>PGCert Laparoscopic Surgical Skills</p> <p>Year 1                  Laparoscopic Skills (15 credits)                  Laparoscopic Suturing Skills (30 credits)                  Laparoscopic Procedure Skills (15 credits)</p>
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Academic Year of Study    PT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Laparoscopic Skills	CAN7020	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Laparoscopic Suturing Skills	CAN7021	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Laparoscopic Procedure Skills (Cholecystectomy)	CAN7022	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2

Academic Year of Study    PT - Year 2

Programme Title: Laparoscopic Surgery & Surgical Skills

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Research Methods	CAN7023	30	7	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Bowel Anastomosis Skills	CAN7025	30	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
Dissertation	CAN7024	60	7	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1-3

### What are the entry requirements?

MBBS from a recognised institution.

Allied Health professionals (e.g. specialist nurses/dietitians/physiologists) with a science based degree awarded with a 2:1 or above (or international equivalent) are also welcome to apply.

Students for whom English is a second language will also require a minimum IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum score of 6.0 in the written component) or equivalent.

### 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 (APR) 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 Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) and module evaluations.

### What academic support is available?

Students will be encouraged to interact with one another and tutors via online discussion forums.

Members of the teaching staff mark all assessed work and provide written feedback on the in-course assessments.

Feedback on progress and performance is given to students individually at regular intervals by the Course Director, with the proviso that all marks are provisional until confirmed by the relevant examination boards.

If a student is having difficulty with a particular module, topic or practical, additional teaching support can be provided by teaching staff.

### Programme-specific rules and facts

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

The programme uses inclusive teaching and learning practices, including:

- Making key learning outcomes explicit to students;
- Revisiting existing assessment methods to confirm that they are assessing for the key learning outcomes;
- Using pre-recorded lectures (published on QMPlus);
- 'Flipping' lectures; i.e. using timetabled sessions for interactive work with students with more traditional content posted online via QMPlus;
- Using QMPlus to post content for students to rewatch / relisten to.

In addition, there is of course specific support for disabled students. Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites. Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one study skills tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing non-specialist support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers)
- Access to specialist mentoring support for students with mental health issues and Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

**Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills**

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**Programme Specification Approval**

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<b>Person completing Programme Specification:</b>	Prof Bijendra Patel
<b>Person responsible for management of programme:</b>	Prof Nicholas Lemoine
<b>Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:</b>	11/02/2022 (For Sept 2022)
<b>Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:</b>	04.06.2020