

## Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and title:	MSc Endocrinology and Diabetes PgD Endocrinology and Diabetes
Name of interim award(s):	PgCert Endocrinology and Diabetes
Duration of study / period of registration:	Part time by DL; PgD: 2 academic years, MSc: 2 calendar years
Queen Mary programme code(s):	PSEND A3S4/A3D4
QAA Benchmark Group:	
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	24.11.22 (via FMD TLC )
Responsible School / Institute:	William Harvey Research 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

This programme designed both as a complete curriculum in Endocrinology and Diabetes for new entrants into these fields and as an update and extension for those already in it. The programme is delivered entirely by distance learning, on a part-time basis, enabling students to continue working at their home institutions without interruption. The course provides clinicians with a rigorous education in the theoretical and clinically-applied aspects of their discipline.

All students commence with the taught course which is delivered over four semesters (three in year one and one in year two). Students who wish to further their knowledge and who are eligible may proceed to MSc which in addition to the above taught elements, includes an independent research project or clinical cases project leading to a dissertation. This project is carried out at the home institution (with the appropriate checks and agreements); co-supervised from QMUL by distance learning and assessed by final dissertation.

Thus there are two potential routes of entry to the programme: students may enrol onto PgDip and transfer programme after completion of taught elements and the submission of an acceptable and suitable project. Alternatively students may enrol onto MSc directly but may not progress to the project without passing the hurdles of completion of taught elements and the

submission of an acceptable and suitable project in the same way as their colleagues wishing to progress from PgDip.

## Aims of the programme

### Postgraduate Diploma

Designed both as a complete curriculum in endocrinology and diabetes for new entrants into these fields and as an update and extension for those already in it. The programme provides clinicians with theoretical and clinically applied aspects of their discipline.

Aims of the course include:

- To enhance awareness of the basic sciences and research techniques underpinning endocrinology and diabetes.
- To develop understanding of the clinical sciences relevant to specialist clinical practice in endocrinology and diabetes.
- To develop knowledge of common and important disorders in endocrinology and diabetes at a level appropriate to underpin clinical experience and support independent practice.
- To develop the problem-solving skills which will enable independent practice as a specialist.
- To develop professional competencies of medical graduates in allied areas to understand the pathophysiology, investigation and management of endocrine disorders
- To develop related skills such as correct use of statistics, use of databases, literature searches, reviewing evidence, critical appraisal of scientific literature, writing papers and articles.

additionally for the MSc

- To further develop research skills such as literature searches, reviewing evidence, critical appraisal of scientific literature, use of databases, writing papers and articles and correct application of statistics.
- Enable the student to focus on a piece of original research – this may be prospective and involve basic science or clinical skills and techniques or may focus on a detailed review of an area within the curriculum.

## What will you be expected to achieve?

By the completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate their achievement of the specific learning outcomes detailed in each of the modules of the course which relate to each of the endocrine systems of the body.
- Describe the basic sciences and research techniques underpinning the practice of clinical endocrinology and diabetes.
- Search and interpret the literature to apply results from the relevant clinical sciences to the management of the endocrine patient.
- Review evidence, apply the correct use of statistics and critically appraise the scientific literature to draw conclusions about endocrine physiology, pathology and clinical care
- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of common and important disorders in endocrinology and diabetes at a level appropriate to underpin clinical experience and support independent practice.
- Demonstrate knowledge of, and skills in and appropriate attitudes towards the diagnosis, investigation and management of patients with disorders of the hypothalamus and pituitary, thyroid, parathyroids, bone metabolism, reproductive endocrinology, growth and development, energy balance, the adrenal glands and endocrine-related cancers.
- Utilise problem-solving skills in the clinical and research settings which will enable independent practice as a specialists.

### Academic Content:

A 1	You will be able to demonstrate their achievement of the specific learning outcomes detailed in each of the modules of the course which relate to each of the endocrine systems of the body.
A 2	You will be able to describe the basic sciences and research techniques underpinning the practice of clinical endocrinology and diabetes.
A 3	You will search and interpret the literature to apply results from the relevant clinical sciences to the management of the endocrine patient.

A 4	You will review evidence, apply the correct use of statistics and critically appraise the scientific literature to draw conclusions about endocrine physiology, pathology and clinical care
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Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	You will demonstrate a broad knowledge of common and important disorders in endocrinology and diabetes at a level appropriate to underpin clinical experience and support independent practice.
B 2	You will demonstrate knowledge of, and skills in and appropriate attitudes towards the diagnosis, investigation and management of patients with disorders of the hypothalamus and pituitary, thyroid, parathyroids, bone metabolism, reproductive endocrinology, growth and development, energy balance, the adrenal glands and endocrine-related cancers.

Attributes:	
C 1	You will utilise problem-solving skills in the clinical and research settings which will enable independent practice as a specialists.

### How will you learn?

<p>The programme is delivered by distance learning using the Queen Mary virtual learning platform QMPlus.</p> <p>This will provide you with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overall programme information, including student handbook and timetables.</li><li>• Recorded induction material and a welcome chatroom session.</li></ul> <p>Each module will be outlines to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Summary of the module</li><li>- Aims and Objectives</li><li>- Week-by-week Module Plan</li><li>- Plan for assessment</li><li>-Queen Mary library facilities including relevant journals and academic literature.</li></ul> <p>The materials for each week of the module will be released together along with a list of materials and key papers. The topics for the module-week outlined in the syllabus will be delivered using a variety of methods to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Lectures – screen capture with audio soundtrack. These lectures will be delivered by members of the course faculty with occasional ‘guest lectures’ for selected topics. Both types of lecture will be captured and presented in the same way.</li><li>2) Podcasts. Some of the taught material will be delivered by podcast. In addition some of the exercises (for example guided reading, critical appraisal, guidelines review) may be introduced by podcast together with instructions for the exercise. This material will be presented in audio files (MP3 format) with, where relevant, linked paper-based reading material.</li><li>3) Lecture notes and document reading material (word documents and PDF.) Topics will also be covered in the form of guided reading – with a reading list or short series of scientific papers to read followed by questions or exercises.</li><li>4) Online Seminars / Tutorials. Some topics will be covered in real-time online seminars, delivered by Skype (or similar technology). These will be based around a topic or around a series of relevant articles from scientific journals. The organisation of such synchronous support by voice / video seminars will depend on the proportion and location of overseas students in order to circumvent any difficulties posed by differences in time zones.</li></ol>
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## Programme Title: Endocrinology and Diabetes

- 5) Each week of the module will contain clinical case presentations relevant to the topic together with areas for discussion that arise from the cases. The discussion takes place asynchronously via the discussion board, between students and to include comments from the tutor / moderator.
- 6) Modules will contain an up-to-date review of 'HOT topics' in the subject area
- 7) An 'ask the expert' session in which students submit questions during the module via the message board. A discussion of these in interview format with a relevant 'expert' will be delivered in the form of a podcast in the final week of the module.
- 8) Demonstration video. Where specific types of clinical examination or testing are to be demonstrated, delivery will be in the form of short training videos (MP4 format).
- 9) Online reading lists, linked where possible, to the journals in which the papers appear.

### How will you be assessed?

Module assessment is designed to meet the module and programme level learning outcomes. These include, but are not limited to;

#### Formative Assessment:

- short quizzes with online feedback at the end of each week, based on the learning activities completed that week.
- summaries of MSc project progress.

#### Summative Assessment:

- structured answers, data analysis tasks and longer essay questions.
- single end of programme exams - for all modules- varying across best single answer, best of five questions, short answers and longer essay questions, case review, data interpretation and questions for discussion.

#### MSc Project:

- interim reports, presentations, dissertation, viva

### 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 PgDiploma is 120 credits and comprises of eight, 15 credit modules. There is no elective choice to ensure comprehensive coverage of the 'Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board' (JRCPTB) syllabus for Endocrinology and Diabetes (<http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/Specialty/Pages/EndocrinologyAndDiabetesMellitus.aspx>) and also to provide appropriate syllabus coverage for clinicians training in metabolic medicine and clinical chemistry.

The MSc is 180 credits and comprises the PgDip and a 60 credit project/dissertation.

Modules delivered in order, two modules per semester over the four teaching semesters.

The project is either laboratory or clinically-based and taken over the course of the 2nd year of study.

PgDiploma students may return to the programme to "top-up" to the MSc and undertake the project. This is permitted within 5 years of completion and subject to the usual requirements form MSc students

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
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Programme Title: Endocrinology and Diabetes

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Generic skills and core knowledge	WHR7001	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Hypothalamus and Pituitary	WHR7002	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Thyroid, Parathyroids and Bone	WHR7003	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Pregnancy, Reproductive and Paediatric Endocrinology	WHR7004	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Metabolism, Energy Balance and Lipids	WHR7005	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3
Adrenal cortex and Medulla	WHR7006	15	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 3

Academic Year of Study PT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Genetics, Oncology and Neuroendocrine Tumours	WHR7007	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Diabetes Mellitus	WHR7008	15	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Independent Research Project or Clinical Cases	WHR7009 or WHR7062	60	7	Core	2	Semesters 1-3

**What are the entry requirements?**

Qualification requirements for the course are MB BS or basic medical degree from universities recognised by QMUL, Nursing degrees, Laboratory Scientists and other health professionals working in a hospital or outpatient clinic setting as a health professionals.

Students must have access to a suitable computer and broadband access to the internet. Availability of minimum system specifications for using the online learning platform required.

Non-native speakers must achieve IELTS 7.0; TOEFL paper 610, or equivalent and provide certification of this

**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 the Institute and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the Institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the 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.

The Faculty operates a Learning and Teaching Committee which advises the Institute Directors of Education on all matters

relating to the delivery of taught programmes, 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 this Committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

The Institute conducts an Annual Programme Review of its taught provision with members of the Institute and Faculty. Students' views are considered in this process through representation and analysis of the NSS/PTES survey results.

### **What academic support is available?**

#### Induction

- At the start of the course all students will receive a 'How to get started' PDF explaining how to use the 'Blackboard' online platform and how to access the learning activities.
- Induction material and a welcome chatroom session will be set up at the start of the first term between the distance learning students and the Programme Director.
- Mechanisms for student support (academic, technical, administrative and pastoral) are all in place and information about this will be available online as part of the induction materials

#### Personal Tutor arrangements

- Taking the advice of other Programme Directors of programmes with a large Distance Learning Component, the intake for the first year of the course will be limited. This will enable allocation of the Programme Organiser as the personal tutor to all of the students. This will enable a high level of consistency of student experience and a commitment to personal contact. Personal tutor allocations and arrangement will be revised appropriately as the course grows with time.

#### Feedback

- Informal feedback from students will be sought throughout the course, both in discussion, via email and via the message-board system.
- Formal feedback from students will be sought at the end of each module in the form of a questionnaire.
- Feedback will be sought about a number of areas including:
  - i. course content
  - ii. course delivery
  - iii. technical aspects of accessing the learning experiences
  - iv. quality of associated materials
- This feedback will be used to make alterations to the forthcoming modules as well as to the course overall for the following year.
- More detailed formal feedback about course structure will be sought at the end of each term and at the end of the year.

#### Monitoring

The programme will be managed by a Programme Management Committee (PMC) comprising the Programme coordinator, Head of Department, Institute Manager and programme administrator. The PMC will meet termly.

#### Programme Review

All activities will be monitored by the PMC to maintain the quality of the course. In addition to ongoing review, content and delivery will be reviewed formally annually and together with outcomes of student assessment and student feedback and changes made to the programme accordingly.

### **Programme-specific rules and facts**

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

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 educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

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

Although the programme has no formal links with employers, there are several ways in which such a qualification might inform employers about graduates' qualities and skills:

- An opportunity for rigorous endocrine teaching with a structured syllabus is currently lacking in the UK, and may be welcomed by employers as evidence of a breadth of understanding of the subject. In addition it is planned that the course will cover the curriculum in Endocrinology and Diabetes outlined in the 'Joint Royal College of Physicians Training Board' (JRCPTB). This should therefore help the performance of students in the knowledge-based assessment set by the Royal College of Physicians. This assessment forms part of the criteria for completion of a Certificate of Completion of Training in the UK for all trainees commencing in 2007 and beyond – 2009 saw this examination administered for the first time and the pass rates were noted to be unexpectedly low.
- Some more junior students (ST level) may wish to use this type of qualification to demonstrate their commitment to the specialty and provide an advantage when applying for specialist training rotations. This is applicable when the specialty is highly oversubscribed or for trainees wishing to secure a competitive post.
- Achievement of the specialty training certificate is also desirable for overseas students to enhance their training and job opportunities. Overseas students formed the majority of those taking the RCP exam and this group also had a significantly lower pass rate than home students. Particularly for overseas candidates, exposure to the clinical material covered by the curriculum may be limited and an endocrinology course may be both valuable in itself as a qualification, as well as a useful way of working through the exam syllabus.
- For student who complete the full MSc, the completion of the independent research project may provide an entry point and pathway into higher research training.

## Programme Specification Approval

**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Professor Maralyn Druce/Dr Nina Ravic

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

Professor Maralyn Druce

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:**

24.11.22

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:**

24.11.22 (via FMD TLC)