

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

for the award of

**Foundation Degree (FdSc) Paramedic Emergency Care**

**Managed by the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences**

**delivered by Department of Psychology, Health & Professional Development**

<b>Date approved:</b>	July 2005
<b>Applies to students commencing study in:</b>	Sep 2015

**RECORD OF UPDATES**

<b>Date amended*</b>	<b>Nature of amendment**</b>	<b>Reason for amendment**</b>
<b>September 2015</b>	<b>Review and update of the 2012 Programme Specification amending Sections 1;2.1;3;4.1;4.2;4.3;5.1;5.2;6.1;6.2;7;8;9;10</b>	<b>To ensure the Programme Specification reflect current academic/programme information.</b>

## SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Awarding body:</b>	Oxford Brookes University
<b>Teaching institution and location:</b>	Oxford Brookes University
<b>Language of study:</b>	English
<b>Final award:</b>	FdSc Paramedic Emergency Care
<b>Programme title:</b>	Foundation Degree Paramedic Emergency Care
<b>Interim exit awards and award titles available:</b>	Cert HE (unnamed) and FdSc Paramedic Emergency Care
<b>Brookes course code:</b>	HC12
<b>UCAS code:</b>	UCAS B780
<b>JACS code:</b>	B780
<b>HECoS code:</b>	100749
<b>Mode of delivery:</b>	Full-time (face to face/on-campus)
<b>Mode/s and duration of study:</b>	Full time (two years)
<b>QAA subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:</b>	Paramedic Science <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Paramedics-16.pdf">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-Paramedics-16.pdf</a>
<b>Professional accreditation attached to the programme:</b>	Health and Care Professions Council www.hcpc-uk.org Open-ended approval
<b>University Regulations:</b>	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: <a href="http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/">http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/</a>

## **SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?**

The fundamental aim of the FdSc in Paramedic Emergency Care is to enable students to successfully graduate and register with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) to practice as a paramedic.

Oxford Brookes University has offered contemporary paramedic education for over 12 years and the programme uses the rich variety of learning resources availability to aid students' development. During your studies on the programme there are opportunities to learn on profession specific and inter-professional education modules. These are designed to produce graduates who possess and demonstrate the professional qualities and attributes to practice effectively in health and social care provision. Building upon this background the programme of study has been developed through robust engagement between academics and South Central Ambulance Service, the programme's service partner. This design allows students to acquire and demonstrate safety in supported clinical practice settings.

Learning in clinical practice placements forms a major theme of your study with learning experiences in a variety of settings such as Emergency Departments, Ambulance Service and Operating Theatres during the programme. During these clinical placements students are supported by appropriate healthcare professionals to enhance their experiences and preparation for independent practice as a paramedic.

Following completion of their studies graduates from the FdSc Paramedic Emergency Care programme demonstrate extremely high rates of employment in the variety of roles available to contemporary paramedics with the majority securing employment with our service partner (South Central Ambulance Service).

As a student on the FdSc Paramedic Emergency Care programme you'll study as a Department of Psychology, Health & Professional Development (<http://ahpd.brookes.ac.uk/undergraduate>) student.

## **SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

### **3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY**

- a) Understand the importance of and be able to maintain confidentiality;
- b) Understand the importance of and be able to obtain informed consent;
- c) Understand the obligation to maintain fitness to practise;
- d) Be able to analyse and critically evaluate the information collected;
- e) Be able to monitor and review the ongoing effectiveness of planned activity and modify it accordingly.

### **3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY**

- a) Be able to use research, reasoning and problem solving skills to determine appropriate actions.

### **3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY**

- a) Be able to practise within the legal and ethical boundaries of their profession;
- b) Be able to practise in a non-discriminatory manner;
- c) Be able to exercise a professional duty of care;
- d) Be able to practise as an autonomous professional exercising their own professional judgement;
- e) Recognise the need for effective self-management of workload and be able to practise accordingly;
- f) Be able to work, where appropriate, in partnership with other professionals, support staff, service users and their relatives and carers;
- g) Be able to contribute effectively to work undertaken as part of a multi-disciplinary team;
- h) Be able to demonstrate effective and appropriate skills in communicating
- i) information, advice, instruction and professional opinion to colleagues, service users, their relatives and carers;

- j) Understand the need for effective communication throughout the care of the service user;
- k) Be able to gather appropriate information;
- l) Be able to select and use appropriate assessment techniques;
- m) Be able to undertake or arrange investigations as appropriate;
- n) Be able to draw on appropriate knowledge and skills in order to make professional judgements;
- o) Be able to formulate specific and appropriate management plans including the setting of timescales;
- p) Be able to conduct appropriate diagnostic or monitoring procedures, treatment, therapy or other actions safely and skilfully;
- q) Understand the need to establish and maintain a safe practice environment.

### 3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

- a) Be able to maintain records appropriately;
- b) Be able to audit, reflect on and review practice.

### 3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

- a) Know and understand the key concepts of the bodies of knowledge which are relevant to their profession-specific practice;
- b) Know how professional principles are expressed and translated into action through a number of different approaches to practice, and how to select or modify approaches to meet the needs of an individual, groups or communities.

## SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

### 4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework : Exam ratio
U4330 1	Developing Professional Practice in Emergency Medicine	15	4	Compulsory Single	100:0
U4330 2	Physiology for Paramedic and Perioperative Practice: Basic	30	4	Compulsory Double	100:0
U4331 0	Introduction to Emergency Medicine: Part 1	15	4	Compulsory Single	100:0
U4331 1	Introduction to Emergency Medicine: Part 2	30	4	Compulsory Double	100:0
U4370 8	Partnerships 1	15	4	Compulsory Single	100:0
U4330 3	Human Life Sciences Paramedic and Perioperative Application	15	4	Compulsory Single	100:0
U4332 0	Paramedic Skills	30	5	Compulsory Double	100:0
U4333 3	Clinical Examination and Intervention Skills	30	5	Compulsory Double	100:0
U4333 2	Minor Illness and Management	15	5	Compulsory Single	100:0
U4374 0	Research Awareness and Critical Appraisal	15	5	Compulsory Single	100:0
U4332 3	Developing Paramedic Skills	15	5	Compulsory Single	100:0
U4333 1	Developing Professional Judgement in Paramedic Practice	15	5	Compulsory Single	100:0

### 4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Students would normally be expected to follow the programme sequence and must complete and pass all modules in the programme to obtain the FdSc Paramedic Emergency care award. The Programme Handbook contains detailed information about which modules are pre-requisites for others. Whilst a Programme student you'll follow the Faculty rule that no practice based module may be failed more than once and a student may not fail more than one such module. A student who does so will be required to withdraw from the course.

Progression from Level 4 (year one) to Level 5 (year two) is dependent upon successfully completing all compulsory modules and associated clinical practice assessment.

Students must take and pass the mandatory skills required for fitness to practice as a student paramedic prior to undertaking clinical practice placements.

### **4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

The FdSc has open-ended approval from the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), who regulate paramedics in the United Kingdom. Completion of the programmes compulsory modules and award of a FdSc Paramedic Emergency Care would typically allow graduates eligible for registration with the HCPC as a paramedic.

Students who are awarded with a certificate in Higher Education (unnamed) are not eligible to apply for HCPC registration or use the professional title.

FdSc Paramedic Emergency Care Programme Specification 1st August 2015 Paramedic students must adhere to the HCPC and College of Paramedics standards for conduct, performance and ethics in order to safeguard the health and well-being of those who use or need the services we deliver. Students are required to commit to these standards during their studies, in addition to adhering to Oxford Brookes University regulations.

## **SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT**

The FdSc Paramedic Emergency Care curriculum has been developed to equip students with safe clinical care skills, application of theoretical knowledge in practice settings and achievement of graduate attributes to practice effectively as paramedics. Philosophically these programme attributes are reflective of contemporary paramedic practice and are supported by module teaching, learning and assessment strategies.

Development opportunities provided during module based teaching and learning includes seminars, action learning groups, simulated practical scenarios, problem-based learning, independent study and tutorial support. During these learning activities, at appropriate stages, formative feedback is provided by peers and academics to continual aid and enhances the learning of paramedic students. Teaching and learning activities are linked to module learning outcomes; integrating learning with existing knowledge and skills. Assessment tasks are utilised to provide formative and summative development opportunities. These take the shape of a variety of forms including coursework, unseen examinations and objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE's). Each module has an element of formative feedback built in to it; this provides preparation for summative assessment tasks.

Programme specific assessment strategies include, for example, portfolio of clinical practice, OSCE's for vital signs observations, airway management, emergency scenario management, presentations of independent learning based on practice experience of critical incidents. There are also written examinations and assignments for applied science topics and addressing the normal and altered physiology.

Clinical practice placement learning also occurs throughout each year of the programme, students will spend 750 hours in a variety of settings (year one typically 650 hours with SCAS and 100 hours of simulated practice; year two 84 hours in non-ambulance placements; 650 hours with SCAS and up-to 100 hours from simulated practice). This strategy develops students practice to provide unscheduled and undifferentiated care as a paramedic to service users, whilst allowing consolidation and development of more specialist skills or attributes in appropriate clinical settings. Teaching and learning in practice is driven by competency based assessment to develop safe care abilities through a continuous process of formal and informal feedback. Self-assessment by the student is an integral part of this process. Successful completion of all modules ensures students will achieve the appropriate learning outcomes relevant for the paramedic graduate environment; both Oxford Brookes University graduate attributes (articulated as academic literacy, research literacy, critical self-awareness and personal literacy, digital and information literacy and global citizenship) and the HCPC paramedic specific professional outcome Standards of Proficiency. The teaching, learning and assessment strategy ensure students are able to demonstrate safe practice in the core skills and attributes of paramedic practice.

## **SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME**

### **6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Further details and admissions requirements can be found on the Oxford Brookes website. The selection criteria used for admission to Oxford Brookes University provides a framework for fair selection based upon merit, qualification, experience and potential. The general admission policy is intended to open the course to applicants who satisfy the University's minimum entry requirements having followed the widest possible scope of academic studies.

As of September 2015, Admission to the Programme is only available to South Central Ambulance Service Student Paramedics who are recruited through a Trust and University Partnership.

We welcome applicants from all people representative of our diverse community and entry requirements are considered on an individual basis. Students must demonstrate evidence of recent academic study which meets the above tariff points.

All offers are subject to successful:

- Possession of a full clean UK Category B (car entitlement) & C1 driving licence (entitlement to drive a vehicle between 3500 – 7500 kg in weight).
- Occupational Health screening for fitness to undertake practice (including screening for Hepatitis A, B and C as well as HIV)
- Completion of an enhanced a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check,
- If English is your second language, you must be able to demonstrate that your level of English is of a sufficient standard (IELTS 7.0 or equivalent).
- Demonstrating possession of NHS Constitutional Values in a values-based interview

### **Qualification Equivalents**

Exceptionally, applicants who can demonstrate they have the knowledge and abilities equivalents to those possessed by holders of the qualifications listed above may be admitted with dispensation from the requirement to possess these qualifications.

### **Admission with Credit**

Applicants with prior certificated or experiential learning may be admitted with credit for up to a maximum of 120 credits at level 4. This route is typically used for South Central Ambulance Service employed student Paramedics who undergo a period of clinical development and practice placement experience following appointment to the course/Programme.

Application for the award of credit must be made in writing following discussion with the Course Leader. Documentary evidence will be required in support of the application and if considered to meet the learning outcomes of a Module (or Modules), an application for credit will be made to the Examinations Committee.

A student admitted with credit will, on admission, receive a written statement of the modifications of these Programme Regulations as they apply to him or her. The average mark of a student receiving credit will be calculated on the total number of remaining Modules for each year of study.

### **6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED**

All offers are made on condition of a satisfactory occupational health screening including Hepatitis A, B and C and HIV) at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

All applicants are required as a condition of acceptance to satisfactorily complete a criminal record disclaimer form and give their permission for us to obtain an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.

Applicants are screened in line with DHSS HC 88 (9) guidelines and the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 195, where spent and unspent criminal convictions (other than a protected

conviction) and spent and unspent cautions (other than a protected caution) must be disclosed.

## **SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT**

The award of a FdSc in Paramedic Emergency care provides eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC. Registration with the HCPC is compulsory to work as a paramedic in the UK.

There are many different career opportunities available to paramedics; most are employed by an NHS Ambulance Service such as SCAS. Increasingly for paramedics there are many opportunities to undertake further education or development to work in a specialist clinical practice role, undertake research, management, or leadership tasks or develop a career in education.

The team are attentive to preparing students for job applications and interview, seeking to provide an insight to their future career possibilities.

As with other professional practice programmes, clinical practice development is embedded throughout the curriculum and there are robustly sustained links with healthcare providers to maintain this. There is continual liaison with a range of stakeholders as part of the programme quality and development processes such as: Paramedic Partnership Meetings; Practice Placement Meetings and engagement with wider and/or strategic paramedic networks.

Throughout the programme clinical placements are situated within local NHS healthcare providers and include ambulance service periods along with more specialist opportunities. SCAS employees are involved in the recruitment of applicants to the FdSc Paramedic Emergency Care and our annual quality review activities.