

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

Postgraduate Health Sciences Open Award (HL72)

Comprising:

MSc Health Sciences
PG Diploma Health Sciences
PG Cert Health Sciences

Managed by the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

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

Date approved:	January 2016 (revised January 2019)
Applies to students commencing study in:	September 2019 and thereafter

RECORD OF UPDATES

Date amended	Nature of amendment	Reason for amendment
January 2019	Update to research and dissertation modules	Clearer pathways to avoid duplication of options

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Oxford Brookes University, Oxford campuses
Language of study:	English
Final award/s:	MSc
Programme title:	Health Sciences (bespoke title)
Interim exit awards and award titles available:	PGDip Health Sciences PGCert Health Sciences
Brookes course code:	HL72
UCAS code:	27762
JACS code:	B990
HECoS code:	100246
Mode of delivery: (Mode of Study given in brackets)	Face to face/on-campus (full-time) Face to face/on-campus (part-time) Distance learning (full-time) Distance learning (part-time)
Duration of study:	Full-time (1 year) or Part-time (up to 5 years)
Subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:	No subject benchmark statements available for generic degrees of this kind but cognisance has been taken of the FHEQ descriptors for Level 7
Professional accreditation attached to the programme:	N/A
Apprenticeship Standard:	N/A
University Regulations:	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/ Specific Regulations for Open Awards also apply.

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

This open award allows students in health and social care to build a bespoke Master's degree pathway by means of credit accumulation. The award capitalises upon opportunities for work-based learning and for bringing professional expertise and academic knowledge into dialogue. The recognition of the workplace as a forum for learning and development enables students to capitalise upon educational opportunities and to situate their professional practice in a rich context of academic theory. Students will accumulate the required 60 Level 7 credits for a Postgraduate Certificate of Higher Education; 120 Level 7 credits for a Postgraduate Diploma of Higher Education; and 180 Level 7 credits to fulfil the requirements for a Master's degree. Relevant credits may be gained entirely within the Oxford Brookes modular framework or may derive up to two thirds of total credit from AP[E]L recognition of credit gained elsewhere. Students are able to nominate the title of their award, subject to approval of the Open Award programme committee, or they may default to the title 'MSc Health Sciences'.

The overall aims of the Health Sciences Award programme are to:

- provide a learner-centred approach through the facility for students to identify their own learning needs and design an individual programme to meet those needs;
- offer students for whom a suitable educational programme does not exist, the opportunity to plan, implement and review their own individual programme of learning;
- provide a flexible framework within which students may use learning from a range of sources in achieving their award;
- offer students the opportunity to claim credit for both certificated and experiential prior learning and to integrate this credit into the learning programme;
- provide opportunities for substantial use of work-based or vocational elements in meeting learning needs;
- develop independence and creativity through the opportunity for students to manage their own learning programmes.

Students will have recourse to a wide range of support personnel and support mechanisms during their time on the programme. These include an Academic Advisor who will oversee student progress and will assist in informing the selection of appropriate modules for the award; the student Support Co-ordinators who provide one to one support, advice, guidance and encouragement to help students progress through their chosen programme; the learning development and academic skills unit known as 'Upgrade'; the library facilities; disability Services; and Students' Union.

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

- theorise and find solutions for professional practice to an advanced level
- demonstrate depth of knowledge and mastery of skill in own area of professional practice;
- autonomously synthesise information and create responses to problems that expand or redefine existing knowledge;

3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

- demonstrate a rigorous research approach to further develop the evidence base of own professional practice;
- develop the ability to design and conduct a piece of research, or manage a project, for a dissertation, to further understanding and/or development of some area of health or social care;

3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

- demonstrate autonomy within the boundaries of professional practice;

- deal with complexity and contradictions in the knowledge base and make a confident and reasoned selection of actions;
- demonstrate a robust commitment to scholarship and its integration into own professional practice;

3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

- explore and utilise the current limits of knowledge in seeking to develop new approaches or engage in innovative practice;
- effectively locate information from multiple sources using systematic manual and electronic searching techniques in order to develop coherent evidence based practice arguments;
- engage effectively in a range of learning methods including the virtual environment and digital communication;

3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

- independently evaluate and formulate solutions in dialogue with peers, clients and others.

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

The sole compulsory requirement of the MSc Health Sciences is that all students complete a research methods/project management module and a dissertation/project management module. There are three routes to meeting this requirement, represented in three combinations of alternate compulsory modules:

Alternate compulsory combination 1	P44606 Applied Research Methods (10 CATS)	P44607 Dissertation (50 CATS)
Alternate compulsory combination 2	P49210 Advanced Research Design (20 CATS)	P49215 Dissertation (60 CATS)
Alternate compulsory combination 3	P44061 Applied Research Design (10 CATS)	P44062 Dissertation in Advanced Practice (50 CATS)

Beyond this compulsory element, students may take any combination of modules within the Faculty, provided they meet the prerequisites of the module, and provided the resulting programme is coherent, engages with the graduate attributes, and does not mirror an extant programme. Students are supported in planning an individual programme of study designed to support and reflect their professional role and requirements. An individually planned programme must be submitted to the Open Award programme committee, where it is scrutinised for coherence and relevance in meeting the stated aims and its compliance with the University Open Award regulations.

Titles

The student may agree a title with the Open Award Programme Committee in accordance with regulation B3-1. Titles must reflect the programme or study, and they may not be significantly similar to the titles of other extant awards at Oxford Brookes University. If the student does not propose a title or fails to reach agreement with the Open Award Programme Committee, the generic titles 'MSc Health Sciences' or 'PGDip Health Sciences' or 'PGCert Health Sciences' shall be used to confer an exit award.

4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

To be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or a Master's Degree a student

must have obtained 60, 120 or 180 credits at level 7 respectively. At least one third of all credit must be attained at Oxford Brookes University. The minimum period of continuous enrolment immediately prior to the award being made is one semester for Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma, and it is two semesters for a Master's Degree.

The programme conforms to the University's Open Award Regulations (B-3).

4.3 PROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

N/A.

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

There is a commitment to student-centred learning, with an emphasis on contracted learning activities and educational staff acting as facilitators. It is recognised that students are experienced professionals whose skills and knowledge have led them to design and undertake individual programmes of learning. Their programmes will build on existing knowledge and skills, and will provide opportunities for academic learning whilst further developing the professional practice of self and others. In order to draw on students' experience and prior learning, and encourage innovation and development within the practice areas, a student-centred and facilitative approach is taken to teaching and learning.

Student-centred learning is achieved through a partnership approach, wherein students design their own bespoke programme. It is acknowledged that students are best placed to identify own learning needs.

Tutors are available for guidance, to give feedback, and to allow students test out ideas and develop own plans and arguments.

The assessment methods will, to a large extent, be dependent upon the modules selected by an individual student for inclusion in a programme. Postgraduate Attributes are developed through the programme, and their development is confirmed by the Open Award programme committee. Students can expect to be introduced to the concept of Postgraduate Attributes during induction, and will have tutorial discussions with their academic advisor, which will focus on identifying module content and activities leading to their acquisition of Postgraduate Attributes, and their experience of them.

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The following entry requirements apply:

- Entry normally requires a UK/EU first degree or equivalent overseas degree from a recognised institution. Subject to approval by Oxford Brookes University, equivalent professional or other qualifications applicable to health and social care can be considered under some circumstances, particularly if the student is registered as a health or social care professional.
- Evidence of recent study (within the last 5 years) at degree or equivalent level is highly desirable. Students who do not hold a first UK/EU degree or equivalent overseas degree from a recognised institution (taken within the last 5 years) OR students who have not studied at degree or equivalent level within the last 5 years will be required to write and submit an assignment which will be taken into account as part of their application.
- Six months' experience as a student, employee or volunteer within the health / social care sector (European or International; public, private or voluntary) will normally be required.
- In order to engage in any work-based learning, the student must be employed in a health or social care role, and have achieved appropriate registration with a relevant United Kingdom professional body.

- For student whose first degree is not in English and for whom English is not a native language:
 - IELTS 6.0 or above (with 6.0 in reading and writing, 5.5 in listening and speaking), or alternatively
 - PTE 58 or above (with 51 in reading and writing, 51 in listening and speaking)

6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED

Not applicable.

6.3 JOB ROLE/EMPLOYER PROFILE (DEGREE AND HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS)

Not applicable.

SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Most students will be in-service health or social care professionals already undertaking or aspiring to management and leadership roles who are seeking career advancement linked to academic progression. Others will be in the process of refocusing career and study opportunities and may be between jobs in the sector. Postgraduate awards are increasingly required for higher career grades within the public sector.

The curricular and pedagogic regime of the programme includes considerable input from employers and practice partners – both in terms of curriculum co-production and in terms of programme contributions from visiting speakers from relevant industries/professions. Students undertaking work-based learning modules will require employer sign-off on their learning contracts by the end of Week 1 of the relevant semester.