

Programme Specification: MSc Pain Management

NOTE: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detail on the specific learning outcomes, indicative content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found (1) at <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/health>, (2) in the Module Specifications and (3) in the Student Handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked within independent review processes undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Awarding Institution / Body:	Birmingham City University
Teaching Institution:	Birmingham City University
Interim Awards and Final Award:	Post Graduate Certificate Pain Management Post Graduate Diploma Pain Management MSc Pain Management
Programme Title:	MSc Pain Management
Main fields of Study:	Pain Management
Modes of Study:	Full time/Part time
Language of Study:	English
UCAS Code:	N/A
JACS Code:	

Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external reference points used to inform programme outcomes:

- Standard Post Graduate Assessment Regulations 2
- QAA Level Descriptors Academic Level 7
- Learning and Teaching Strategy matrix
- Knowledge Skills Framework (KSF)
- Darzi matrix
- Older Adult Matrix
- Inter-professional Learning Matrix

Programme Philosophy and Aims

Pain is a complex and multi-faceted experience and therefore necessitates management via multidisciplinary interventions. These interventions must be based on best available evidence, valid study and advanced knowledge of the diverse concepts concerned.

In order that practitioners may become future leaders in this field of health care, they need to undergo a process of structured learning that leads to academic recognition. They need to draw on advanced knowledge in order to develop professional skills of the highest order. By attaining knowledge and understanding of the multidimensional aspects of pain and its effective management, practitioners will be enabled to undertake holistic pain assessment, reflect critically and make decisions based upon available evidence. They will also be better able to take responsibility for improving and reshaping pain management delivery

The MSc Pain Management is designed to address these needs.

The aims of the programme are to:

- Develop practitioners who are able to respond appropriately and be proactive in managing the care of the patient in pain with complex needs, in a variety of settings.
- Enhance and expand the specialist knowledge and skills of practitioners in order for them to facilitate the development of pain management within the health care arena so as to improve care provision
- Facilitate practitioners to critically analyse their own, and others, clinical practice in order to challenge established ideas and methods regarding pain and its management.
- Promote a multi disciplinary team (MDT) approach to pain management in relation to relevant evidence based guidelines incorporating expertise from other specialist fields of practice.

Intended learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated:

Learning Outcomes¹

By the end of the programme the student will be able to:

- Critically analyse current theories of physiological and pharmacological basis of pain management.
- Evaluate pain assessment strategies in relation to specific pain processes.
- Differentiate between pain types and discuss the implications of this for pain service delivery.
- Formulate collaborative intervention strategies for the effective management of pain within an efficient pain management service.
- Debate current ideas on the biopsychosocial aspects of effective pain management delivery.
- Appraise pain service delivery from a strategic perspective, challenging hierarchical, professional and organisational boundaries through the use of an evidence base where possible.
- Evaluate the impact of variables such as, age, gender, spirituality, family issues and culture on the experience and management of pain.
- Critically assess health care law, professional accountability and the ethical and legal implications related to pain management.
- Successfully complete an identified assessment from the Dissertation module at Masters level that demonstrates the application of knowledge, skills and attitudes inherent in implementing change and leading care delivery in the provision of pain management.

Learning teaching, and assessment methods used

Students are provided with an induction to the university and the programme.

Learning and teaching methods consist of lectures, team teaching, case study presentation, group/individual tutorials and debates. Students also engage in on-line learning activities. MOODLE is used for discussion forums where students are able to build on experiences and share good practice.

Time tabled session from the librarian on how to access resources electronically to support evidence based learning.

Assessment:

Formative assessment occurs throughout the programme through seminars, tutorials, class presentations and case study work.

Summative assessment is via assignments (incorporating critiques of published papers and use of case study), individual presentations and posters, compiling a research proposal at Masters level or other project and finally through dissertation project.

¹ Guidance on the specification of learning outcomes is available from the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching.

Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

The structure of the course, the modules, levels and credit values, and the awards which can be gained are shown in the diagram below.

Stage 1

Module Number	Module Title	Credits
LBR7042	The Physiology of Pain and its Pharmacological Management	15
LBR****	Pharmacological Management of Pain	15
LBR7129 or LBR7130	Research Theory and Practice (Quantitative and Qualitative methods or Evidence Based Practice)	15
LBR****	Symptom Management in Palliative and End of Life Care	15
Award: Postgraduate Certificate Pain Management (60 credits of which at least 40 at level 7)		

Stage 2

Module Number	Module Title	Credits
LBR****	Non Pharmacological Management of Pain	15
LBR7044	Psychological and Sociological Perspectives on Pain	15
LBR 7046	Ethics and Law Relating to Pain Management	15
	Optional Module	15
Award: Postgraduate Diploma Pain Management (120 credits of which at least 90 must be at level 7)		

Stage 3

Module Number	Module Title	Credits
LBR7017	Dissertation/Systematic Review/Management Project	60
Award: Master's Degree Pain Management (180 credits of which at least 150 must be at level 7)		

Support for Learning including Personal Development Planning (PDP)

Students are encouraged to identify and, with guidance, to reflect on their own learning needs and are offered the following support as appropriate to meet those needs:

- A Programme student handbook containing information specific to the Programme and its modules
- Guidance in the choice of modules is offered by the Programme Director
- Access to IT support staff and dedicated Faculty library staff
- Support for academic skills such as referencing, essay writing, critical analysis from the Faculty's Personal Development Department
- Access to the University's Student Services which include assistance and support for learning skills, careers advice, financial advice, medical and disability services, crèche, counselling and chaplaincy
- Support from the Union of Students for a range of services

Criteria for admission

Candidates must satisfy the general admission requirements of the programme.

The current admission requirements can be found under the 'Entry Requirements' tab of the web page for this course.

Methods for evaluation and enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students

- The University, Faculty Health and the programme team are committed to continuous evaluation, quality monitoring and enhancement of programmes of study. There are a number of strategies, policies, procedures and guidance that are in place within the Faculty of Health to ensure evaluation, enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students.
- Students' views can be expressed in Boards of Studies, module and programme evaluations, the Associate Dean (Academic and Quality Enhancement) Forum, online discussion forums and surveys. Students are also invited to meet with External Examiners, attend programme Quality days and meet with external quality monitoring programme reviewers.
- There are a number of committees where the programme team, practice partners and service-users meet to ensure that the programme is current and responsive to local and national developments and policy. These include Curriculum working group and programme team meetings.
- Changes to the programme are reviewed and accepted by the Faculty Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee and can only be approved following consultation with students, external examiners and practice partners.
- An exception reporting annual programme monitoring report is produced each academic year which includes feedback from students. The annual programme monitoring report is reviewed and approved by external examiners. Action points are raised to be developed and reviewed for the following academic year. In addition the annual programme monitoring report is peer-reviewed.

- Assessment procedures are updated by the Academic Quality Office to ensure that they are rigorous and fair. Bench marking statements are used to monitor achievement rates. Marking and moderating policies are in place to ensure that the procedures for assessment are transparent and students' work is reviewed by External Examiners, who also attend Programme Exam Boards, Quality Days and have opportunity to meet with students.
- There are committees in the Faculty of Health that contribute to the evaluation and ongoing quality monitoring. The Executive Committee and Faculty Board are the overarching committees in the Faculty of Health. Policies, procedures and guidance is scrutinised by the Faculty Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee.