Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	**Module Title**	Enhanced Surgical Skills for the Surgical First Assistant
2	**Module Credits**	20
3	**Module Level**	7
4	**Module Code**	LBR7725
5	**Semester Taught**	2

6	**Module Overview**

This module allows you, a graduate registered theatre practitioner working as a Surgical First Assistant (SFA), to build upon the skills and knowledge you attained in the BCU 'Developing Surgical First Assistance' module or similar university accredited course to develop and evaluate your SFA role within the framework of the PCC (2018) recommendations whilst remaining aware of professional and legal responsibilities and maintaining a professional identity under a framework of transparency.

This module aligns with the Professional Practice Programme philosophy and is designed to be flexible and practice-led. You will have the opportunity to develop skills of enquiry, evaluation and problem solving. A blended learning approach incorporates classroom sessions, skills workshops and online activities via Moodle in line with the university's learning and teaching strategy. You will be encouraged to critique and share practice experiences with your fellow students to explore the role of the SFA and develop future learning needs in relation to acquiring the enhanced surgical skills required for practice. As well as engaging in both directed and self-directed learning activities, you will be an active partner in your own learning and development and there will be opportunities to discuss your progress with the module team.

You will be supported in your placement area by a mentor (consultant surgeon or surgical care practitioner) who will facilitate your learning in practice to help you achieve the outcomes of the module. Your mentor will be responsible for overseeing your experience in the surgical setting, liaising with the module lead as required.

7	**Indicative Content**

Wound healing and electrosurgery
Wound drainage
Pharmacology
Local anaesthetic infiltration and
Wound closure, knot tying and skin suturing
Surgical skills workshops
Basic surgical skills such as skin suturing & knot tying
Subcuticular injection of LA

8	Module Learning Outcomes On successful completion of the module, you will be able to:	
	1	Demonstrate competence when performing enhanced surgical skills
	2	Demonstrate awareness of skin anatomy and physiology to support wound closure and healing
	3	Identify pharmacology of local anaesthetic agents and evaluate the physiological effects to ensure patient safety
	4	Critically evaluate the methods available for surgical wound drainage, selection and fixation and application to ensure patient safety

9	Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome Number	**Coursework**	**Exam (100%)**	**In-Person (pass/Fail)**
1			**X**
2		**X**	
3		**X**	
4		**X**	

10	Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities
	An overview of the total study hours for this module and learning and teaching activities is included in this table. Please note that this module is taught at BCU's campus in Birmingham and is also delivered via formal collaborative arrangements at approved BCU institutional partners within the UK and/or overseas. To account for in-country requirements, there *may* be some variation to the breakdown of learning and teaching activities at BCU's institutional partners. Where this is the case, both BCU's standard delivery model and any variations for specific partners will be detailed below in separate tables.

Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Details of Duration, Frequency and other comments**
BCU Standard Delivery:		
Scheduled Learning includes lectures, practical classes and workshops as specified in timetable. For blended learning modules, delivery can include: • In person • Asynchronous (guided, curated content) • Synchronous (live online)	15 hours **Breakdown:** • In-person: 7.5 hours • Synchronous: 7.5 hours	For example: 1 hr lecture x 1 2hr lecture x 3 7.5 hours workshop

Directed Learning (non-curated) includes placements, work-based learning, peer group learning external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	30 hours	Placement As directed on Moodle
Private Study includes preparation for exams	155 hours	Revision Mock exam Preparation for assessments Mentor meetings and feedback Reflection SWOT analysis
Total Study Hours	200 hours	

11	**Key Texts and Online Learning Resources**

McGurk, S. (2012) Medical Pharmacology at a Glance – Seventh edition. Medical Pharmacology at a Glance – Seventh edition. *Nursing standard*. [Online] 27 (1), 30–30.

Myint, F. & Kirk, R. M. *(2019) Kirk's Basic Surgical Techniques. Seventh Edition. Edinburgh ; Elsevier.*

Peate, I. & Stephens, M. (2020) *Wound care at a glance*. Second edition. Hoboken, NJ, USA: Wiley Blackwell.

Quick, J and Owen, M (2025) The Surgical First Assistant: Essentials of Practice. London: Wiley.

Whalan, C. (2006) *Assisting at surgical operations a practical guide*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.