



UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

Faculty of Health

School of Health Professions

Programme Specification

MSc Medicine in Hazardous Area Response

Academic Year 2021/22

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Appendix 1 - Programme Specification Mapping (PGT)

1. Award Title

Final award title: MSc Medicine in Hazardous Area Response

Level 7 Intermediate award title(s):

PGDip Medicine in Hazardous Area Response

Level 7 Intermediate award title(s):

PGCert Medicine in Hazardous Area Response

UCAS code

JACS code

HECOS code

2. Awarding Institution: University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. Accrediting body(ies): N/A

There is no requirement for this pathway to be approved/accredited by a professional or regulatory body.

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

This is the first Masters level programme of study in the UK, designed solely for Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) paramedics. The HART specific modules take into account vocational training already completed and use these experiences and knowledge as a prerequisite for study.

In the fast developing environment of paramedic practice, the Medicine in Hazardous Area Response pathway recognises the value and contribution to patient care being made by this group, in the context of other paramedic roles that have already become 'Specialist' areas of practice.

The pathway has been developed in conjunction with the local ambulance service and takes a largely distance learning approach in order to facilitate easier study for busy paramedics that work full time. This approach means that the pathway would not be suitable for Tier 4 international students, who would need to physically attend all modules.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group

The programme is informed by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Master's Degree Characteristics Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2010)

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Masters-degree-characteristics.pdf>

SEEC Level Descriptors (2010).

www.seec.org.uk/academic-credit/seec-credit-level-descriptors-2010

6. Pathway Structure

The Medicine in Hazardous Area Response pathway offers various academic level awards, ranging from Postgraduate Certificate to Postgraduate Diploma and ending with Master of Science degree. The name of the award will remain the same and the level of qualification change to reflect the academic credits achieved. This approach is already used successfully by the Prehospital Critical Care/Retrieval and Transfer pathway at the University of Plymouth.

Students on the MiHAR pathway must complete the HART specific modules to achieve the MSc/PGDip/PGCert Medicine in Hazardous Area Response. However, there is some flexibility in relation to the order of this. The HART specific modules can be undertaken in any order. For example, depending on personal preference of the student, timetabling and specific student development plans, there may be flexibility for some other modules within the programme to be taken at different points, based on the individual academic experience of the student. The research proposal and research dissertation would have to be completed in that set order.

Whether study is undertaken on a full/part time basis, the requirement for completion of specific modules does not change.

All decisions regarding any deviation from the planned pathway structure would be made based on the individual specific situation, and the capacity of the

University to be able to agree to their request (bearing in mind module timings, candidate numbers etc).

Some students, particularly those self-funding may also make the choice to just complete individual modules based on areas of specific interest.

The full time route will normally take one year and the part time route will normally take three years. The maximum registration period for the full time registrant is three years and 5 years for the part time student.

All modules are 20 credits apart from dissertation which is 60 credits.

Full Time Study (modules delivered/assessed in 'greyed out semester)

Year	Modules (and Credits)	Semester 1	Semester 2
1	ADV 702 Applying Evidence to Practice (20)		
	ADV769 Patient Management in Hazardous Environments (20)		
	ADV712 Independent Study (20)		
	ADV771 Patient Management in Terrorist Incidents (20)		
	ADV772 Patient Management in High Consequence Infectious Diseases (20)		
	ADV715 Project Design for Research (20)		
	ADV716 Research Dissertation (60)		

Part Time Study - example of a 3 year route (modules delivered/assessed in 'greyed out semester)

Year	Modules (and Credits)	Semester 1	Semester 2
1	ADV 702 Applying Evidence to Practice (20)		
	ADV769 Patient Management in Hazardous Environments (20)		
	ADV712 Independent Study (20)		
2	ADV771 Patient Management in Terrorist Incidents (20)		
	ADV772 Patient Management in High Consequence Infectious Diseases (20)		
	ADV715 Project Design for Research (20)		
3	ADV716 Research Dissertation (60)		

Distance Learning

Most modules on this pathway have been developed to provide options for our students to undertake their learning from a distance. This offers a more flexible approach for those undertaking study whilst working and will involve the provision of webinars across modules that can be accessed in real time, or at the students convenience.

7. Pathway Aims

The aim of the MSc Medicine in Hazardous Area Response pathway is to equip professionals with knowledge and skills that advance practice by:

- The understanding, thinking, questioning and reasoning skills of prehospital emergency care professionals in order to enhance their efficiency, effectiveness and creativity in professional practice
- Developing theoretical knowledge underpinning their own prehospital emergency care practice
- Critically reviewing trends in theory, practice and management relating to prehospital emergency care
- Develop critical awareness of the contemporary issues influencing the organisation and delivery of services and to appraise and apply changes in prehospital, emergency care practice
- Promote an understanding of philosophy and procedures involved in research and use of evidence
- Develop and apply research skills in a systematic investigation.

8. Pathway Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1 Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion, graduates should have developed:

1. A deep, comprehensive and systematic understanding in key aspects of hazardous area response
2. A critical understanding of international, national and local policies and guidelines informing practice in hazardous area response
3. An ability to apply in-depth knowledge and advanced skills to the practice area of hazardous area response to lead and develop services
4. A critical and systematic understanding of decision making theory used to make decisions in professional practice
5. A critical and systematic understanding of the research process from project development through to implementation including critical review of evidence.

8.2 Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. The ability to flexibly and creatively relate their advanced knowledge base, skills and professional behaviour to the hazardous area response practice area
2. The ability to use personal reflection to analyse self and own actions, through a critical thinking, problem solving, enquiry based approach and be able to influence and implement change
3. The ability to critically evaluate the competencies and components required for safe, efficient and ethical prehospital emergency care
4. The ability to autonomously formulate, propose and justify advanced assessment management plans for a wide range of situations relevant to hazardous area response practice
5. The ability to critically evaluate evidence based research in order to apply it appropriately to the hazardous area response practice area
6. The knowledge to design and conduct a research project from conception to implementation addressing a relevant area of professional practice, through the selection of appropriate prehospital emergency care approaches and critical evaluation of the effectiveness
7. The ability to demonstrate exemplary leadership qualities to allow the sharing of best practice within complex prehospital emergency care environments.

8.3 Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Critically evaluate relevant information in hazardous area response in order to determine appropriate actions, interventions and management
2. Critically apply ethical and legal judgements within complex decision making scenarios
3. Critically apply contemporary policy and guidelines in relation to hazardous area response
4. Formulate a research question, design a study and undertake a substantial investigation into an aspect of hazardous area response

5. Systematically and critically review databases using appropriate search terms relevant to the question under investigation
6. Undertake and critically evaluate data collection using qualitative and quantitative methods as appropriate
7. Write up research findings, using a high level of abstraction and employ a high standard of academic fidelity appropriate for publication.

8.4 Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. Advanced communication skills required to liaise with the wider healthcare team as well as other emergency services involved in hazardous area response
2. An ability to systematically review the evidence base within the prehospital emergency care practice area
3. Ability to critically apply knowledge and skills to an individual area of practice
4. Critical application of the principles and practices of Governance
5. A problem solving approach to the area of hazardous area response based on critical reflection, appraisal and application of evidence
6. The ability to write clinical research questions and to design a research project to be carried out in the area of hazardous area response.

8.5 Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Autonomously perform advanced research skills
2. Demonstrate exemplary communication and leadership qualities when working within a prehospital emergency care environment
3. Use critical personal reflection to problem solve the critical application of skills in a problem solving approach
4. Autonomously identify, evaluate and maintain their own capabilities and qualities through critical reflection and reflexivity.

9 Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements

In order to commence this pathway, the student must meet the University's entry requirements for study at postgraduate level.

Applicants will normally be employed as a hazardous area response team operative; however, they may have relevant qualifications/experience from other areas of practice such as nurses and doctors. They will be registered with a relevant professional body (HCPC; GMC; NMC). Applications from candidates should normally have a first degree, BSc (Hons) in a related subject, at 2.2 or above or European first cycle equivalent. Those with a diploma are eligible to apply, provided they can demonstrate a successful qualification at level 6 learning or complete an upgrade assignment.

The MSc Medicine in Hazardous Area Response pathway specific modules have prerequisite qualifications that relate to the module content, these prerequisites are detailed in the table below.

Summary of prerequisites for MSc Medicine in Hazardous Area Response specific modules (ADV769, ADV771, ADV772)	
Module	Requirement
ADV769 - Patient Management in Hazardous Areas	Evidence of attainment or evidence of recertification (must show currency/compliance on application) of 2 of the following HART / NARU recognised qualifications in the areas of ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Working at Height • HazMat/ CBRNe Extended Duration Breathing Apparatus • Water Operations • Confined spaces <p>Or alternative qualifications deemed as demonstrating similar assessed learning outcomes to the above</p>
ADV 771 - Patient Management in Terrorist Incidents	Evidence of attainment and/or currency of the HART / NARU Incident Response Unit (IRU) course and Maurading terrorist attacks and/or Support Security Operations <p>Or alternative qualifications deemed as demonstrating similar assessed learning outcomes to the above</p>
ADV772 - Patient Management in High Consequence Infectious Diseases	Evidence of attainment and/or currency of the HART / NARU Incident Response Unit (IRU) course and High Consequence Infectious Diseases <p>Or alternative qualifications deemed as demonstrating similar assessed learning outcomes to the above</p>

Applicants whose first language is not English must also provide evidence of competence in written and spoken English i.e. IELTS average of 6.5, with a minimum of 5.5 in each part.

Potential students will be assessed individually for their ability to study at this level and therefore an interview may be necessary. Candidates may be required to submit a short piece of writing as part of the admissions process.

Due to the design of the MiHAR pathway and its combination of pre-existing modules and specific, distance led HART modules, student numbers for intake each year are reasonably flexible. In order to establish the programme initially and consolidate it during its early years, proposed maximum numbers of 12 students per intake are suggested. As mentioned above, the distance led approach to the HART specific modules means that they can be economical to run with far fewer numbers. However, this will be a decision made at a Head of School level.

Applicants to this pathway may be commissioned / sponsored or self-funded. All applications will be to the Professional Development Unit and the final decision of whether a student is accepted to a programme of study rests with the pathway lead for University of Plymouth.

APL (including APEL and APCL):

Claims for credit of prior learning, whether certificated or experiential, are accepted and will be assessed following university regulations and faculty procedures. APL is not accepted against ADV715 and ADV716 because of the requirement to undertake their dissertation with a project supervisor at University of Plymouth. Therefore the maximum at APL to this pathway is 100 credits.

10. Progression routes/criteria for progression to Final and Intermediate Awards

Postgraduate certificate in: 60 credits: Three 20 credit modules are required: Core module (20); and two core pathway modules (20 + 20 credits)

Postgraduate Diploma in: 120 credits are required: 2 core modules (40 credits) + 80 credit core pathway modules.

Masters in: 180 credits: 2 core modules (40 credits) + 80 credits core pathway modules + 60 credit dissertation

Successful completion of this pathway does not lead to eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

11. Non Standard Regulations

The following non-standard regulations are applied to this award:

- All elements and components of assessment within the programme must be achieved, with a minimum of 50% for all percentage-weighted assessments.
- There is no compensation within or across modules.

12. Transitional Arrangements for existing students looking to progress onto the programme

There are no transitional arrangements as this is a new pathway and a development of a previous offer. Students who are eligible, who have already achieved the generic modules (ADV702, ADV712, ADV715, and ADV716) but not used them for achievement of a specific award, can then enrol/transfer onto the MSc Medicine in Hazardous Area Response pathway.

13. Disability Services

This pathway is designed to enable students through an equitable experience. We work collegiately with expert colleagues in Disability Services (within the Student Hub) to ensure students, who consider studying the MSc Advanced Professional Practice (Health and Social Care Professions) receive timely advice on the support available. Students can declare a support requirement or disability – via the ‘Disclosure for applicants’ pages.

Reasonable adjustments can be made for all students who require them. The University of Plymouth has a duty to make anticipatory ‘reasonable adjustments’ to make sure disabled students are not discriminated against. This can be achieved by changing provisions, criteria or practices, more information can be found here in relation to [reasonable adjustment](#).

Appendix 1

Programme Specification Mapping (PGT)

Programme Specification Mapping (PGT): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes

Tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes. Insert rows and columns as required.

Module	Credits	C - core E - elective	Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																												Compensation Y/N	Assessment element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical		
			Knowledge & understanding					Cognitive & intellectual skills							Key & transferable skills							Employment related skills						Practical skills						
			1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3			4	
ADV702	20	C					X					X					X							X				X				X	N	C1
ADV769	20	C	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X							X		X	X	X			X	X	N	C1
ADV712	20	C						X	X		X	X		X		X							X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	N	C1
Learning Outcomes 60 credits			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
ADV771 (Terrorist Incidents)	20	C	X	X	X	X		X		X	X				X	X	X							X		X	X	X			X	X	N	C1
ADV 772 (Infectious Diseases)	20	C	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X							X		X	X	X			X	X	N	C1
ADV715	20	C					X	X										X										X	X			X	N	C1
Learning Outcomes 120 credits			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
ADV716	60	C					X	X			X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X						X	X			X	N	C1	
Learning Outcomes 180 credits			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Confirmed Award Los			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			