



**UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH**

Faculty of Health
School of Health Professions

MSc Advanced Professional Practice (APP) Dietetics Pathway Guide

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Introduction

This MSc APP Dietetics meets an identified need for qualified, registered dietitians to engage in post-graduate education to advance their knowledge and professional dietetic skills. This post-graduate pathway can be undertaken on a full-time basis over 1 year or 5 years part-time alongside employment, supporting practicing dietitians to attain their MSc in Advanced Professional Practice in Dietetics.

The award is achieved through a combination of postgraduate study and reflection on practical experience. Within the UK, a higher degree aids progression to senior posts within the NHS and the Higher Education sector, placing added value on the acquisition of an MSc APP Dietetics for professionals working in this field.

The programme includes specific 'core modules' that must be achieved. Students will also select four 20 credit optional modules. Each module relates to an element of professional practice that can be adapted to meet their specific dietetic practice. For example, 'Dietetic Practice: Supported Study' enables students to reflect on and critically evaluate a key aspect of their personal practice, within the context of self-directed study, aimed at fostering an innovative approach to problem solving.

Other distinctive features of the pathway and the student experience are:

- Taught by a multi-disciplinary research active team with international, national and local profiles, who will provide support to students to develop their research questions
- Assessment strategy designed to link to student's workplace or personal focus to increase application to practice e.g. service delivery plans, action planning, case studies
- Use of blended learning as a mode of delivery incorporating study blocks and distance learning technologies.
- Flexible study pathways allowing students to study at their own pace from full-time to part-time.
- Support to publish and present dissertation work where appropriate in peer reviewed journals and at national and international conferences
- Opportunities to apply knowledge and skills to individual's area of clinical practice
- Support for applications to progress to PhD level study.

Programme Aims

The aim of the pathway is to equip dietitians with skills that advance practice by:

- Promoting the understanding, thinking, questioning and reasoning skills required of a dietitian to enhance their efficiency, effectiveness and creativity in professional practice.
- Developing a critical and analytical approach to dietetic practice
- Creating a deeper comprehension of the theoretical knowledge and clinical skills underpinning dietetic practice
- Applying best available research evidence to dietetic practice
- Developing life long learning skills
- Empowering individuals to take a leading roles in developing practice and education
- Promoting an understanding of philosophy and procedures involved in research and use of evidence to develop and research project related to dietetic practice.
- Developing and applying research skills in a systematic investigation.

Programme Structure

The MSc APP Dietetics pathway offers the awards of Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or Master of Science degree. 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.

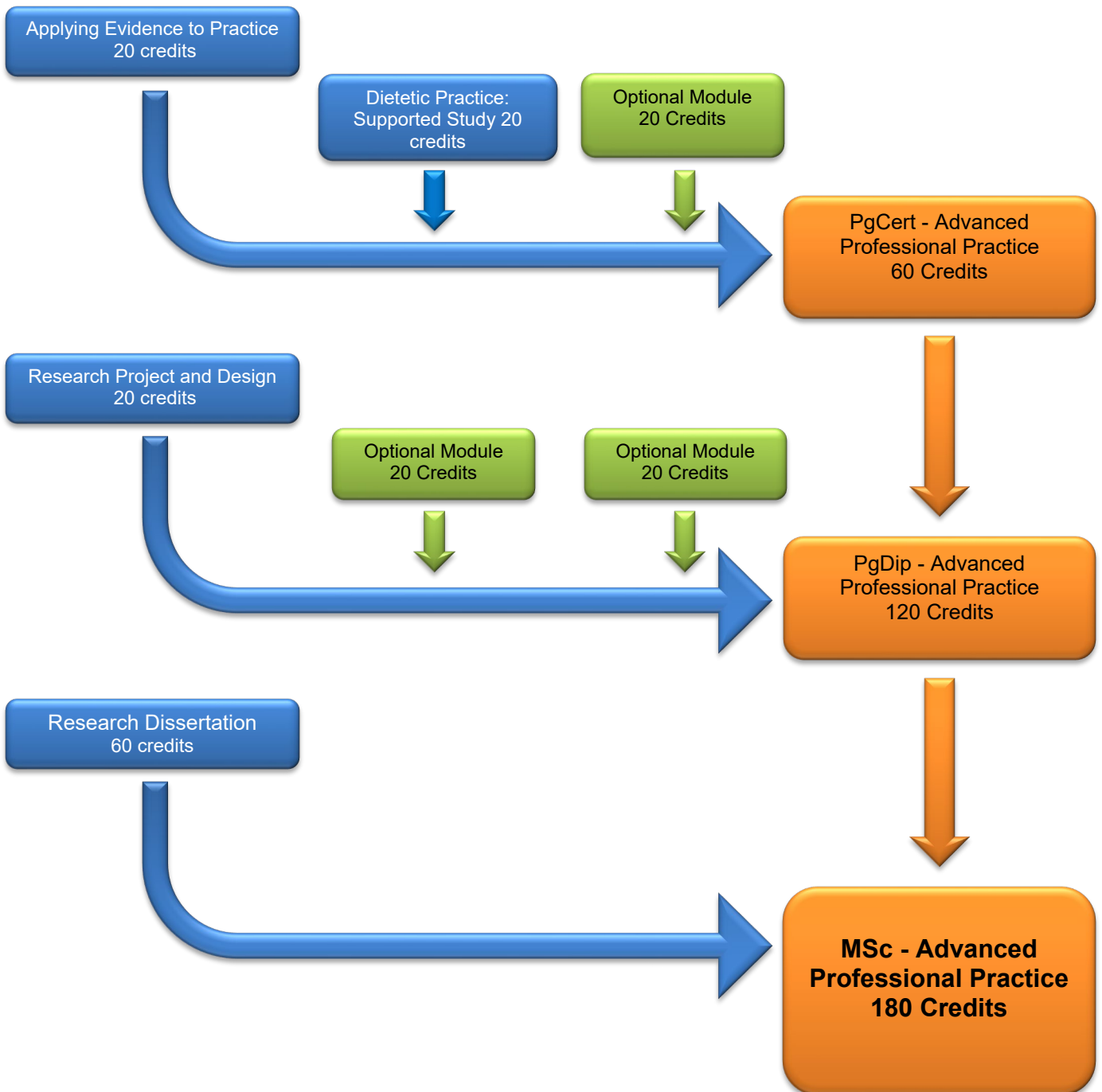
The pathway will include the following core modules:

- ADV702 Applying Evidence to Practice (20 credits)
- ADV749 Dietetic Practice: Supported Study (20 credits)
- ADV715 Project Design for Research (20 credits)
- ADV716 Research Dissertation (60 credits)

Students will also select 3 optional modules from across the range of modules offered by the School of Health Professions or wider in the Faculty to achieve a total of 180 credits for the award MSc Advanced Professional Practice Dietetics. The assessment of each optional module, the Research and Project Design module and the Research Dissertation will be focused on a topic related to the award title.

MSc Advanced Professional Practice in Dietetics

4 core modules and 3 optional modules



- Each stage of the degree requires 60 credits to progress
- Three points at which you can leave the degree; after 60 credits, 120 credits and 180 credits

Full-time study example (1 year)

Year	Modules (and Credits)	Semester 1	Semester 2
1	Applying Evidence to Practice (20)		
	Project Design for Research (20)		
	Optional 1 (20)		
	Dietetic Practice: Supported Study (20)		
	Optional 2 (20)		
	Optional 3 (20)		
	Research Dissertation (60)		

Part-time study (example of a 3 year route)

Year	Modules (and Credits)	Semester 1	Semester 2
1	Applying Evidence to Practice (20) (<i>distance option</i>)		
	Optional 1 (20)		
	Dietetic Practice: Supported Study (20) (<i>distance</i>)		
2	Project Design for Research (20) (<i>distance option</i>)		
	Optional 2 (20)		
	Optional 3 (20)		
3	Research Dissertation (60) (<i>distance option</i>)		

Examples of some of the relevant optional modules:

- ADV774 Contemporary Leadership
- ADV760 Participation for Children and Young People
- HNUT703 Applied Sports Nutrition
- HNUT705 Public Health Nutrition
- MCR706 Systematic Review
- ADV758 Supporting the Needs of the Frail Older Person
- ADV735 Advancing the Management of Long-Term Conditions
- ADV766 Innovation in an Ever-Changing Marketplace – Entrepreneurship for Health and Social Care Professionals
- ADV759 International Perspectives and Practice Requirements for Health and Social Care Practitioners.

CORE MODULES

These modules are inter-professional, common to all the pathways and required for the MSc.

ADV702 Applying Evidence to Practice (Taught face-face 2x2 days, or via distance learning)

This module is aimed at the application of evidence-based practice (EBP) to professional practice. Students will learn how to use research to guide best practice. They will identify a question relevant to their area of practice, review and critique the literature in the area, plan and evaluate any necessary change to professional practice.

ADV715 Project Design for Research (Taught face-face 1x2 day and 1x3 days or distance learning)

Students will explore methodology and methods relevant to the development of a research project and by the end of the module will formulate a research proposal. The module will explore defining and refining a research question, selecting and appraising methodology, ethical considerations, selecting and appraising data collection and analysis techniques.

ADV716 Research Dissertation (taught face-face, webinar and distance learning)

Over the course of the module students will complete their dissertation as part of their Advanced Professional Practice MSc programme under supervision from the module team and a named dissertation supervisor.

ADV749 – Dietetic Practice: Supported Study (Distance learning)

This module is specifically designed to enable students to develop their own professional practice by undertaking and reflecting on learning and experience gained through a period of supported independent study related to agreed learning objectives. For example, previous projects undertaken include a review of the dietary management of: Ketogenic diets, Weight Management, Parenteral Nutrition, PEG feeding. Thus, students identify an area of their own clinical practice that they would like to study in depth, to support a review and update of the relevant care pathway.

OPTIONAL MODULES

Candidates can take three of the listed optional modules below to align with their learning needs. Other optional modules may be available to suit your interests or chosen research methodology. Speak with the Programme lead Dr Tracey Parkin for further information.

ADV774 – Contemporary Leadership

This module will equip learners with the knowledge and skills needed to actively understand and inform personal development and individual leadership qualities. The module focus will use the professional arena to explore how engagement in personal leadership development can help self and others to reach their full potential, both individually and for organisational advancement.

Through the exploration of self and team behaviour, learners will engage in activities which will promote self-awareness and understanding, strengthening their ability to self-manage and influence others while utilising the resources available to them.

HNUT703 Applied Sports Nutrition (taught face to face weekly January to March)

This module aims to develop a core understanding of the nutritional requirements of athletes and exercisers in different circumstances and be able to apply this to a chosen case study within a professional context. It will provide students with an opportunity to debate and evaluate evidence based, person centred strategies and/or interventions of relevance to Sports Nutrition. Students will critically evaluate the application of these approaches to the target audience and their own individual area of practice.

HNUT705 Public Health Nutrition (taught face to face weekly February to March)

This module aims to judge and evaluate Public Health Nutrition strategies in the national (and international) context. Emphasis will be given to critical interpretation in the context of professional practice and nutrition/food policy. It will consolidate PHN principles, and provide further insightful learning of this very complex, diverse and evolving professional practice area. You will learn about the key principles of PHN, so you are able to critically judge a range of intervention approaches focussing on diet-related ill health and inequalities in communities and population groups.

MCR706 Systematic Review

This module focuses on the appraisal and synthesis of evidence from research literature and documentary sources. Participants gain hands-on experience using JBI software (SUMARI). You will learn more about the systematic review methodology, critically analyse research and text or opinion papers as part of the review process and use software to perform a meta-analysis and meta-synthesis of selected studies.

ADV758 Supporting the Needs of Frail Older People

You will gain a critical understanding of the principal theories and concepts that influence the management of frailty and complex care needs in the older person. Using evidence-based theories around frailty, co-morbidity, polypharmacy and the ageing process you will also develop advanced assessment, evaluation and management skills to be applied in a person-centred framework in your practice.

ADV735 Advancing the Management of Long-Term Conditions

This module contains a number of themes aimed at enhancing the understanding of key issues that influence the quality of care for all people with long-term conditions, whatever those conditions may be. These themes are person-centred care, self-management and service development. You will focus on applying knowledge and understanding to support person-centred service development for people with long-term conditions and at masters level will also promote self-management and collaborative working.

ADV770 Innovation in an Ever-Changing Marketplace – Entrepreneurship for Health and Social Care Professionals

This module will provide you with knowledge of the key issues associated with developing services within the NHS or in social enterprises or independent practice. It explores the concepts of marketing, entrepreneurship and innovation relating to independent practice, social enterprise, charitable organisations and services within the NHS with a view to

helping you develop the skills to put together your own business plan. You will gain an understanding of the healthcare market and competitors for services and have the opportunity to explore innovative and entrepreneurial practices in healthcare delivery. You will also examine the law and policy related to your area of interest.

Guide to Core module delivery and some optional modules over the academic year

	Module Code	Module Title	2-day sessions	2-day sessions
Free		Induction Study Block	21/09/22 22/09/22	
Core	ADV702 & ADV702Z (distance)	Applying Evidence to Practice	September	October
Core (runs twice yearly)	ADV715 & ADV715Z (distance)	Project Design for Research	1 st delivery October	November
			2 nd delivery January	February
Core (runs twice yearly)	ADV749 (Distance)	Dietetic Practice: Supported Study	1 st Delivery September October November	Evening online webinars
			2 nd Delivery February April May	
Core	ADV716 & ADV716Z (Distance)	Research Dissertation	January July	
Optional	ADV764	Leading Professionals, Managing Aspirations for Self and Others	September	October
Optional	HNUT703	Applied Sports Nutrition	Weekly Jan to March 2022	
Optional	HNUT705	Public Health Nutrition	Weekly February to March 2022	
Optional	MCR706	Systematic Review	November	November December
Optional	ADV758 & ADV758z (distance)	Supporting the Needs of Frail Older People	January	January February
Optional	ADV735	Advancing the Management of Long-Term Conditions	March	April

Optional	ADV770	Innovation in an Ever- Changing Marketplace – Entrepreneurship for Health and Social Care Professionals	January February	February March
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Location of Teaching

All attendance modules are taught at the Peninsula Allied Health Centre (PAHC Building) located 4 miles north of Plymouth city centre or Drakes campus in city centre.

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/uploads/production/document/path/2/2100/PAHCmapanddirections.pdf>

If you're planning to stay for a brief visit to attend sessions, the closest Travelodge to PAHC is within a short walk, located beside the Jack Rabbit Inn, Tavistock Road, Plymouth.

However, many have distance delivery options negating the need to travel to Plymouth.

Distance Learning

Where distance learning is an option; face-face sessions are recorded and made available online, offering distance students the opportunity to 'join' the face-face session live (virtually) or catch up at a convenient time for them. Discussion forums, webinars and virtual supervisory sessions are also used to support student's engagement and learning.

Cost for Core/Optional modules:

Please follow the link below to access current information on fees:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/your-university/about-us/university-structure/faculties/health-human-sciences/professional-development-module-fees>

Assessment of Master modules

All modules will be assessed using standard MSc level criteria

Formative Assessment (not graded)

- Core & optional modules: bullet point outline of essay plan and a paragraph of text for feedback re critical appraisal. Formative presentations of planned research in ADV715 and ADV716.

Summative Assessment (marked)

- Essay (100%)

For a 20-credit module you will usually submit a 4000 word essay on a key topic of the module, informed by critical appraisal of the current evidence and best practice. You are encouraged to focus your essay on an area of your own professional practice to ensure your reading and learning enhance your own career pathway.

The deadline date for submission of the assessment is usually set **6-8** weeks after the last taught day of each module. Check module handbooks for individual modules for further details. Students must pass the summative assessment with a pass mark of 50%.

AP(E)L

(Accreditation of previous/prior learning – may enable you to include Masters credit from previous study)

Claims for Credit for prior learning, whether certificated or experiential are accepted and will be assessed following university regulations and faculty procedures.

APEL is not accepted against ADV715 and ADV716 because of the requirement to undertake their dissertation with a project supervisor at Plymouth University. Therefore, the maximum at APEL for this pathway is 100 credits (50 ECTS).

For further information contact our Professional Development Unit (PDU) admissions team to discuss your prior learning. e-mail: pduadmissions@plymouth.ac.uk

Admissions Criteria

In order to commence this Pathway, the student must meet the University's entry requirements for study at postgraduate level. Applicants will need to be a qualified Dietitian, registered with a relevant professional body of their home country (e.g. HCPC in UK) and have experience of the dietetic practice environment. Candidates should normally have a first degree, BSc (Hons) at 2.1 or above or European first cycle equivalent in dietetics. People with a diploma are eligible to apply, provided they can demonstrate a successful qualification at level 6 learning or complete an upgrade assignment. There is a bridging module available within the School of Health Professions for this purpose.

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

Each potential student will be assessed individually for their ability to study at this level and an interview will normally be required. Candidates will normally be required to submit a short piece of writing as part of the admissions process.

This programme pathway is equivalent to 90 ECTS credits (second cycle) with 30 ECTS credits at post graduate certificate, 60 credits at postgraduate diploma and 90 credits at Master's degree. Each 20 credit module has the equivalent of 10 ECTS credits and assumes a notional student effort of between 200-300 hours.

Please return your application to the Professional Development Unit Admissions team.
pduadmissions@plymouth.ac.uk

Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

Progression criteria

Postgraduate certificate (60 credits total): Normally this includes the core modules ADV702 'Applying Evidence to Practice' (20) and ADV749 Dietetic Practice: Supported Studies (20 credits) plus one optional module (20 credits)

Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits total): Three core modules ADV702 'Applying Evidence to Practice'; ADV749 Dietetic Practice: Supported Studies and ADV715 'Research and Project Design' (60 credits) and 3 optional modules (60 credits).

Masters (180 credits total): Three core modules (60 credits) + three optional modules (60 credits) + ADV716 Research Dissertation (60 credits).

Key contact details:

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Email: Jennifer.carroll@plymouth.ac.uk

Professional Development Unit (PG Admissions)

4th Floor Rolle Building
University of Plymouth
Drake Circus
Plymouth PL4 8AA
Email: PDUadmissions@plymouth.ac.uk

Masters Study References:

Suggested texts

Bolton, G. & Denderfield, R. (2018) *Reflective practice: writing and professional development*, 5th edn. Sage Publications.

Greenhalgh, T. (2010) *How to read a paper: the basics of evidence-based medicine*. 6th edn. John Wiley and Sons Ltd.

Newell, R & Burnard, P. (2011) *Research for evidence-based practice in healthcare*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Rose, J. (2012) *The mature student's guide to writing*. Palgrave, Macmillan.

Thompson, S. & Thompson, N. (2008) *The Critically reflective practitioner*. Palgrave, Macmillan.

Williams, K., Wooliams, M. & Spiro, J. (2012) *Reflective writing: a pocket study skills*. Palgrave, Macmillan.

e-books

Garrett, L. K., Clarke, A. & Shihab, P. (2011) *Skills for nursing and healthcare students: study skills, maths and science*. Harlow: Pearson Education.

Glasziou, P., Del Mar, C. & Salisbury, J. (2007) *Evidence-based practice workbook: bridging the gap between health care research and practice*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Suggested websites

Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP)

<http://www.casp-uk.net/>

International Centre for Allied Health Evidence (iCAHE)

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/cahe/default.asp>

NHS Evidence

<http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/default.aspx>

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)

<http://www.nice.org.uk/>

Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)

<http://www.sign.ac.uk/>

Wales Centre for Evidence-Base Care (WCEBC)

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/sonms/research/researchcentres/wcebc/index.html>

The Cochrane Library

<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com/view/0/index.html>