

Masters degree for Practitioners with a Special Interest (PwSI) Postgraduate Programmes Specification

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/practitioners-with-special-interest-cardiology/>

Academic Year: 2024/25

Degree Awarding Body: The University of Bradford

Delivery Organisation: The Ridge Education Ltd.

Subject Benchmark: Health Studies (QAA 2019)

Pathways Available: Cardiology;

Target Awards: Master's Degree of Science [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Level 7]

Mode of Study: Part-time, distance learning with some attendance

Programme duration: Between 12 months and 18 months

Please note: This programme specification has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them. Upon commencement of the programme, students will receive further detail about their course and any minor changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

* Successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma is required before students can register for the Master's degree.

Minor Modifications Schedule

- (v1) August 2021: Initial publication of unified Programme Specification
- (v2) February 2022: Annual changes for 2022/23 academic year
- (v3) July 2023: Annual changes for 2023/24 academic year

Introduction

The part-time MSc programme is available to students who have successfully completed the Postgraduate Diplomas Cardiology for Practitioners with a Special Interest delivered by The Ridge Education Ltd, validated by the University of Bradford. The MSc Cardiology for Practitioners with a Special Interest programme (PwSI) is a top up award to Masters for graduates of the Postgraduate Diploma. The MSc is work-based learning, students do not need to be based in Bradford to undertake the programme. The Diploma programme enables General Practitioners (GPs), specialist nurses or relevantly qualified practitioners such as cardiac physiologists, to gain a formally recognised standard of competence in the area of their special interest and, upon successful completion of the Diploma, to register on the MSc programme and undertake a small scale project as it applies to their local clinical setting.

Learning will be co-ordinated and delivered through The Ridge Education Ltd for students of the Postgraduate Diploma. Thereafter, students are offered a progression route to a named Masters and learning and supervision will be provided by academics at the University of Bradford.

On entering the MSc programme students will have already be able to:

1. Critically analyse and apply current knowledge and skills to enable practitioners to work independently and manage patients in their care and to deal with complex clinical situations systematically;
2. Contribute to the development of clinical protocols and practice within the care pathway linking primary and secondary care in line with current recommendations;
3. Make strategic and appropriate clinical decisions within the relevant care pathway at a higher level with regard to the diagnosis, management, treatment and referral of patients
4. Communicate complex clinical conclusions clearly and effectively to patients and the clinical team
5. Evaluate the PwSI role, and its implications for the whole patient pathway and current techniques for improving the delivery of patient care.
6. Act autonomously and collaboratively in a multidisciplinary context.

Programme Aims

The Masters programme is intended to:

- A1 Enable GPs and other Practitioners to work effectively at a 'special interest' level.
- A2 Contribute to the extension of the role of the PwSI within the specialist area.
- A3 Provide a nationally recognised award in the training of PwSIs.
- A4 Establish and/or extend professional collaboration within the chosen specialism, in order to develop the most appropriate care pathways for the patient.
- A5 Embed a culture of enquiry and critical awareness for PwSIs.

Master's Programme Outcomes

When you have completed the programme you will be able to:

- P1 Critically evaluate and select appropriately methods for a proposed project in the local healthcare environment;
- P2 Critically analyse the current body of knowledge in your specialist subject;
- P3 Demonstrate independent study and the application of research skills as evidenced by the planning, execution and evaluation of a project related to your area of practice;
- P4 Demonstrate problem solving skills;

- P5 Apply information technology as a medium for communication and presentation of data;
- P6 Reflect on the process of undertaking the project and identify what has been learned.

Curriculum

The curriculum for each of the Postgraduate Diploma programmes and Postgraduate Certificates for Practitioners with a Special Interest is described in the individual programme specifications.

Each Postgraduate Diploma is made up of four 30 credits modules, amounting to a total of 120 credits. The Masters stage comprises one 60 credit module as shown below.

The MSc programme for Practitioners with a Special Interest programme builds upon learning from a Postgraduate Diploma and may be completed in one year on a part time basis.

Students will be eligible for the award of Degree of Master if they have successfully completed at least 180 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Module	Module Title	Credits	Level	Core/ Optional
LEM7006-E	Management Project	60	7	Core

Learning and Teaching Strategy

All students will have undertaken a Postgraduate Diploma for Practitioners with a Special Interest offered by The Ridge Education Ltd. Students who have not undertaken one of the four Postgraduate Diplomas may be able to join the programme if they can demonstrate that they have met the Postgraduate Diploma learning outcomes.

The modules leading to each Postgraduate Diploma are detailed in the curriculum section of this document. You cannot substitute modules from other specialisms. Alternatively you may have undertaken a similar award from another institution.

The Clinical Project module will begin with a three day project preparation workshop which will give you the knowledge and skills needed (MSc LO1-2, 4) to undertake your project which will be undertaken within your work area (MSc LO 1-6). The subject of the project undertaken must relate to your specialism and be agreed with you academic supervisor who will be a member of staff from the University of Bradford. In addition you will have a clinical supervisor whose expertise lies in the chosen specialism. Your academic supervisor will ensure that the project is presented with academic integrity, while your clinical supervisor ensures that here is an appropriate clinical content. Whilst the academic supervisor will be appointed by the University, you should approach a clinical supervisor.

It is anticipated that you will continue to work in your normal practice setting during the period of study, and it is expected that ongoing learning will be applied in this context.

Assessment Strategy

The project will be marked in accordance with the Level 7 marking criteria of the University of Bradford, Faculty of Health Studies, which will be made available to you in order to meet the required standard (MSc LO1-6). Both the first and second marker will be allocated by the University as per their standard procedure.

Assessment Regulations

These Programmes conform to the standard University of Bradford Postgraduate Assessment Regulations which are available at the link: www.brad.ac.uk/regulations/

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements for the MSc requires applicants to have completed one of the four Postgraduate Diplomas for Practitioners with Special Interest, or another qualification of similar content, as approved by the University of Bradford. If applicants present qualifications other than a Postgraduate Diploma for PwSI, or if prior knowledge comes from experiential learning, a Recognition or Prior Learning (RPL) panel will be convened, consisting of a specialist in the relevant subject area and a University representative. Applicants without a University of Bradford Postgraduate Diploma are encouraged to contact the Faculty Admission Officer to discuss their suitability for the programme. Applicants are also required to obtain the agreement of a suitable clinical supervisor and of the Foundation Trust to undertake this programme. The MSc part of the programme has two entry points per year, in September and January. The University of Bradford has always welcomed applications from disabled students, and these will be considered on the same academic grounds as are applied to all applicants. If you have some form of disability you may wish to contact the programme leader before you apply.