

**MSc Health Policy**

This document provides a definitive record of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This programme specification is primarily intended as a reference point for academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement, for its assessment by internal and external examiners, and in subsequent monitoring and review.

**Programme Information**

Award(s)	MSc			
Programme Title	Health Policy			
Programme code	A3G124			
Associateship	N/A			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London			
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London			
Faculty	Faculty of Medicine			
Department	Department of Surgery and Cancer			
Mode and Period of Study MSc	25 months, part-time			
The maximum period of registration for completion of the full MSc award is 5 calendar years.				
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in October			
Relevant <a href="#">QAA Benchmark Statement(s)</a> and/or other external reference points	None			
Total Credits MSc	ECTS:	90	CATS:	180
<a href="#">FHEQ Level</a>	Level 7 - Master's			
<a href="#">EHEA Level</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle			
External Accrator(s)	None			
<b>Specification Details</b>				
Student cohorts covered by specification	2016-17 entry			
Person Responsible for the specification	Ms Sonal Anand			
Date of introduction of programme	October 2013			

Date of programme specification/revision	June 2016
<b>Description and structure of Programmes</b>	
<p>This part-time programme is designed for people working in the health sector such as Government officials, clinicians and employees of health insurance companies, consulting companies and healthcare industries. It is designed to improve the quality of health policy making both within the UK and internationally.</p> <p>As health systems across the world struggle with the escalating costs of healthcare linked to an ageing population and more expensive treatments, health policy-making needs to adapt and improve. There is a clear need for more evidence based, comparative and reflective policy-making in healthcare and this programme aims to provide it.</p> <p>All students will be required to complete 8 taught modules before progressing onto the 12 month independent research project.</p>	
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	
<p>On completion of the MSc, student will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and define the main attributes of health systems and health policy</li> <li>• Conduct health system performance assessment in terms of health outcomes, responsiveness, equity, financial protection, and efficiency.</li> <li>• Understand the principles of micro- and macro- economics and how they predict and explain the effect of health policy</li> <li>• Apply behavioural models to issues in patient and health professional behaviour, understanding the role of psychological models in explaining economic behaviour</li> <li>• Understand the financial sustainability challenges facing developed healthcare systems and some of the potential policy solutions</li> <li>• Describe several significant contemporary public health challenges and controversies in the UK</li> <li>• Apply different theoretical models of innovation and explain why some innovations succeed while others fail</li> <li>• Identify ways in which health policy makers can support and foster innovation</li> <li>• Articulate the major forms of healthcare provider organisations and their merits and disadvantages</li> <li>• Understand the importance of the patient safety and quality agenda and link to improvement in healthcare delivery</li> <li>• Perform literature searches and critically appraise literature</li> <li>• Understand the steps involved in developing a research project</li> <li>• Develop a research project and carry out that project in a timely manner</li> </ul>	
<p>The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial College degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at: <a href="http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes">www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes</a></p>	
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	
Academic Requirement	Normally a 2:1 UK bachelor's honours degree in a healthcare related subject, or

	management/policy related subject and/or a medical degree or equivalent.
Additional Requirements	Normally, one year's practical experience in the health sector
Applicants who do not meet the academic requirements above but who have substantial relevant industry experience may be admitted following completion of a 'Special Qualifying Exam' (SQE)	
Home/EU/international students will be invited to attend a post-application interview	
English Language Requirement	Higher Requirements: IELTS 7 with a minimum of 6.5 in each element or equivalent
The programme's competency standards documents can be found at: <a href="http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes/">http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes/</a>	
<b>Learning &amp; Teaching Strategy</b>	
Scheduled Learning & Teaching Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures</li> <li>• 1-1 supervision meetings (research project)</li> <li>• Seminars</li> <li>• Group discussions</li> <li>• Practical workshops</li> <li>• Site visits</li> </ul>
E-learning & Blended Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackboard</li> <li>• iTunes-U video content</li> </ul>
Project and Placement Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Independent research project</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>	
Assessment Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations (formative)</li> <li>• Essays</li> <li>• Research project report</li> </ul>
<b>Academic Feedback Policy</b>	
<p>Students will be provided feedback from each of their coursework assessments throughout the programme. This feedback will allow students to self-evaluate their progress throughout the programme. Personal tutors will be able to assist students in this area.</p> <p>Students will receive their indicative grades for their taught module assignments within a month of the assignment deadline.</p> <p>There are a number of case studies and group work throughout the programme, which are not formally assessed, but which will allow students to receive feedback from group leaders and their peers.</p> <p>The research project will be assessed at different stages with the academic supervisors providing input into methodologies and interpretation of results.</p>	

Dissertation workshops allow students to present their dissertation at different stages and receive feedback, and a dissertation clinic is available where students are able to book time to discuss any aspects of their dissertation project.

#### Re-sit Policy

A failed piece of coursework can be resubmitted on one occasion, with a deadline to be agreed with the relevant module leader and Programme Director, normally between 1 week and 2 months after the original submission deadline.

If the MSc research project is failed, students may resubmit on one occasion in the following academic year, with a deadline to be agreed with their project supervisor and the Programme Director.

Re-sitting/re-submitting assessments will normally be capped at the pass mark.

#### Mitigating Circumstances Policy

The College's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams)

#### Marking Scheme

A student must:

- Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each assessment
- Achieve a pass mark of 50% or greater in each module
  - Students may be condoned in one module per element with an aggregate mark for of 45% where the aggregate mark for each element is 50% or greater
- Achieve a mark of at least 50% in the Independent Research Project

#### Final Degree Classifications

The MSc can be awarded as a pass, merit or distinction classification.

In order to be awarded a result of merit, a candidate must achieve at least 60 per cent in each element; in order to be awarded a result of distinction, a candidate must achieve at least 70 per cent in each element.

- Where appropriate, a Board of Examiners may award a result of merit where a candidate has achieved an aggregate mark of 60 per cent or greater across the programme as a whole AND has obtained a mark of 60 per cent or greater in each element with the exception of one element (but not the project element) AND has obtained a mark of 50 per cent or greater in this latter element.
- Where appropriate, a Board of Examiners may award a result of distinction where a candidate has achieved an aggregate mark of 70 per cent or greater across the programme as a whole AND has obtained a mark of 70 per cent or greater in each element with the exception of one element (but not the project element) AND has obtained a mark of 60 per cent or greater in this latter element.

<b>Module Weightings</b>	
<b>Module</b>	<b>% Module Weighting</b>
Health Systems and Policy	7.5%
Health Economics for Health Policy	7.5%
Financing Healthcare	7.5%
Health and Society	7.5%
Innovation in Healthcare	7.5%
1 x module from elective group (A)	7.5%
Health Service Delivery	7.5%
1 x module from elective group (B)	7.5%
Independent Research Project	40%

Indicative Module List											
Code	Title	Core/ Elective	L&T Hours	Ind. Study Hours	Place- ment Hours	Total Hours	% Written Exam	% Course work	% Practi- cal	FHEQ Level	ECTS
	Health Systems and Policy	CORE	30	157.5	0	187.5	0	100%	0%	7	7.5
	Health Economics for Health Policy	CORE	30	157.5	0	187.5	0	100%	0%	7	7.5
	Health and Society	CORE	30	157.5	0	187.5	0	100%	0%	7	7.5
	Financing Healthcare	CORE	30	157.5	0	187.5	0	100%	0%	7	7.5
	Innovation in Healthcare	CORE	30	157.5	0	187.5	0	100%	0%	7	7.5
	Measuring and Improving Performance in Healthcare	ELECTIVE (A)	30	157.5	0	187.5	0	0%	100%	7	7.5
	Communicating Health Policy	ELECTIVE (A)	30	157.5	0	187.5	0	100%	0%	7	7.5
	Health Service Delivery	CORE	30	157.5	0	187.5	0	100%	0%	7	7.5
	Leadership in Healthcare	ELECTIVE (B)	30	157.5	0	187.5	0	100%	0%	7	7.5
	Ageing and Society	ELECTIVE (B)	30	157.5	0	187.5	0	100%	0%	7	7.5
	Independent Research Project	CORE	0	750	0	750	0	100%	0%	7	30

## Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available at:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/postgraduate/masters-programmes/msc-health-policy/>

The Module Handbook is delivered via iTunesU to enrolled students

The College's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements)

The College's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance)

The College's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at:

<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/regulations>

Imperial College is an independent corporation whose legal status derives from a Royal Charter granted under Letters Patent in 1907. In 2007 a Supplemental Charter and Statutes was granted by HM Queen Elizabeth II. This Supplemental Charter, which came into force on the date of the College's Centenary, 8th July 2007, established the College as a University with the name and style of "The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine".

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters-statutes-ordinances-and-regulations/>

Imperial College London is regulated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/reg/of/>