

Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
Clinical Research (Diabetes and Obesity) Clinical Research (Human Nutrition) Clinical Research (Translational Medicine)	For Registry Use Only	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
MRes	1 Calendar Year, 0 months.	Full-time	Annually in October	90	180
MRes	2 Calendar Years, 0 months.	Part-time	Annually in October	90	180
PG Certificate	1 Calendar Year, 0 months.	Part-time	Annually in October	30	60

Students can apply to PG Certificate or MRes programmes

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Medicine
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	Medicine
Associateship	N/A	Main Location(s) of Study	Hammersmith Hospital Campus

External Reference	
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points	Master's degree award in Medicine
FHEQ Level	Level 7 - Master's
EHEA Level	2nd Cycle

External Accreditor(s) (if applicable)			
External Accreditor 1:	N/A		
Accreditation received:	N/A	Accreditation renewal:	N/A

Collaborative Provision			
Collaborative partner	Collaboration type	Agreement effective date	Agreement expiry date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Specification Details

Programme Lead	Professor Martin Wilkins & Professor Gary Frost
Student cohorts covered by specification	2019-20 entry
Date of introduction of programme (MRes)	October 08
Date of programme specification/revision	November 18
Date of introduction of programme (PG Certificate)	October 2019

Programme Overview

The MRes in Clinical Research is an umbrella programme currently comprising of three pathways (Diabetes and Obesity, Human Nutrition and Translational Medicine). You will undertake four core modules, in addition to a fifth elective module that is specific to the pathway. The taught aspect (exams, coursework and practicals) contributes to 30% of the overall mark, with the research aspect (proposal, thesis and oral exam) covering the remaining 70% weighting of the course. The research project topic will be based on your selected pathway. The course is supported by both NHS clinical and Imperial College academic staff, who regularly review content and assessment methods. The programme is based at the Hammersmith campus; however, a very small number of students may undertake their projects at other campuses. The Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Research will comprise all taught modules only (30 ECTS).

The aim of the programme is to provide you with a broad training in and practical experience of designing, implementing, and reporting clinical studies. You will complete the majority of the taught elements together; the opportunity to specialise in your area of interest is provided through a pathway specific elective taught module and extensively through the research side of the programme. The research project allows you to implement essential research skills supported by your supervisor(s). Project options will be provided by staff, however if you have a particular topic in mind this can also be considered. The key criteria are that the research question is examined using appropriate design and methodology, the project is feasible given available time-scales, and the scope and depth is sufficient for Master's level study.

During the project, you will consolidate and build upon knowledge and skills learnt in the modules and in monthly tutorials and journal clubs. This may include, systematic evidence synthesis, managing data sets, varying types of analysis, a range of clinical and laboratory skills, interviewing or facilitation experience. You will develop written and oral data presentation skills through tutorials and through the thesis, poster presentations and the oral assessment.

The majority of our graduates go on to undertake PhDs in relevant fields and other graduates have gone on to work in research and clinical settings as well as Industry. Students who complete the PG Certificate can for example take forward knowledge and skills to develop research programmes in the workplace.

Learning Outcomes

PG Certificate (all pathways):

At the end of the PG Certificate, you should be able to:

1. Utilise innovative technologies in specific areas of clinical research and explain concepts, theories and developments that underpin novel clinical investigation.
2. Apply and justify regulations, including clinical governance and ethics, in the context of clinical research.
3. Formulate hypotheses and research methodologies by applying the principles that govern research design.
4. Interpret and critically analyse data and information from a wide range of sources using relevant computational tools and packages.
5. Communicate advanced scientific concepts and evidence in a variety of formats
6. Work as part of a team to apply creative solutions and critical thinking to complex clinical problems.

MRes Clinical Research (all pathways):

At the end of the MRes Clinical Research, you should demonstrate the Learning Outcomes of the PG Certificate as well as be able to:

7. Develop, implement, troubleshoot and organise a substantial programme of original research in a clinical context.
8. Perform measurement and analysis techniques using appropriate laboratory and clinical methods in a clinical research setting.
9. Retrieve, manage, analyse and integrate complex scientific information into a specific research area.
10. Generate novel experimental data and critically appraise their quality and importance in the field of clinical research.
11. Independently defend novel research findings in the context of the wider literature.

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: www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes

Entry Requirements

Academic Requirement	Minimum 2:1 UK Bachelor's Degree with Honours in medicine or life sciences (or a comparable qualification recognised by the College). Students with a 2:2 UK Bachelor's Degree with Honours in medicine or life sciences (or a comparable qualification recognised by the College) will also be considered with relevant experience and following interview (see below). For further information on entry requirements, please go to https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements/pgacademic/
Non-academic Requirements	Applicants who do not meet the academic requirements above but who have substantial relevant industry experience may also be considered.
English Language Requirement	Standard requirement Please check for other Accepted English Qualifications
Admissions Test/Interview	Home/EU/international students will be invited to attend a post-application interview conducted by two members of the teaching team. For overseas students, a remote interview will be arranged where necessary e.g. Skype or Zoom. Applications need to include academic results, CV, personal statement and two reference letters.

The programme's competency standards documents can be found at: <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/medicine/clinical-research/>

Learning & Teaching Approach

Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods

The programme will be delivered via a range of teaching methods which are designed to enhance skills that are required in a clinical research setting. The majority of practical skills will be gained during the research project module, however additional teaching methods during the taught modules include:

- Interactive workshops
- Student presentations (including poster presentations)
- Journal clubs
- Group meetings and discussions
- Practical workshops
- Lectures
- Project reports
- Research proposal
- Class debate

- Case studies and scenarios
- Online modules available through Imperial's VLE Blackboard
- E-learning formative tasks
- Independent learning

Shared pathway face-to-face teaching (core modules) will have an expected group size of approximately 45 students. Pathway specific working group sizes (elective module, journal clubs) will be approximately 15 students.

Overall Workload

Your overall workload consists of face-to-face sessions and independent learning. The following gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the programme. At Imperial, each [ECTS credit](#) taken equates to an expected total study time of 25 hours. Therefore, the expected total study time is 2,250 hours per year.

Typically in the year you will undertake your MRes Clinical Research degree you will spend in the order of 30% of your time (100% for PG Cert students), in taught modules including lectures, seminars and similar, including independent study time (around 675 hours total), and in the order of 70% of your time on your research project (around 1,575 hours).

Assessment Strategy

Assessment Methods

You will be assessed by a variety of methods including by case studies, a case scenario, critical appraisal reports, preparing research documentation (such as ethics and grants documents), practical assessment, oral exam, poster presentation and a final thesis of your research project. Formative assessments are available for all modules for example on the Imperial Blackboard Learn e-learning platform, and also through peer assessment during class workshops. The final research project will be assessed by a research proposal, final thesis, poster presentation and oral exam. The majority of assessments are coursework or presentation based, and you will only be required to undertake one written online exam (equivalent of 7.5 credits). The assessments have been selected to support the intended learning outcomes and Imperial Graduate Attributes by providing real life practical skills that researchers and clinicians undertake in their everyday practice. A breakdown of the assessment components are shown in table 1.

Table 1. Assessment components

Module Title	Written exam	Coursework	Practical
Research Conduct and Clinical Research Measures (core module) 15 ECTS	50%	50%	
Human Nutrition (Elective module) 5 ECTS			100%
Diabetes and Obesity (Elective module) 5 ECTS		100%	
Translational Medicine (Elective module) 5 ECTS		100%	
Clinical Research Scenarios and Working in Challenging Areas (core module) 5 ECTS		70%	30%
Critical Appraisal (core module) 5 ECTS		100%	
Research Project (core module) 60 ECTS		70%	30%

Academic Feedback Policy

Feedback will be provided on formative and summative coursework, including the final thesis and oral exam (plus exam) by written comments on an electronic standardised marking grid on the Blackboard Learn VLE platform, or by automatic self-assessment for e-learning tasks. All feedback on summative assessments will be returned by electronic means on Blackboard Learn normally within two weeks. Formative feedback will be provided on the Blackboard Learn VLE platform as part of formative online assessments, and also by teaching staff in person and by peer assessment in class.

Provisional marks may be given prior to the final Exam Board according to College Policy available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

Re-sit Policy
Re-sits can be taken according to the College's Policy on Re-sits available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/
Mitigating Circumstances Policy
Mitigating Circumstances will be considered according to the College's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/

Additional Programme Costs		
This section should outline any additional costs relevant to this programme which are not included in students' tuition fees.		
Description	Mandatory/Optional	Approximate cost
Equipment and research project consumables	Mandatory	Provided

Year 1 - FHEQ Level 7¹ Students of the MRes programme must study all compulsory modules. Students choose one elective module based on their selected pathway at Registration Students of the PG Certificate must study all compulsory modules (apart from the Research Project). Students choose one elective module based on their selected pathway at Registration				
Code	Module Title	Core/ Elective	Term	Credits
	Research Conduct and Clinical Research Measures	Compulsory	1	15
	Human Nutrition	Elective*	2	5
	Diabetes and Obesity	Elective*	2	5
	Translational Medicine	Elective*	2	5
	Clinical Research Scenarios and Working in Challenging Areas	Compulsory	2	5
	Critical Appraisal	Compulsory	1-3	5
	Research Project	Compulsory	1-3	60
*Elective modules are specific to chosen pathway			Credit Total	90

¹ **Core** modules are those which serve a fundamental role within the curriculum, and for which achievement of the credits for that module is essential for the achievement of the target award. Core modules must therefore be taken and passed in order to achieve that named award. **Compulsory** modules are those which are designated as necessary to be taken as part of the programme syllabus. Compulsory modules can be compensated. **Elective** modules are those which are in the same subject area as the field of study and are offered to students in order to offer an element of choice in the curriculum and from which students are able to select. Elective modules can be compensated.

Progression

You can apply to the PG Certificate or to the MRes programme. Progression from the PG Certificate to the MRes is allowed, however, the research project will commence at the start of the following academic year. Successful PG certificate students will have to apply to the MRes and progression will not be automatic. If you take a break from studies after completion of the PGCert, the award to progress to the MRes will be valid for three years. If progression to the MRes is not undertaken within this period, then the PGCert component of the MRes must be repeated.

Award and Classification for Postgraduate Students:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert)

To qualify for the award of a PG Certificate, you must have accumulated at least 30 ECTS at Level 7. Therefore, to be awarded the PG Certificate in Clinical Research, you will need to pass all taught modules with a minimum overall mark of 50.00% for each module. No compensated module is allowed for the PG Cert.

Award of a Degree of Master of Research (MRes)

To qualify for the award of Master of Research a student must have:

1. passed modules to the value of no fewer than 90 credits at credit level 6 or above of which no more than 15 credits may be from credit level 6.
2. no compensation may be included in the award.
3. met specific requirements for an award as outlined in the approved programme specification for that award.

Programme Specific Regulations

Distinction: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above across the programme.

- Achieve an aggregate mark of at least 70.00% in each module
- Students may be compensated in a maximum of 15 ECTS for the Masters award (i.e. excluding the research element) with a mark of at least 50.00% in each module.
- Achieve an overall aggregate mark of 70.00% on the programme.

Merit: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of above 60.00% but less than 70.00%.

- Achieve an aggregate mark of at least 60.00% in each module
- Students may be compensated in a maximum of 15 ECTS for the Masters award (i.e. excluding the research element) with a mark of at least 40.00% in each module.
- Achieve an overall aggregate mark of 60.00% on the programme.

Pass: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of 50.00% but less than 60.00%.

- Achieve an aggregate mark of at least 50.00% in each module
- Students may be compensated in a maximum of 15 ECTS for the Masters award (i.e. excluding the research element) with a mark of at least 40.00% in each module.
- Achieve an overall aggregate mark of 50.00% on the programme

Please find the full Academic Regulations at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations/>

Please follow the prompts to find the set of regulations relevant to your programme of study.

Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available at: https://bb.imperial.ac.uk/bbcswebdav/pid-1433744-dt-content-rid-4615475_1/courses/COURSE-MResClinicalResearch-18_19/Pathway%20%E2%80%93%20Diabetes%20%26%20Obesity%281%29.pdf

The Module Handbook is available at: TBC

The College's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements

The College's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance

The College's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/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".
www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/

Imperial College London is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS)
www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/

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 prospective and current students, 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.

Modifications

Description	Approved	Date	Paper Reference
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A