

PG Cert and MSc Allergy

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 intended as a reference point for prospective students, current students, external examiners and academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement.

Programme Information

Programme Title		Allergy			
Award(s)		PG Cert	MSc		
Programme Code(s)		A3F2	A3F124 (2YPT) A3F136 (3YPT)		
Awarding Institution		Imperial College London			
Teaching Institution		Imperial College London			
Faculty		Faculty of Medicine			
Department		Department of Medicine			
Associateship		None			
Mode and Period of Study		PG Cert	9 months, part-time		
		MSc	2 or 3 academic years, part-time		
Cohort Entry Points		Annually in October			
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points		Master's degrees in Medicine			
Total Credits		PG Cert	ECTS:	30	CATS: 60
		MSc	ECTS:	90	CATS: 180
FHEQ Level		Level 7			
EHEA Level		2 nd cycle			
External Accreditor(s)		None			
Specification Details					
Student cohorts covered by specification		2016/17 entry			
Person responsible for the specification		Dr Marta Vazquez-Ortiz, Course Director			

Date of introduction of programme	October 2008
Date of programme specification/revision	February 2017
Description of Programme Contents	
<p>Allergy is an increasing global health problem, and there is an urgent need both UK and worldwide for training in clinical allergy for all levels of the medical profession who diagnose and manage patients with allergic conditions.</p> <p>Our Allergy courses have been designed for students with a wide range of background skills who require a detailed understanding of allergic disease, such as hospital doctors, paediatricians, GPs, nurses, dieticians, nutritionists, scientists and health visitors.</p> <p>These qualifications will be of great value to those holding, or wishing to apply for, specialist posts in secondary care in areas of medicine such as paediatrics, respiratory medicine and dermatology, where allergic mechanisms play a significant role in many disease presentations.</p> <p>Our courses are structured around a modular teaching week and supported by extensive interactive online learning resources, enabling students from around the world to take part.</p> <p>The dynamic nature of the course will enable you to receive up-to-the-minute information on new research and clinical practice parameters, and has been recognised for its innovative teaching style.</p> <p>This is supported by teaching from faculty staff made up of the wide pool of world renowned experts at Imperial and from around the UK.</p> <p>The Allergy programmes will be located at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.</p>	
Learning Outcomes	
<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: www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes</p>	
Knowledge and Understanding of:	
PG Cert:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The immune mechanisms involved in allergic disease; 2. Diagnostic tests available for the presence of allergy; 3. The most up-to-date treatments for asthma, eczema, rhinitis, food allergy, drug allergy and venom allergy; 4. How to use knowledge and understanding of immune mechanisms, diagnostic tests and allergy treatments in the management of an allergic patient, including complex cases; 5. Research methods employed in investigating the processes of allergic disease; 6. How to apply new research findings to improving the management of allergic patients.
In addition, for the MSc:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. How to build on previous learning to develop a systematic understanding of the knowledge relating to the mechanisms and management of more complex allergic disorders in specific areas of practice;

	8. Detailed knowledge and understanding of the essential facts, concepts and available resources to design and set up the student's chosen research project in Allergy; Management and communication skills, including problem definition, project design, decision processes, teamwork, written and oral reports, scientific publications.
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Intellectual Skills - able to:

PG Cert:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply scientific and clinical concepts to the development of new ideas; 2. Integrate and evaluate information from a variety of sources; 3. Formulate and test hypotheses.
In addition, for the MSc:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Make decisions in complex areas of practice; 5. Be creative in the solution of problems and in the development of hypotheses; 6. Plan, conduct and write-up a programme of original research.

Practical Skills - able to:

PG Cert:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retrieve, sift and select information from a variety of sources; 2. Perform and interpret common diagnostic tests for allergic disease; 3. Present a patient situation to peers, other professional workers and relatives; 4. Manage a pre-determined workload; 5. Take responsibility for skilled, safe, evaluative, reflective practice involving continual analysis and evaluation of outcomes and appropriate modification of interventions; 6. Perform specified activities and skills development; 7. Prioritise, anticipate and refer to higher levels when necessary; 8. Evaluate research studies and determine their strength and validity.
In addition, for the MSc:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Apply key scientific and clinical methods and concepts to analysis and management of allergic problems; 10. Plan, undertake and report either a laboratory or clinical piece of research; 11. Use statistical tools and packages.

Transferable Skills - able to:

PG Cert:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate effectively through oral presentations, computer processing and presentations, written reports and scientific publications; 2. Direct own learning; 3. Integrate and evaluate information from a variety of sources; 4. Transfer techniques and solutions from one discipline to another; 5. Use Information and Communications Technology; 6. Manage resources and time; 7. Learn independently with open-mindedness and critical enquiry; 8. Learn effectively for the purpose of continuing professional development; 9. Exercise initiative and personal responsibility.
In addition, for the MSc:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Develop management skills: decision processes, objective criteria, problem definition, project design and evaluation, risk management, teamwork and coordination; 11. Design studies and analyse data; 12. Apply statistical and research skills.

Entry Requirements	
Academic Requirement	Minimum 2.1 UK Honours degree (or equivalent) in a healthcare-related subject, typically Nursing, Dietetics, Immunology/Physiology or Biomedical Science.
Non-academic Requirements	None
English Language Requirement	IELTS 6.5 with no element below 6.0 (or equivalent).
Learning & Teaching Strategy	
Scheduled Learning & Teaching Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures • Tutorials • Workshops • Clinic attachments
E-learning & Blended Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackboard VLE
Project and Placement Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent research project
Assessment Strategy	
Assessment Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework • Essays • Reports • Written examinations • Practical examinations • Dissertation
Academic Feedback Policy	
Individual written assignment feedback is provided by two markers. MSc Dissertations are marked by one external examiner, one internal examiner, and one internal moderator. Written and Practical Examination feedback is given verbally to the entire student group.	
Re-sit Policy	
The College's Policy on Re-sits is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams/resit	
Mitigating Circumstances Policy	
The College's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams	
Assessment Dates & Deadlines	
Written Examinations	PGCert Year only, January
Coursework Assessments	Submission deadlines are 4-8 weeks post module

Project Deadlines	MSc Dissertation – late July of 2 nd or 3 rd Year	
Practical Assessments	April of Year 1	
Assessment Structure		
Marking Scheme		
<p>The Pass Mark for postgraduate taught courses is 50%. Students must pass all elements in order to be awarded a degree. No mark of less than 40% will be accepted as a condoned failing mark for any component.</p> <p>To qualify for the award of the PG Cert students must complete all the course requirements and must initially achieve the pass mark in all four of the assessments linked to the modules comprising Elements 1, 2 and 3 in the PG Cert, including a practical examination</p> <p>The following three assessments (written examination, case history assignment and research proposal assignment) each contribute 33% of the overall mark. The mark obtained in the practical examination will not contribute to the overall mark but must be 60% or over in order for a student to pass the course.</p> <p>At this stage students may upgrade to the MSc and the overall PG Cert mark becomes the first Element of the MSc worth 30% of the total mark. The second Element comprises the overall mark for the four components which are the chosen module options in Year 2. The averaged mark from the 4 components must be 50% or above and no mark can be less than 40% to pass. Element 2 contributes 20% of the total mark for the MSc.</p> <p>The dissertation and <i>viva voce</i> comprise Element 3 and contribute 50% to the total mark (weighting - dissertation 80%, viva 20%).</p> <p>In order to be awarded a result of Merit, a candidate must obtain an aggregate mark of 60% or greater.</p> <p>In order to be awarded a result of Distinction; a candidate must obtain an aggregate mark of 70% or greater.</p> <p>Where appropriate, the Board of Examiners may award a result of Merit where a candidate has achieved an aggregate mark of 60% or greater across the programme as a whole AND has obtained a mark of 60% or greater in each element with the exception of one element AND has obtained a mark of 50% or greater in this latter element.</p> <p>Where appropriate, a Board of Examiners may award a result of Distinction where a candidate has achieved an aggregate mark of 70% or greater across the programme as a whole AND has obtained a mark of 70% or greater in each element with the exception of one element AND has obtained a mark of 60% or greater in this latter element.</p>		
Module Weightings		
Module	% Module Weighting (PG Cert)	% Module Weighting (MSc)

The Scientific Basis on Allergy	33.33%	10%
Diagnosis and Treatment of Allergic Disease	33.33%	10%
The Cutting Edge of Allergy	33.33%	10%
4 x modules from elective group (A)	N/A	20%
Research Project		50%

Indicative Module List											
Code	Title	Core/ Elective	L&T Hours	Ind. Study Hours	Place- ment Hours	Total Hours	% Written Exam	% Course- work	% Practical	FHEQ Level	ECTS
	The Scientific Basis on Allergy	CORE	38	212	0	250	100%	0%	0%	7	10
	Diagnosis and Treatment of Allergic Disease	CORE	38	212	0	250	0%	100%	0%	7	10
	The Cutting Edge of Allergy	CORE	38	212	0	250	0%	100%	0%	7	10
	Allergic Airways Disease and Asthma	ELECTIVE (A)	12	113	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5
	Rhinitis and Hayfever	ELECTIVE (A)	12	113	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5
	Allergic Skin Disease	ELECTIVE (A)	12	113	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5
	Allergic Gastrointestinal Disease	ELECTIVE (A)	12	113	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5
	Food Allergy	ELECTIVE (A)	12	113	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5
	Paediatric Allergy	ELECTIVE (A)	12	113	0	125	0%	100%	0%	7	5
	Research Project	CORE	0	1000	0	1000	0%	80%	20%	7	40

Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available at:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/postgraduate/masters-programmes/msc-pg-cert-allergy/>

The Module Handbook is available at:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/postgraduate/masters-programmes/msc-pg-cert-allergy/>

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:

<http://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".

<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/>