# Programme Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Length of Study</th>
<th>Mode of Study</th>
<th>Entry Point(s)</th>
<th>Total Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MRes</td>
<td>1 Calendar Year</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>Annually in October</td>
<td>90 ECTS, 180 CATS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRes</td>
<td>2 Calendar Years</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>Annually in October</td>
<td>90 ECTS, 180 CATS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG Certificate</td>
<td>1 Calendar Year</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>Annually in October</td>
<td>30 ECTS, 60 CATS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students can apply to PG Certificate or MRes programmes

### Awarding Institution
- **Imperial College London**
- **Faculty of Medicine**

### Teaching Institution
- **Imperial College London**
- **Department of 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 Accréditor(s) (if applicable)
- External Accréditor 1: N/A
- Accreditation received: N/A
- Accreditation renewal: N/A

### Collaborative Provision

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

### Specification Details

**Programme Lead**
Professor Martin Wilkins & Professor Gary Frost

**Student cohorts covered by specification**
2021-22 entry

**Date of introduction of programme (MRes)**
October 08

**Date of programme specification/revision (online Human Nutrition stream)**
February 21

**Date of introduction of programme (PG Certificate)**
October 2019

**Date of programme specification/revision**
August 2021

### 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 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 commenced in 2019 and comprises all taught modules only (30 ECTS). A new online stream of the Human Nutrition pathway is proposed to commence for entry in October 2021. This would be in addition to the existing attendance streams and would not replace these existing formats. Taught components would be taken online using the Blackboard Learn platform and projects undertaken on this steam would be undertaken remotely, for example using existing large data sets.

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 clinical research measurement and analysis techniques using appropriate laboratory, clinical or other data analyses methods.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry Requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-academic Requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions Test/Interview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The programme’s competency standards documents can be found at: http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/medicine/clinical-research/
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 you 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 two written online exams (equivalent of 10 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Written exam</th>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Practical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Conduct &amp; Clinical Research Measures</td>
<td>66.6% (2 x exams (statistics &amp; governance) 33.3%)</td>
<td></td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(core module) 15 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Nutrition (Elective module) 5 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes and Obesity (Elective module) 5 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translational Medicine (Elective module) 5 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Research Scenarios and working in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>challenging areas(core module) 5 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Appraisal (core module) 5 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Project (core module) 60 ECTS</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

**Re-sit Policy**


**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/](http://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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Mandatory/Optional</th>
<th>Approximate cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equipment and research project consumables</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>Provided</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year 1 - FHEQ Level e.g. Level 7**

Students study all compulsory modules. Students choose one elective module based on their selected pathway at Registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Core/ Elective</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Conduct &amp; Clinical Research Measures</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Nutrition</td>
<td>Elective*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diabetes and Obesity</td>
<td>Elective*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Translational Medicine</td>
<td>Elective*</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical Research Scenarios</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Critical Appraisal</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Elective modules are specific to chosen pathway</td>
<td>Credit Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Progression and Classification

Progression

You can apply to the PG Certificate or to the MRes programme (either attendance or online for the HN pathway). 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.

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% 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% or above across the programme.
In order to be awarded a distinction students must meet each of the following criteria:
1) Overall weighted average for the programme of at least 70.00%
2) Achieved an aggregate mark of at least 70.00% in the Research Project Module.
3) Achieved an aggregate mark of at least 70.00% in all other modules

Where point 3 has not been met, the Board will award a distinction if a student has achieved a mark of below 70.00% but at least 50.00% in modules to the value of 15 ECTS or less and the remaining criteria has been met.

Merit: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of above 60% but less than 70%.
In order to be awarded a merit students must meet each of the following criteria:
1) Overall weighted average for the programme of at least 60.00% but less than 70.00%
2) Achieved an aggregate mark of at least 60.00% in the Research Project Module
3) Achieved an aggregate mark of at least 60.00% in all other modules

Where point 3 has not been met, the Board will award a merit if a student has achieved a mark of below 60.00% but at least 40.00% in modules to the value of 15ECTS or less and the remaining criteria has been met.

Pass: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of 50% but less than 60%.
In order to be awarded a pass students must meet each of the following criteria:
1) Overall weighted average for the programme of at least 50.00% but less than 60.00%
2) Achieved an aggregate mark of at least 50.00% in the Research Project Module
3) Achieved an aggregate mark of at least 50.00% in all other modules

Where point 3 has not been met, the Board will award a pass if a student has achieved a mark of below 50.00% but at least 40.00% in modules to the value of 15ECTS or less and the remaining criteria has been met.
## 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\%20Obesity.pdf

The Module Handbook is available at: TBA

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”.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Approved</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Paper Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional online stream for Human Nutrition pathway</td>
<td>Awaiting PEB and Programmes Committee approval</td>
<td>Feb / March 2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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