Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
Postgraduate Certificate Clinical Research MRes Clinical Research (1YFT) MRes Clinical Research (2YPT) Postgraduate Certificate Clinical Research (Diabetes and Obesity) MRes Clinical Research (Diabetes and Obesity) (1YFT) MRes Clinical Research (Diabetes and Obesity) (2YPT) Postgraduate Certificate Clinical Research (Translational Medicine) MRes Clinical Research (Translational Medicine) (1YFT) MRes Clinical Research (Translational Medicine) (2YPT) Postgraduate Certificate Clinical Research (Human Nutrition) MRes Clinical Research (Human Nutrition) (1YFT) MRes Clinical Research (Human Nutrition) (2YPT) Postgraduate Certificate Clinical Research (Human Nutrition) (Online) MRes Clinical Research (Human Nutrition) (1YFT) (Online) MRes Clinical Research (Human Nutrition) (2YPT) (Online)	A3CR9 A3CR A3CR24 A3DO9 A3DO A3DO24 A3CD9 A3CD A3CF A3CH9 A3CH A3CH24 A3CH27 A3CH25 A3CH26	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
MRes	1 Calendar Year	Full-time	Annually in October	90	180
MRes	2 Calendar Years	Part-time	Annually in October	90	180
PG Certificate	1 Calendar Year	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	Metabolism, Digestion and Reproduction
Associateship	Diploma of Imperial College (DIC) (MRes only)	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	Dr Aaron Lett Dr Anne Majumdar Dr David Owen
Student cohorts covered by specification	2025-26 entry
Date of introduction of programme (MRes)	October 08
Date of introduction of programme (PG Certificate)	October 2019
Date of programme specification/revision	May 24

Programme Overview

The MRes in Clinical Research is an umbrella programme currently comprising of three pathways (Diabetes and Obesity, Human Nutrition (on-campus and online) and Translational Medicine). You will undertake four core modules, in addition to a fifth elective module that is specific to the pathway. The course is supported by both NHS clinical and Imperial's 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) and a new online stream for the Human Nutrition pathway was introduced in 2021.

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 research article write up, 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 degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at: https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/education/our-graduates/

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 university). Students with a 2:2 UK Bachelor's Degree with Honours in medicine or life sciences (or a comparable qualification recognised by the university) may also be considered with relevant experience and following interview (see below).
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 IELTS score of 6.5 overall (minimum 6.0 in all elements)
Admissions Test/Interview	Home/EU/international students will be invited to attend a post-application interview conducted by two members of the teaching team. Applications need to include academic results, CV, personal statement and two reference letters.

The programme's competency standards documents are available from the department.

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 one of Imperial's VLEs
- E-learning formative tasks
- Independent learning

Shared pathway face-to-face teaching (compulsory 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 research article write up of your research project. Formative assessments are available for ~~all~~ some modules for example on the Imperial Insendi e-learning platform, and also through peer assessment during class workshops. The final research project will be assessed by a research proposal, final research article write up, poster presentation and oral exam. The majority of assessments are coursework or presentation based, and you will only be required to undertake two online exams (equivalent of ~~7.5~~ 10 credits 5 per exam). 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 & Clinical Research Measures (core module) 15 ECTS	66.6%	33.3%	
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, by course staff or by automatic self-assessment for e-learning tasks. All feedback on summative assessments will be returned by electronic means on a VLE, normally within two weeks. Formative feedback will be provided 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 university's 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 Imperial's Policy on Re-sits available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/
Mitigating Circumstances Policy
Mitigating Circumstances will be considered according to Imperial's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

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 e.g. Level 7 **You will study all core modules. You must choose one elective module based on your selected pathway at registration.**					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
META70010	Research Conduct and Clinical Research Measures	Core		Autumn	15
META70013	Human Nutrition	Elective*		Spring	5
META70014	Diabetes and Obesity	Elective*		Spring	5
META70015	Translational Medicine	Elective*		Spring	5
META70011	Clinical Research Scenarios and Working in Challenging Areas	Core		Spring-Summer	5
META70012	Critical Appraisal	Core		Autumn-Summer	5
META70016	Research Project	Core		Autumn-Summer	60
*Elective modules are specific to chosen pathway				Credit Total	90

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 you must have:

1. passed modules to the value of no fewer than 90 credits at credit level 7.
2. met specific requirements for an award as outlined in the approved programme specification for that award.

For a Masters, your classification is determined through the Programme Overall Weighted Average and the designated dissertation or final major project module meeting the threshold for the relevant classification band.

Your degree algorithm provides an appropriate and reliable summary of your performance against the programme learning outcomes. It reflects the design, delivery, and structure of your programme without unduly over-emphasising particular aspects.

Programme Specific Regulations

N/A

Supporting Information
The Programme Handbook is available from the department.
The Module Handbook is available from the department.
Imperial's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/accepted-qualifications/
Imperial's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance
Imperial's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations
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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 you may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take 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.