

Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
Allergy	A3F2	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
MSc – A3F136	3 Academic Years (36 months)	Part-Time	N/A	90	180
MSc – A3F124	2 Academic Years (24 months)	Part-Time	N/A	90	180
PG Diploma – A3F3	2 Academic Years (24 months)	Part-Time	N/A	60	120
PG Certificate – A3F2	1 Academic Year (9 months)	Part-Time	Annually in October	30	60

Students must apply to the PG Cert in the first instance.

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Medicine
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	National Heart and Lung Institute
Associateship	N/A	Main Location(s) of Study	Medical School, St. Mary's Site, Paddington

External Reference	
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points	Master's degrees in Medicine
FHEQ Level	Level 7 - Master's
EHEA Level	2nd cycle
External Accreditor(s) (if applicable)	
External Accreditor:	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 Marta Vazquez-Ortiz, Programme Director	
Student cohorts covered by specification		2022 – 23 entry	
Date of introduction of programme		October 2011	
Date of programme specification/revision		March 2022	

Programme Overview
<p>The programme has been designed to be applicable to students with a wide range of background skills in Allergy, who require a detailed understanding of the scientific basis of allergic disease, evidence-based approaches to diagnosis and treatment, critical evaluation of literature and core research methodologies in the Allergy field. Many of you will be Specialty Trainee doctors in Allergy or Paediatrics (specialist registrar level), however the programme will be specifically designed to be multidisciplinary and therefore also suitable for other healthcare professionals working with children and adults with allergic diseases, such as GPs, chest physicians, ENT doctors, dermatologists, specialist nurses, dieticians or nutritionists. The programme is also suitable for basic scientists, as it will enable you to develop a deep understanding of the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying allergic diseases, from clinical presentations to diagnostic tests and innovative management strategies that will help inform future basic research in Allergy.</p> <p>You can initially register for a PG Cert in Allergy. This can be awarded in its own right or, on successful completion of this component of the programme, you will be offered the opportunity to progress to the PG Diploma or the MSc in Allergy programme. The PG Cert in Allergy offers a broad coverage of the scientific basis of allergic disease, a focus on innovations in diagnosis and treatment in allergic diseases as well as a theoretical background to the principles of evidence-based medicine and critical evaluation. There are also opportunities to develop skills in teaching and learning within the discipline of allergy.</p> <p>By the end of the PG Cert programme, you will have enhanced your understanding of the scientific basis of allergy, your ability to diagnose and manage allergic conditions to the highest standards, as well as your critical appraisal skills and understanding of evidence-based allergy care. You will also have developed skills in the use of computing applied to healthcare and a deeper understanding of your own approach to adult learning.</p> <p>The PG Diploma will allow you to develop your knowledge and skills in more advanced and specialised subjects within allergy, directed towards your own clinical practice and research. You will be required to complete all 5 specialist modules. This level also gives you additional practice in skills such as presentation skills, case report writing, journal article writing and communication with different audiences, from healthcare professionals to patients and families.</p> <p>The MSc adds rigorous academic training, an introduction to appropriate research methods and practice and the opportunity for intellectual development within a stimulating yet supportive environment. Through completion of an MSc thesis, you will gain experience in research methodology and techniques, design of a research project or systematic review, data analysis and presentation, literature searching, critical appraisal and presentation of your work at scientific and clinical meetings as well as write-up for publication. In addition, you will have studied in depth a research project or systematic review in Allergy within your own working environment.</p> <p>This programme is designed to integrate with clinical training to develop key competencies from the joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board curriculum in Allergy training, as well as the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health curriculum in Paediatric Allergy training.</p>
Learning Outcomes

PG Cert:	<p>Upon successful completion of the PG Certificate, you will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illustrate the pathophysiology underlying allergic diseases, (with a focus on immune mechanisms and contributing factors), their development and progression from childhood into adulthood. 2. Appraise the suitability of current best practice in assessing, diagnosing and managing patients with allergic diseases in view of the underlying pathophysiology. 3. Select appropriate investigations and tests and interpret the results for presented allergy symptoms. 4. Make clinical decisions for allergy, based on clinical history, clinical examination and test results. 5. Critically analyse evidence from a variety of sources and assess its value for clinical practice and research in the field of allergy. 6. Develop a well-justified testable research hypothesis and propose an appropriate research methodology in the field of allergy within the context of the regulatory framework.
Additionally, for the PG Dip:	<p>Upon successful completion of the PG Diploma, you will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Design evidence-based diagnostic and management plans to address challenges encountered within the specific areas of allergy specialty, including complex or unusual ones. 8. Evaluate the benefits and pitfalls/risks of potential preventive strategies as well as advanced diagnostic and therapeutic procedures for allergic diseases (including molecular tests, food/drug challenges or allergen-specific immunotherapy) 9. Apply evidence-based medicine to improve patient care in clinical practice in the different disease areas in Allergy.
Additionally, for the MSc:	<p>Upon successful completion of the MSc, you will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Critically assess and evaluate the current literature to develop a research question and inform the detailed design of an appropriate project to investigate it. 11. Plan, conduct and write-up an original research project or systematic review demonstrating evidence of compliance with any necessary regulatory/ethical/legal processes, the use of established research methodology and data analysis using relevant software. 12. Communicate research findings in appropriate formats to a range of diverse audiences.

The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial College degree programme.

You will have gained the attributes from the Intended Learning Outcomes, as you have developed your critical appraisal skills (in the PG Cert year), furthered your skills in Evidence based-medicine to design strategies of care for your Allergy patients (PG Dip year) and designed and conducted your own original research or systematic review and communicated your findings (MSc year). All of these skills combine to improve your professional skillset and to increase your value as a professional within your discipline.

The Graduate Attributes are reflected in all of our Modules and are listed in the Imperial College Teaching and Learning Strategy as follows:

- Demonstrate deep conceptual understanding of your chosen discipline
- Work effectively in multi-cultural, international teams and across disciplinary boundaries

- Approach challenges with curiosity, critical thinking and creativity
- Innovatively apply your skills to tackling complex real-world problems
- Understand and value different cultures and perspectives
- Have developed into independent learners with high self-efficacy
- Display a strong sense of personal and professional identity

The Graduate Attributes are available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes

Entry Requirements

Academic Requirement	<p>The minimum requirement is normally a minimum of 2.1 UK Bachelor's Degree with Honours in a healthcare related subject such as Nursing, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy or similar health science (or a comparable qualification recognised by the College).</p> <p>For further information on entry requirements, please go to https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements/pgacademic/</p>
Non-academic Requirements	<p>Students with a Diploma and substantial work experience in a related healthcare field may be considered, subject to an interview with the Programme Director.</p>
English Language Requirement	<p>Standard requirement Please check for other Accepted English Qualifications</p>
Admissions Test/Interview	<p>All applicants are interviewed prior to an offer of a place, whenever possible, either in person or via an electronic platform (such as ZOOM or SKYPE) or by telephone.</p> <p>Applicants who do not fulfil the College's minimum general academic entry requirements, may be considered for admission subject to the successful completion of a special qualifying examination under the auspices of the College's special case policy.</p>

The programme's competency standards documents can be found at: **TBA**

Learning & Teaching Strategy

This part-time programme adopts an active learning strategy where the students are encouraged to be responsible for identifying their areas of lack of knowledge and experience and using the programme resources and face-to-face teaching sessions to learn both in collaboration with the teaching team and their peers and on their own through self-directed learning.

The programme modules consist of various teaching methodologies which may include:

- Pre-programme reading/audios/videos to read/listen/watch and quizzes to prepare for the programme
- Specialist lectures (with plenty of opportunity for interaction) by experts in their field from Imperial and other top-rated institutions. Further to these, lecture slides and often video recordings of the lectures for later review are provided. There are active teaching methodologies involved such as interactive question & answer elements, discussions and sharing of experiences from the students which encourage a more active learning approach by the students.
- Panel discussions with student interaction encouraged.
- Workshops and practical sessions with "hands-on" learning that promote learner participation and link skill acquisition and understanding with practice. These may include how to treat severe reactions in a simulation scenario, how to use common treatments (creams, devices, etc.) in practice, how to run an allergy clinic (including role play to simulate patient interaction), how to conduct allergy in vivo and in vitro tests, including how to perform specialised procedures such as allergen provocation challenges and delivering immunotherapy

- Group work and group presentations on selected topics and cases, such as synthesising complex pathophysiological pathways in visual diagrams, preparing and delivering Pro-Con debates, designing and presenting a Research Proposal, or discussing and presenting complex practical cases. This may include student-led presentations in a range of formats such as posters, flipcharts and slides. Such activities incorporate constructive feedback by peers and faculty to facilitate progress in your learning. These may be created in a face-to-face setting or via an online platform.
- Online learning materials, quizzes and core and supplementary reading lists on Leganto all delivered via Blackboard
- Signposting to further learning materials such as useful videos, websites and conferences
- Supportive Tutorials available to join online
- Networking and cohort building both face-to-face when in class weeks and online through group work

Additionally, you are encouraged to contact the programme team for administrative, pastoral and learning support as needed. Additional tutorial sessions can be arranged, and exploration of your feedback can be discussed with the team.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment Methods

Assessment Methods

Assessment is treated as a dialogue between you and the teachers. The student ownership of learning and improvement is stressed.

The formative assessments help you to practise and develop skills in individual and in group settings. The teacher and peer feedback that you receive will inform you on how to improve your performance and you can also learn from observation of good practice that is modelled by presenters and module leaders and peers. Self-reflection and learning from the different methods of feedback (verbal or written, informal or formal) is encouraged.

The summative assessments are reflected in the module assignments which are designed to assess the intended learning throughout the programme, by the employment of skilled real-world outputs such as paper writing on selected topics or cases, poster creation and individual and group presentations. Each assessment is carefully selected to complement the module and to produce an authentic output that is related to the discipline. These assignments lead to the development of transferable professional skills that will be useful in your future career. Furthermore, your work will lead to practical demonstrations of the graduate attributes that have been achieved. You will show gains in communication skills in a variety of modalities from a variety of written platforms to presentation techniques.

An online plagiarism awareness course must be completed and the certificate must be presented before any assignment can be accepted.

There is one multiple choice exam that is included after module one. The purpose is to assess your grasp of the materials in that key module. The exam demonstrates your knowledge and your ability to apply learning to case studies. It is an authentic assessment for you as there are often exams included as you develop in your career.

The final summative assessment is the MSc thesis and the viva which are based on your original research or your systematic review that you have performed during the programme. This is the culmination of all of your learning and demonstrates the practical application of the lessons learned. It demonstrates not only an understanding of the research

	process, but how you communicate your work in both written and oral forms.
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Academic Feedback Policy	
The College's Policy on Academic Feedback and guidance on issuing provisional marks to students is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/	
Re-sit Policy	
The College's Policy on Re-sits is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/	
Mitigating Circumstances Policy	
The College's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/undergraduate-and-taught-postgraduate/exams-assessments-and-regulations/mitigating-circumstances/	

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
N/A as programme recommended reading books etc. are all available to borrow from the library	N/A	N/A

Programme Structure ¹					
Year 1					
Code	Module Title	Core/Elective	Group	Term	Credits
NHLI70025	The Scientific Basis of Allergy	Core		1	10
NHLI70026	The Diagnosis and Treatment of Allergic Disease	Core		2	10
NHLI70027	The Cutting Edge of Allergy	Core		3	10
Credit Total					30
Year 2					
Code	Module Title	Core/Elective	Group	Term	Credits
NHLI70028	Food Hypersensitivity	Compulsory		1	10
NHLI70030	Allergic Airways Disease and Asthma	Compulsory		2	5
NHLI70029	Rhinitis, Rhinosinusitis and Immunotherapy	Compulsory		2	5
NHLI70031	Allergic Skin Disease	Compulsory		3	5
NHLI70032	Paediatric Allergy	Compulsory		3	5
Credit Total					30
Year 2 or 3					
Code	Module Title	Core/Elective	Group	Terms	Credits
NHLI70033	Research Skills in Allergy	Core		1 - 3	30
Programme 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.

Programme Regulations

Marking Scheme

Award and Classification for Postgraduate Students

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert)

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate certificate a student must have a minimum of 30 credits at Level 7.

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip)

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate diploma a student must have passed modules to the value of no fewer than 60 credits at Level 7.

Classification of Postgraduate Taught Awards

The College sets the class of Degree that may be awarded as follows:

1. Distinction: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above across the programme.
2. Merit: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of above 60% but less than 70.00%.
3. Pass: The student has achieved an overall weighted average of 50.00% but less than 60.00%.
 - a. For a Masters, students must normally achieve a distinction (70.00%) mark in the Research Skills in Allergy module in order to be awarded a distinction.
 - b. For a Masters, students must normally achieve a minimum of a merit (60.00%) mark in the Research Skills in Allergy module in order to be awarded a merit.

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.

Programme Specific Regulations

N/A

Supporting Information

The **2022-23 Programme Handbook** is available on Blackboard [here](#)

Module information is available in the **2022/23** Programme handbook [on Blackboard](#)

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 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