

Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
Allergy	For Registry Use Only	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	Annually in October	90	180
MSc Online – A3F137	3 Academic Years (36 months)	Part-Time	Annually in October	90	180
MSc – A3F124	2 Academic Years (24 months)	Part-Time	Annually in October	90	180
MSc Online – A3F125	2 Academic Years (24 months)	Part-Time	Annually in October	90	180
PG Diploma – A3F3	2 Academic Years (24 months)	Part-Time	Annually in October	60	120
PG Diploma Online – A3F20D	2 Academic Years (24 months)	Part-Time	Annually in October	60	120
PG Certificate – A3F2	1 Academic Year (9 months)	Part-Time	Annually in October	30	60
PG Certificate Online – A3F20	1 Academic Year (9 months)	Part-Time	Annually in October	30	60
The above qualifications are both entry and exit points. You should apply for the award with which you intend to exit.					

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Medicine
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	National Heart and Lung Institute
Associateship	Diploma of Imperial College (DIC) (MSc only)	Main Location(s) of Study	Various - South Kensington, Royal Brompton, St Mary's, Online
External Reference			

Relevant <a href="#">QAA Benchmark Statement(s)</a> and/or other external reference points		Medicine	
<a href="#">FHEQ Level</a>		Level 7 - Master’s	
<a href="#">EHEA Level</a>		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		2025-26 entry	
Date of introduction of programme		October 2011	
Date of programme specification/revision		June 2024	

<b>Programme Overview</b>
<p>The Allergy 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 register for either the blended or online PG Certificate, PG Diploma or MSc in Allergy. The PG Certificate and PG Diploma can be completed and awarded in their own right or, on successful completion of these components of the programme, you may progress to the MSc in Allergy blended or online programme. If you begin on the Online programme, you can switch to the blended stream following completion of the PGCert, if you wish to. Students can withdraw at any point, and can exit with a PG Certificate or PG Diploma award upon successful completion of the appropriate credits.</p> <p>The PG Certificate 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. By the end of the PG Certificate 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, to apply your critical appraisal skills to assessing allergy literature as well as apply evidence-</p>

based practice to clinical care in your own working environment. You will also have developed skills in the use of computing as applied to healthcare and a deeper understanding of your own approach to adult learning.

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 compulsory modules. This level also gives you additional practice in skills such as critical appraisal and presentation skills, case report writing, journal article writing and communication with different audiences, from healthcare professionals to patients and families.

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, advanced literature search, 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 an area of Allergy, often within your own working environment. It is possible for projects to be carried out partly or wholly at an external organisation.

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.

The Allergy PG Certificate/PG Diploma/MSc blended and online streams run concurrently. Most learning materials and sessions are shared by the two streams. The blended stream offers you on campus, hands-on practical learning during the practical days. The online stream provides the opportunity to remotely access all synchronous and asynchronous sessions, without having to attend on campus. You will have multiple opportunities for interaction with other students in the online stream as well as those in the blended stream, which will foster peer learning, cohort building and networking. The online stream provides remote attendance at practical days.

## Learning Outcomes

PG Certificate:	<p>Upon successful completion of the PG Certificate, you will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Illustrate the pathophysiology underlying allergic diseases, (with a focus on immune mechanisms and contributing factors), their development and progression from childhood into adulthood.</li><li>2. Appraise the suitability of current best practice in assessing, diagnosing and managing patients with allergic diseases in view of the underlying pathophysiology.</li><li>3. Select appropriate investigations and tests and interpret the results for presented allergy symptoms.</li><li>4. Make evidence-based clinical decisions for allergy, based on clinical history, clinical examination and test results.</li><li>5. Critically analyse evidence from a variety of sources such as original publications, reviews and guidelines, and assess its value for clinical practice and research in the field of allergy.</li><li>6. Develop a well-justified testable research hypothesis and propose an appropriate research methodology for a research study in the field of allergy within the context of the regulatory framework.</li></ol>
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<p>Additionally, for the PG Diploma:</p>	<p>Upon successful completion of the PG Diploma, you will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design evidence-based diagnostic approaches to address challenges encountered within the specific areas of allergy specialty, such as complex or unusual clinical presentations.</li> <li>Formulate evidence-based management plans to address challenges encountered within the specific areas of allergy specialty, such as complex or unusual clinical presentations or psychosocial issues impacting on concordance.</li> <li>Evaluate the benefits and pitfalls/risks of potential preventive strategies, and advanced diagnostic and therapeutic procedures for allergic diseases such as molecular tests, food/drug challenges or allergen-specific immunotherapy, including the applicability and implications for individual patients or specific scenarios.</li> <li>Assess the limitations and gaps in clinical and/or research evidence on the pathophysiology, diagnosis, management or prevention in different areas of Allergy and how these impact on clinical practice.</li> <li>Apply evidence-based medicine to improve patient care in clinical practice in the different disease areas in Allergy.</li> </ol>
<p>Additionally, for the MSc:</p>	<p>Upon successful completion of the MSc, you will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critically assess and evaluate the current Allergy literature to develop a research question addressing a significant limitation or knowledge gap in clinical and/or research evidence.</li> <li>Assess current clinical and/or research evidence to inform the detailed methodology of an appropriate project to investigate a research question.</li> <li>Plan and conduct an original research project or systematic review demonstrating evidence of compliance with any necessary regulatory/ethical/legal processes and data analysis systems including use of relevant software.</li> <li>Generate an original research or systematic review manuscript on a pre-determined topic following guidance from peer-review journals.</li> <li>Communicate research findings in appropriate formats to a range of diverse audiences.</li> </ol>
<p>The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial degree programme.</p> <p>You will have gained the attributes from the Intended Learning Outcomes, as you have developed your critical appraisal skills (in the PG Certificate year), furthered your skills in Evidence based-medicine to design strategies of care for your Allergy patients (PG Diploma 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.</p> <p>The Graduate Attributes are reflected in all of our modules and are listed in the Imperial Teaching and Learning Strategy as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate deep conceptual understanding of your chosen discipline</li> <li>Work effectively in multi-cultural, international teams and across disciplinary boundaries</li> <li>Approach challenges with curiosity, critical thinking and creativity</li> <li>Innovatively apply your skills to tackling complex real-world problems</li> <li>Understand and value different cultures and perspectives</li> <li>Have developed into independent learners with high self-efficacy</li> </ul>	

- Display a strong sense of personal and professional identity

The Graduate Attributes are available at: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/education/our-graduates/>

## 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 university).</p> <p>For further information on entry requirements, please go to <a href="https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/">www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/</a></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><a href="#">Higher requirement (PG)</a> Please check for other <a href="#">Accepted English Qualifications</a></p>
Admissions Test/Interview	<p>All applicants are interviewed prior to an offer of a place, whenever possible, via an electronic platform (such as MS Teams or ZOOM) or by telephone.</p> <p>Applicants who do not fulfil Imperial'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 Imperial's special case policy.</p>

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

## Learning & Teaching Strategy

### Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods

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

The modules consist of various teaching methodologies, including asynchronous and synchronous elements by experts in their field from Imperial and other top-rated institutions, and may include:

- Asynchronous elements, allowing students to engage at their own pace, such as reading/audios/videos/ pre-recorded lectures/ mini-lectures/web-based resources to read/listen/watch, as well as student-led tasks and quizzes to work on individually as well as in groups and prepare for the synchronous (live) sessions
- Synchronous elements in a broad range of formats including live specialist lectures and mini-lectures, pro-con debates, scenario and case-based discussion sessions, focused discussions, expert panel Q&As, student-led presentations, poster sessions, journal clubs, student-led 'bring your own challenge or case', 'mock scenario' or 'mock clinic' sessions. Learning approaches such as flipped classroom, team-based or problem-based learning will be used.  
These taught materials will be shared by the attendance and the online streams.
- Further to these, video recordings of the synchronous sessions, and often slides, for later review are provided.
- Workshops, demonstrations and other practical sessions 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. For the online stream, all the above will be provided in a simulated or remote viewing setting.

- 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 online through group work and dedicated sessions

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.

### Overall Workload

Your overall workload consists of face-to-face or online synchronous or asynchronous sessions and independent learning. While your actual contact hours may vary according to the module content, 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 750 hours per year for the 30 ECTS (PGCert) programme, 1500 hours for the 60 ECTS (PGDip) programme and 2250 hours for the 90 ECTS (MSc) programme.

## Assessment Strategy

### Assessment Methods

Assessment Methods	<p>Assessment is treated as a dialogue between you and the teachers. The student ownership of learning and improvement is stressed.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 academic as well as lay 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.</p> <p>An online plagiarism awareness course must be completed and the certificate must be presented before any assignment can be accepted. You are expected to do a plagiarism check on your work for instance using the similarity report generated by the Turnitin platform used for assessment submission.</p> <p>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</p>
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	<p>case studies and particular scenarios. It is an authentic assessment for you as there are often exams included as you develop in your career.</p> <p>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 your learning and demonstrates the practical application of the lessons learned. It demonstrates not only an understanding of the research process, but also how you communicate your work in both written and oral forms.</p>
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Academic Feedback Policy
Imperial's Policy on Academic Feedback and guidance on issuing provisional marks to students is available at: <a href="http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/">www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/</a>
Re-sit Policy
Imperial's Policy on Re-sits is available at: <a href="http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/">www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/</a>
Mitigating Circumstances Policy
Imperial's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: <a href="http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/">www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/</a>

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

<b>Programme Structure<sup>1</sup></b> <b>You must study all core and compulsory modules.</b>					
<b>Year 1</b>					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory	Group	Term	Credits
NHLI70025	The Scientific Basis of Allergy	Core		Autumn	10
NHLI70026	The Diagnosis and Treatment of Allergic Disease	Core		Spring	10
NHLI70027	The Cutting Edge of Allergy	Core		Summer	10
Credit Total					30
<b>Year 2</b>					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory	Group	Term	Credits
NHLI70028 NHLI70056	Food Hypersensitivity	Compulsory		Autumn	10
NHLI70030 NHLI70058	Asthma and Allergic Airways Disease	Compulsory		Spring	5
NHLI70029 NHLI70057	Rhinitis, Rhinosinusitis and Immunotherapy	Compulsory		Spring	5
NHLI70031 NHLI70059	Allergic Skin Disease and Drug Allergy	Compulsory		Summer	5
NHLI70032 NHLI70060	Paediatric Allergy	Compulsory		Summer	5
Credit Total					30
<b>Year 2 or 3</b>					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory	Group	Terms	Credits
NHLI70033 NHLI70061	Research Skills in Allergy	Core		Autumn-Summer	30
Programme Credit Total					90

<sup>1</sup> **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 and Classification

### Award and Classification for Postgraduate Students

#### Award of a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert)

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

1. and no more than 10 credits as a Compensated Pass;

#### Award of a Masters Degree:

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate degree you must have:

1. accumulated credit to the value of no fewer than 90 credits at Level 7
2. and no more than 15 credits as a Compensated Pass;
3. met any specific requirements for an award as outlined in the approved programme specification for that award.

#### Classification of Postgraduate Taught Awards

1. Distinction: 70.00% or above
2. Merit: 60.00% or above but less than 70.00%.
3. Pass: 50.00% or above but less than 60.00%.

For a Masters, your classification will be 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 on Blackboard.

Module information is available in the Programme Handbook on Blackboard

Imperial's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at:  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/)

Imperial's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at:  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance](http://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](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations)

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[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/university-governance-structure/charters/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/university-governance-structure/charters/)

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