

Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
Postgraduate Certificate in Digital Health Leadership (Suspended for 26/27) Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Health Leadership MSc in Digital Health Leadership	A3DHC A3DHD A3DHM	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
PG Cert (Track A) (Suspended for 26/27) - A3DHC	9 months	Part time	Annually in September	30	60
PG Dip (Track A)	9 months (continued, 18 months total)	Part time	N/A	60	120
PG Dip* - A3DID	12 months	Part time	N/A	60	120
PG Dip (Track B) - A3DHD	12 months	Full time	Annually in September	60	120
MSc - A3DHM	12 Months (continued, 24 months total)	Part Time	Annually in September	90	180

The PG Diploma and MSc are available as points of entry. The PG Diploma (Track A) is only available to students who have completed the PG Cert.

*Closed entry for transfer students.

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Medicine
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	Department of Surgery and Cancer
Associateship	Diploma of Imperial College (DIC) (MSc only)	Main Location(s) of Study	Online & external

External Reference	
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external reference points	The programme is consistent with the overarching qualifications of the European Higher Education Framework. Making IT Work: Harnessing the power of health information technology to improve care in England NHS England's Request for Proposal for NHS Digital Academy delivery partner
FHEQ Level	Level 7

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		Prof. Ara Darzi	
Student cohorts covered by specification		Students starting in 2026/27 academic year and following years.	
Date of introduction of programme		April 2018.	
Date of programme specification/revision		May 2025	
Programme Overview			
This part-time programme is designed for people working in digital health, including Chief Information Officers, Chief Clinical Information Officers, and technology programme managers in healthcare. It is designed to improve the quality of digital health in the UK. You will have the option of studying for a PG Certificate (Track A), a PG Diploma (Track B) or an MSc at outset. Track A is a two-year route to the PG Diploma, with four modules per year. Track B is a one-year route to the PG Diploma, with eight modules taken in one year. You will register for the award you intend to exit with in the first instance. If for any reason you wish to leave the programme at either the Certificate or Diploma level, that will remain an option. After successful completion of the PG Cert, if you want to progress further can opt to take either PG Diploma (Track A) or the MSc. If you who opt for the MSc at this stage will complete 8 taught modules and the 12-month independent research project following completion of the PG Diploma. The learning experience is tied to work-based projects so that participants can practically apply the skills and knowledge they will acquire. We expect that up to 50% of your working hours will be spent on activities that are relevant for the programme, reflected in the ECTS value and respective learning hours on each module. You will be introduced to theory and critical analysis tools and frameworks which are designed to have an immediate impact on your practice, you are expected to apply your learning immediately. You will reflect on your learning throughout the programme and produce a critical reflective journal building on the content of the modules, outlining the impact on your leadership journey and connect it back to your overall Personal Development Plan and real-world leadership journey. A final presentation will be produced to synthesise reflections and illustrate how the programme has impacted your leadership practice, and ability to deal with complex problems systematically and creatively. You will also establish your post-programme leadership plan enabling you to continue your development as a Digital Health Leader. Assessments are linked to real-life projects that you are responsible for alongside your studies in your respective NHS organisations, providing opportunities to gain real-world experience of health informatics challenges and apply your theoretical knowledge to practical business problems. Examples include:			

- Development of a process map to better understand an important process in the organisation, visualising it from the perspective of relevant stakeholders. The result should have real value to your organisation.
- A strategy document comprising a mission statement, vision summary, core values and aspirations for a digital programme of work that you lead, or a programme of work in which you have core responsibility within your job plan, definition of the critical success factors for delivery and an executive summary of the high-level operational frameworks and processes in place in the organisation to support delivery of this programme, and what changes will be required to deliver the proposed strategy.
- A design-focused solution to a real-life healthcare service, providing a fresh perspective to a real issue in your NHS organisation.
- A briefing paper for the executive board which conceptualises how AI could be employed with existing data within the next three years, with the key drivers being quality improvement and/or patient safety.

Learning Outcomes

On attaining the Postgraduate Certificate, you will be able to:

- Present in written and oral format, health system performance assessment in terms of health outcomes, responsiveness, equity, financial protection, and efficiency.
- Apply the principles, theory and methodological frameworks of strategy and organisational change to set an agenda for change within health and social care contexts.
- Apply design-centred thinking to propose solutions to service improvement requirements in information-sensitive contexts within health and social care sectors.
- Appraise and adjust your leadership style, developing engagement strategies to take forward significant programmes to full benefits realisation in health and social care environments.

On attaining the Postgraduate Diploma (in addition to the learning outcomes of the certificate), you will be able to:

- Apply different theoretical models of innovation and evaluate the reasons why some innovations succeed while others fail and how health policy makers can support and foster innovation.
- Employ persuasive skills to influence organisational change and inform informatics programme delivery across the health and social care landscape.
- Evaluate specific proposed digital interventions in healthcare, employing data-driven approaches, evaluating the impact and quality agenda of healthcare systems.
- Approach and appraise leadership challenges with reflective criticality.

On attaining the MSc (in addition to the learning outcomes of the diploma) you will also be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical awareness of current problems, relevant approaches and best practices relative to a dissertation topic and key study themes.
- Plan, justify and evaluate an evidence-based research methodology approach to address the dissertation topic.
- Select, synthesise and critically analyse evidence, data sets, information and arguments from a diversity of sources, including publications informed by recent research developments.
- Address and consider the importance of ethical matters in research.
- Illustrate originality in the application of knowledge relative to the dissertation topic by proposing new hypotheses and generating recommendations for actions.
- Convey clear ideas through well-supported arguments, and communicate conclusions effectively to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

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

Normally we require you to hold a 2:2 UK Bachelor's Degree with Honours in a healthcare related subject, or management/policy related subject

	and/or a medical degree or equivalent (or a comparable qualification recognised by the university).
Non-academic Requirements	NHS Employee 2-3 years' experience working in a Digital Health context or related area.
English Language Requirement	<u>Higher requirement</u> We require you to complete IELTS score of 7.0 overall (minimum 6.5 in all elements).
Admissions Test/Interview	If you do not meet the academic requirements above but have substantial relevant industry experience, you may be admitted following completion of a 'Special Qualifying Exam' (SQE)

The programme's competency standards documents can be found at: www.digital-transformation.hee.nhs.uk/digital-academy/programmes/digital-health-leadership-programme/prospective-applicants

Learning & Teaching Approach

Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods

The course will employ a blended learning approach with a mix of asynchronous and synchronous online learning and assessment activities combined with residential in-person teaching. Each module will have a unique blend of teaching and learning activities, depending on the content.

Recorded presentations

This is a key method of delivering learning and teaching to communicate the theoretical basis of each module and relevant research available. Our lecturers come from Imperial and from other national and international universities and schools where appropriate. This style of learning and teaching is also used by keynote speakers to deliver practical, real-life examples of systems design and implementation in practice, so that you can relate key theoretical concepts to real-life examples.

Applied learning activities

To reinforce learning of key concepts we will work with you through practical exercises. For example, case studies of technology interventions and outcomes will be used to ensure a sound understanding of the theory of change which is further explored in later assessments.

Online and in-person group exercises and presentations and team-based learning

Learning within teams is a useful method of teaching and where useful, we employ methods to problem solve within teams, practically applying the theory learnt within a module. For example, during the innovation module we have designed a set of group learning exercises to understand critical analysis of research in health innovation and the biases and problems associated with studies in this area.

Overall Workload

Your overall workload consists of weekly online learning sessions and independent learning on the virtual learning environment and through work-based learning. While your actual time spent working through content may vary according to the modules you study, 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 187.5 hours per 7.5-ECTS module, for a total of 1500 for the PGDip and 2250 for the MSc.

We expect that you will spend 15-20% of the time engaging with online content, while the remainder will be comprised of independent and group study, completion of assignments, and up to 50% of your time directly applying your learning into practice through multiple improvement projects at your NHS organisation.

Assessment Strategy

Assessment Methods

The programme will utilise a diverse set of assessment methods, including the following:

- Written critical analysis of academic papers
- Process mapping and visualisation of health service design for a range of stakeholders
- Practical working examples from economics
- Group presentations
- Oral and video presentations
- Preparation of briefing papers for the executive board
- Reflective assessment

Module SURG70096 (Essentials of Health Systems) will be assessed with a structured process map analysis of a health systems issue. The assessment tests the evaluation of a health systems issue and the understanding of how health system performance can be communicated to a broad range of stakeholders.

Module SURG70095 (Strategy and Transformational Change) will be assessed with a written strategy piece, relevant to your work. You will design a 3- to 5-year strategy and present a high-level summary in a business canvas document. In addition, in groups you will critique the challenges and opportunities of balancing resourcing and delivery of 'business as usual' activities with business transformation projects.

Module SURG70094 (Design for Digital Transformation) will be assessed with an individual infographic, visualising a service, and highlighting key areas that have changed, illustrating key drivers and implications. You will present this via a short video, demonstrating how you have defined the users of the service. You are asked to articulate, in a manner that can be understood by a lay audience, how that change has impacted the people involved.

Module SURG70093 (Principles of Leadership) is assessed with a written report, describing your own leadership challenge relating to module learning outcomes. You will critically evaluate your own leadership skills and how you may become more effective in leading small or large groups through change.

Module SURG70092 (Innovation in Healthcare) will be assessed through an individual report, critically evaluating a digital innovation, and applying innovation models and theory. The report will be a detailed structured analysis of the process by which an initial idea translates into a marketable innovation.

Module SURG70091 (Health Information Systems) will be assessed with a group report, assessing the role of technology and health informatics in the delivery and improvement of health and social care delivery for a scenario of your choice. Your group should propose strategies to address the challenges of translating evidence into implementable solutions in the scenario.

Module SURG70090 (Data-driven Decision Support) is assessed with an individual briefing paper, conceptualise how AI could be employed with existing data within the next three years to achieve improvements in quality and patient safety. You will summarise opportunities to apply these technologies, with the key drivers being quality improvement and/or patient safety. You will then produce a Project Charter, using one of the examples you have developed, complete a Project Initiation Document to take the proposal forward.

Module SURG70089 (Leadership in Practice) is assessed through combined critical reflection assessments covering leadership development learning in a practical setting involving faculty, peers and practitioners. Over the course of Module 8, the students will be asked to complete two assessments that asks them to critically reflect on all the modules that they have completed so far.

To obtain the MSc, you will be required to submit a dissertation (SURG70056)..

Module overview:

Module	PG Cert	PG Dip / MSc	Shared
Essentials of Health Systems	SURG70096 Year 1, term 1	SURG70085 Term 1	PG Cert, PG Dip and MSc Health Policy/Patient Safety
Strategy and Transformational Change	SURG70095 Year 1, term 2	SURG70084 Term 1	PG Cert and PG Dip
Design for Digital Transformation	SURG70094	SURG70083	PG Cert and PG Dip

	Year 1, term 3	Term 2	
Principles of Leadership	SURG70093 Year 1, term 1-3	SURG70082 Term 1-3	PG Cert, PG Dip and MSc Health Policy/Patient Safety/Design and Healthcare
Innovation in Healthcare	SURG70092 Year 2, term 1	SURG70081 Term 2	PG Cert, PG Dip and MSc Health Policy/Patient Safety/Design and Healthcare
Health Information Systems	SURG70091 Year 2, term 2	SURG70080 Term 3	PG Dip and PG Cert
Data-driven Decision Support	SURG70090 Year 2, term 3	SURG70079 Term 4	PG Cert and PG Dip
Leadership in Practice	SURG70089 Year 2, term 1-3	SURG70078 Term 1-3	PG Cert, PG Dip
Dissertation		SURG70056 Year 2, MSc only	MSc DHL and MSc Health Policy/Patient Safety

Please refer to the Teaching Toolkit for advice on assessment methods:

www.imperial.ac.uk/staff/educational-development/teaching-toolkit/assessment-and-feedback/

Academic Feedback Policy

You will be provided with feedback from each coursework assessment throughout the programme. This feedback will allow you to evaluate your progress throughout the programme. Personal tutors will be able to assist you in this area.

You will receive indicative grades for taught component assignments within 10 days for short (or coursework) assignments and for essay assignments within four weeks from the assignment deadline.

There are several case studies and group work exercises throughout the programme, which are not formally assessed, but which will allow you to receive feedback from group leaders and your peers.

If you are undertaking the MSc, the research project will be assessed at different stages with the academic supervisors providing input into methodologies and interpretation of results.

Dissertation workshops allow you to present your dissertation at different stages and receive feedback, and a dissertation clinic is available where you will be able to book time to discuss any aspects of your dissertation project.

Imperial'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

A failed piece of coursework can be resubmitted on one further occasion. The resubmission deadline is to be agreed with the relevant module leader and Programme Director. If the MSc research project is failed, you may resubmit on one further occasion in the following academic year, with a deadline to be agreed with your project supervisor and the Programme Director. Re-sitting/re-submitting assessments will be capped at the pass mark, according to the university's policy: www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/

Mitigating Circumstances Policy

You may be eligible to apply for mitigation if you suffer from serious and unforeseen circumstances during the course of your studies that have adversely affected your ability to complete an assessment task and/or performance in a piece of assessment.

The university's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is 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
N/A	N/A	N/A

Programme Structure					
Year 1 (Track A) – FHEQ Level 7 You will study all compulsory modules.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group*	Term	Credits
SURG70096	1. Essentials of Health Systems	Compulsory		Autumn	7.5
SURG70095	2. Strategy and Transformational Change	Compulsory		Spring	7.5
SURG70094	3. Design for Digital Transformation	Compulsory		Summer	7.5
SURG70093	4. Principles of Leadership	Compulsory		Autumn-Summer	7.5
Credit Total					30
Year 2 (Track A continued)– FHEQ Level 7 You will study all compulsory modules.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group*	Term	Credits
SURG70092	1. Innovation in Healthcare	Compulsory		Autumn	7.5
SURG70091	2. Health Information Systems	Compulsory		Spring	7.5
SURG70090	3. Data-driven Decision Support	Compulsory		Summer	7.5
SURG70089	4. Leadership in Practice	Compulsory		Autumn-Summer	7.5
Credit Total					30
Year 1 (Track B / MSc route) – FHEQ Level 7 You will study all compulsory modules.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group*	Term	Credits
SURG70085	1. Essentials of Health Systems	Compulsory		Autumn	7.5
SURG70084	2. Strategy and Transformational Change	Compulsory		Autumn	7.5
SURG70083	3. Design for Digital Transformation	Compulsory		Spring	7.5
SURG70082	4. Principles of Leadership	Compulsory		Autumn-Summer	7.5
SURG70081	5. Innovation in Healthcare	Compulsory		Spring	7.5
SURG70080	6. Health Information Systems	Compulsory		Summer	7.5
SURG70079	7. Data-driven Decision Support	Compulsory		Summer	7.5

SURG70078	8 Leadership in Practice	Compulsory		Autumn-Summer	7.5
Credit Total					60
Year 2 (MSc route continued) - FHEQ Level 7 You will study all core modules.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group	Term	Credits
SURG70056	9. Dissertation	Core for MSc		Autumn-Summer	30
Credit Total					30

* 'Group' refers to module grouping (e.g. a group of electives from which one/two module(s) must be chosen).

Progression and Classification

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert) – Suspended for 2024-25 entry

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate certificate you must have a minimum of 30 credits at Level 7 (this may include a maximum of 10 credits from Level 6 where this is approved as part of the award).

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 (this may include a maximum of 15 credits from Level 6 where this is approved as part of the award).

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

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

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 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/

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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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/

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.