

Programme Specification: PG Cert / Dip / MSc Medical Ultrasound

NOTE: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detail on the specific learning outcomes, indicative content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found (1) at <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/health>, (2) in the Module Specifications and (3) in the Student Handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked within independent review processes undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Awarding Institution / Body:	Birmingham City University
Teaching Institution:	Birmingham City University
Interim Awards and Final Award:	PG Cert Medical Ultrasound PG Dip Medical Ultrasound MSc Medical Ultrasound
Programme Title:	PG Cert/Dip/MSc Medical Ultrasound
Main fields of Study:	<i>Obstetric Ultrasound</i> <i>Gynaecological Ultrasound</i> <i>Abdominal and General Ultrasound</i> <i>Vascular Ultrasound</i>
Modes of Study:	Afternoon evening release Clinical placement
Language of Study:	English
UCAS Code:	
JACS Code:	

Professional Status of the programme (if applicable):

The programme is accredited by CASE (the Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education)

Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external reference points used to inform programme outcomes:

CASE Validation and Accreditation Handbook

UKAS Guidelines for Professional Working Standards

Skills For Health Clinical Imaging Competencies/National Occupational Standards Clinical Imaging C1 – C6

QAA Code of Practice Section 9 Work- based and placement learning

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualification in England Wales and Northern Ireland. (Educational levels)

Leadership Competencies

BCU Learning and Teaching Strategy

Programme philosophy and aims

The main aim of this programme is to produce a competent sonographer with the potential to become a fully autonomous practitioner. It achieves this by integrating clinical practice, classroom learning and self study always focusing on the main aim of the programme. The strengths of the programme are that all of the course team are current clinical practitioners and are readily accessible for advice and tutorials; that full use is made of technology to enhance clinical learning and self study; and that we have excellent links with clinical placements.

Overall Aim:

The aim of this programme is to produce a safe and effective sonographer with the potential to develop into a fully autonomous ultrasound practitioner.

Specific Aims:

The aims of the programme are to:

- To further develop and enhance the student's investigative and analytical skills so they are able to critically evaluate material from a variety of sources and make safe clinical decisions.
- To develop the student's capability for effective independent study.
- To provide students with a comprehensive knowledge of the principles of problem solving within the ultrasound profession in order to resolve issues in practice and service delivery.
- To provide students with a high standard of clinical experience in medical ultrasound practice.
- To enable the student to become highly competent in the acquisition and interpretation of diagnostic information.
- To enable the student to be competent in the production of clear written reports.
- To further develop and enhance the student's interpersonal skills so that s/he becomes a highly effective communicator able to provide a high standard of patient

care.

- To develop the student's administrative and management skills.
- To develop the student's ability to synthesise, appraise and critically evaluate research relevant to advanced ultrasound practice.

Intended learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated:

Learning Outcomes¹

1. Apply knowledge and expertise gained to perform and evaluate sonographic examinations to a high standard.
2. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of the principles of problem solving within the ultrasound profession in order to resolve issues in practice and service delivery
3. Evaluate and disseminate written and verbal information, with due regard to the psychological needs of patients and relatives.
4. Communicate effectively with other health professionals, with due regard to the clinical needs of the patient
5. Accept responsibility for their own sonographic work with due regard to the legal, ethical and management issues associated with advanced practice in the specialist field of medical ultrasound.
6. Develop the capacity to critically reflect on personal and professional practice in order to identify potential areas of development
7. Critically assess the role of ultrasound in the diagnosis of disease and management of the patient.
8. Synthesise, appraise and critically evaluate research relevant to advanced ultrasound practice.

Learning teaching, and assessment methods used

Lectures/tutorials from University staff and clinical specialists; audio lectures; discussion groups and other classroom activity; tutorials; Virtual Learning Environment; clinical tuition whilst on placement; production of clinical portfolios, which include reflective diaries

Assessment is by written assignments; production of working documents; clinical assessments; seen and unseen written examinations; invigilated assessments; research project proposals and MSc dissertations.

¹ Guidance on the specification of learning outcomes is available from the Centre for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching.

Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

The structure of the course, the modules, levels and credit values, and the awards which can be gained are shown in the diagram below.

The programme comprises core modules, clinical, optional and research modules.

Core Modules

- Physics and Technology of Ultrasound
- Professional Issues in Medical Ultrasound
- Research Theory and Practice

Clinical Modules

- Obstetric Ultrasound (double module)
- Gynaecological Ultrasound (double module)
- Abdominal and General Ultrasound (double module)
- Vascular Ultrasound (double module)
- Negotiated Specialist Subject (single module)

Optional Modules

- Fetal Medicine
- Independent Study and Professional Development

Research Modules

- The Dissertation (four modules)

Table showing structure of postgraduate medical ultrasound awards

Postgraduate Certificate Medical Ultrasound	Two core modules	Physics and Technology of Ultrasound Professional Issues in Medical Ultrasound
	One clinical module	One of the following: Obstetric Ultrasound Gynaecological Ultrasound Abdominal and General Ultrasound Vascular Ultrasound Negotiated Specialist Subject (15 credits)
	One option module, if necessary, to make a total of 60 credits at level 7	One of the following: Fetal Medicine Independent Study and Professional Development
Postgraduate Diploma Medical Ultrasound	Three core modules	Physics and Technology of Ultrasound Professional Issues in Medical Ultrasound Research Theory and Practice
	Two clinical modules One of which must be a double clinical module worth 30 credits	Two from the following: Obstetric Ultrasound Gynaecological Ultrasound Abdominal and General Ultrasound Vascular Ultrasound Negotiated Specialist Subject (15 credits)
	One option module, if necessary, to make a total of 120 credits at level 7	One of the following: Fetal Medicine Independent Study and Professional Development

Support for Learning including Personal Development Planning (PDP)

Staffs are readily available on study days for advice and tutorials. Tutorials can also be arranged at other times. All presentations are available on Moodle (the BCU Virtual Learning Environment).

Criteria for admission

Candidates must satisfy the general admission requirements of the programme.

The current admission requirements can be found under the 'Entry Requirements' tab of the web page for this course.

Methods for evaluation and enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students

Module evaluation

Students invited to Quality Days

Meetings with clinical staff

Regional Ultrasound Group meetings