



Queen Margaret University

EDINBURGH

Programme Specification

Where appropriate outcome statements have been referenced to the appropriate Benchmarking Statement (**BS**)

1 Awarding Institution	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
2 Teaching Institution	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
3 Professional body accreditation	British Dietetic Association, Health Professions Council
4 Final Award	PgDip/MSc Dietetics (120/180 SCQF level 11 credits)
Subsidiary exit awards	PgCert Nutrition Studies 60 SCQF level 11 credits PgDip Nutrition Studies 120 SCQF level 11 credits PgDip/MSc Dietetics
5 Programme Title	PgDip/MSc Dietetics
6 UCAS code (or other coding system if relevant)	
7 SCQF Level	11
8 Mode of delivery and duration	Normal durations: FT 19 months (PgDip) 22 months MSc PT 2 years 7 months (PgDip) 3 years MSc
9 Date of validation/review	27 th April 2011

10. Educational Aims of the programme

The programme aims to produce Masters Graduates who are skilled, critical, analytical and evaluative professionals committed to being life long learning. Specifically the programme aims to:

- provide a programme of study that develops the graduates ability to critically appraise the issues and concepts related to Dietetics: health, well-being and disease at individual, community and population levels.
- develop the ability to integrate contributory disciplines in the analysis and interpretation of factors influencing the maintenance or improvement of health and disturbance of the body's functions in relation to disease.
- provide participants with an opportunity to develop further their critical skills and scientific understanding to enable them to develop into effective and reflective practitioners of evidence-based dietetics which is safe and ethical;
- develop a student whose approach is proactive and flexible, has the ability to work within a diverse and multi-professional domain and can recognise and respond positively to changing needs or demographics.
- develop a student who meets the key characteristics criteria in order to be eligible to apply for registration with the Health Professions Council.
- develop a student who is able to demonstrate independent research competence with supervision.

11. Benchmark statements/professional and statutory body requirements covered by the programme

- Standards of Proficiency, for Dietitians Health Professions Council (www.hpc-uk.org)
- Standards of Education and Training, Health Professions Council (www.hpc-uk.org)
- Curriculum Framework for the Pre Registration Education and training of Dietitians, British Dietetic Association (www.bda.uk.com)
- Benchmark Statement: Health Care programmes: Dietetics, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (www.qaa.ac.uk)
- Code of Practice: Work based and placement learning, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (www.qaa.ac.uk)
- European Academic and Practitioner Standards for Dietetics, European Federation of Associations of Dietetics (EFAD) (www.efad.org)

12. Learning Outcomes of the Programme

These may be divided in the following categories:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Intellectual (thinking) skills
- Practical skills
- Transferable skills

On completion of the MSc Dietetics programme the student will be able to:

1. Integrate knowledge of Dietetics and related subjects relevant to Dietetics especially in the context of improving and sustaining health as well as treating disease, at individual, community and population levels. (IS, TS)
2. Demonstrate critical understanding of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary factors influencing the body's functions, metabolism and overall health or disease. (KU, TS)
3. Demonstrate advanced scientific knowledge in the concepts and theories relevant to the dietetic management of the patient and to critically reflect and debate the relationship between theory and practice. (KU, IS)
4. Analyse, interpret and evaluate data and information both within and across disciplines. (KU, IS)
5. Demonstrate the ability to study in an independent manner and reflect on the need to take responsibility for own continuing professional development (CPD). (KU, IS, TS)
6. Demonstrate research mindedness through the ability to evaluate current research and to undertake research themselves. (KU, TS)
7. Demonstrate the capacity for sustained independent work, problem solving and management of their own learning. (IS, PS)
8. Display competency in a range of transferable skills relevant to the world of work. (TS, PS)
9. Demonstrate a proactive, flexible, responsive approach to patients, clients and members of the multi-professional team (KU, TS, PS)
10. Meet the criteria for the HPC Standards of Proficiency in order to be eligible to apply for registration as a Dietitian. (IS, TS, PS)
11. Critically analyse existing research, assessment and management strategies related to dietetics and apply scientific and ethical principles to gather and analyse data. (KU, IS, TS)

12. Demonstrate independent research competence with supervision. (IS, TS, PS)

On successful completion of a PgDip Dietetics, the student will have achieved learning outcomes 1-11 of the programme.

In addition to the programme specific learning outcomes of the programme, the programme ensures graduates meet the QMU generic PG attributes which can be found at:

<http://www.qmu.ac.uk/quality/gr/default.htm#regs>

13. Teaching and learning methods and strategies

A variety of teaching and learning approaches are utilised which are tailored to the level of study, the specific learning outcomes of the module and the content of the module.

All approaches aim to develop transferable skills and meet the criteria outlined in the standards of proficiency for eligibility for Health Professions Council registration.

Approaches used through the programme include lectures, tutorials, laboratories, workshops, case studies, problem based learning, patient simulations, on line discussions via WebCT, practice placements (competency based practice) and undertaking research/audit projects. Both directed and self directed work (individual and group) are utilised with the aim of developing a student centred and student led approach.

Transferable skills are developed such as written and verbal communication, IT, presentation skills, research and dissemination skills, portfolio management and reflective practice.

Students also undertake shared learning across programmes within the subject area and interdisciplinary learning across subject areas.

14. Assessment strategies

Assessment strategies are designed to be fair, valid, reliable, useful and transparent.

Assessment strategies within the programme include written examinations, objective structured clinical examination (OSCE), case based assignments, essays, presentations, competency based assessment in the campus and practice setting (Placement blocks A, B, C), reflective writing, simulated case studies, and scientific research writing.

15. Programme structures and features, curriculum units (modules), credits and award requirements (including any periods of placement)

The MSc in Dietetics is a Masters programme, delivered in a modular structure across 22 months. To complete the MSc in Dietetics, a student must complete twelve modules – eight core modules (15 credits each) and a research project and dissertation equivalent to four modules (60 credits)

Modules are delivered as single modules (15 credits) or multiples thereof with three blocks of practice placement integrated through the programme.

- Successful completion of 8 core modules equivalent to 120 SCQF level 11 credits plus satisfactory completion of practice placements leads to the award of PgDip Dietetics
- Successful completion of 8 core modules equivalent to 120 SCQF level 11 credits plus satisfactory completion of practice placements plus successful completion of a research project and dissertation leads to the award of MSc Dietetics

- Successful completion of 7 core modules plus 1 other module equivalent 120 SCQF level 11 credits leads to the award of PgDip Nutrition Studies.
- Successful completion of 4 core modules equivalent 60 SCQF level 11 credits leads to the award of PgCert Nutrition Studies.

Eligibility to apply for registration with the HPC is gained after successful completion of 120 SCQF level 11 credits and satisfactory completion of the associated practice placement blocks (placement A, placement B and placement C) i.e. on completion of PgDip Dietetics.

Students cannot progress to placement B without successful completion of the first 7 core modules or from one placement to another without having satisfied the criteria associated with the previous placement.

16. Criteria for admission

The standard minimum level entry to the programme leading to the award of PgDip or Masters Degree in Dietetics is:

- a) an honours degree or equivalent in a science subject where considerable emphasis in human physiology and/or biochemistry has been placed, or
- b) an unclassified degree or equivalent in a science subject where considerable emphasis in human physiology and/or biochemistry has been placed together with a portfolio of subsequent learning or activity that evidences the potential participants learning capability within the subject area and at the appropriate level.

English Language Requirement

Applicants must be able to communicate in English to the standard equivalent to level 7 of the International English Language Testing System, with no element below 6.5.

Admission to the programme is also subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Check and Health Screen.

Over and above these requirements the standard precepts of the University Admissions Regulations apply. These can be found on the QMU Quality website at: <http://www.qmuc.ac.uk/quality/core/gr/default.htm>. Specific mention is made in Section 7 of the institutional Admissions Regulations regarding the admission of disabled applicants.

17. Support for students and their learning

QMU programmes normally provide the following student support:

- Personal Academic Tutors
- Personal Development Portfolios
- Student handbooks
- Access to Student Learning Services, Library and IT support
- Access to Student Services: careers, counselling, disability advice
- Representation through Student-Staff Committees

18. Quality Assurance arrangements

This programme is governed by QMU's quality assurance procedures. See the QMU website for more detail: <http://www.qmu.ac.uk/quality/>