

**University of the West of Scotland**  
**Postgraduate Programme Specification**

**Session: 2020/21**

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Status: Published

<b>Named Award Title:</b>	<b>MSc Health Studies</b>
<b>Award Title for Each Award:</b>	<b>MSc Health Studies PG Dip Health Studies PG Cert Health Studies</b>
<b>Date of Validation:</b>	May 2013
<b>Details of Cohorts Applies to:</b>	All current and future cohorts
<b>Awarding Institution/Body:</b>	University of the West of Scotland
<b>Teaching Institution:</b>	University of the West of Scotland
<b>Language of Instruction &amp; Examination:</b>	English
<b>Award Accredited By:</b>	
<b>Maximum Period of Registration:</b>	
<b>Mode of Study:</b>	Part Time
<b>Campus:</b>	Distance/Online Learning
<b>School:</b>	School of Health and Life Sciences
<b>Programme Board</b>	Midwifery & Specialist Nursing
<b>Programme Leader:</b>	Dr. Alan Curley

**Admission Criteria**

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

**Appropriate Undergraduate Qualification**

Applicants should normally possess a health related degree or equivalent.

**Other Required Qualifications/Experience**

Admission is permitted with relevant previous academic credit and/or prior learning in accordance with University of the West of Scotland Regulatory Framework, Chapter 2. Applicants must also have the language and literacy skills as per Chapter 2 Reg Framework. Applicants may also be considered with other academic, vocational or professional qualifications deemed to be equivalent.

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**Further desirable skills pre-application**

Skills and experience in Information Communication Technology

## **General Overview**

The overall aim of the programme is to provide the opportunity for students within the multidisciplinary context to further develop their knowledge, skills and expertise relevant to health studies. It is anticipated that students undertaking this degree will already have considerable professional expertise and knowledge. The programme builds on the skills of research, information dissemination and practice previously developed in undergraduate programmes.

These modules are set within a framework of interrelated themes of:

- Contemporary Issues • Role Enhancement • Evidence Based Practice
- Reflective Practice.

For the award of Pg Cert Health Studies (60 credits of which a minimum of 40 are at SCQF 11 and none less than SCQF level 10), students should successfully complete one core module (Responding to Public Health Challenges) and two option modules from a menu which reflects aspects of health care practice.

For the award of Pg Dip Health Studies (120 credits of which a minimum of 90 are at SCQF 11 and none less than SCQF level 10), students should successfully complete an additional two core modules (Social Marketing in Health and Research for Health and Social Care) and one option module.

### **Option modules include:**

- Clinical Teaching
- Delivering Compassionate Care
- Independent study (HSCE)
- Leadership for effectiveness
- Quality Improvement in Healthcare: Methodologies and techniques

Students normally complete the three core modules, in addition to three option modules, in the order stated above prior to commencing the MSc Dissertation (HLS) module (60 SCQF level 11 credits).

Students will be eligible for the award of MSc Health Studies (at least 180 credits of which a minimum of 150 at SCQF 11 and none less than SCQF level 10) by successfully completing the MSc Dissertation (HLS) module in a subject related to their field of practice.

The intended outcomes of the programme are consistent with the generic outcomes of awards at Scottish Credit Qualifications Framework (SCQF) level 11. There are no Scottish subject benchmark statements for this area of study however the QAA (2018)

benchmark statements refer to collaboration between professions in healthcare and there are comparable statements in the social care arena. Cognisance has been taken of these statements. It is felt that the module outcomes are not only generic, and therefore applicable to any of the potential students, but they are also flexible to accommodate changes in thinking. In the above ways, the programme will continue to be contemporary attractive and utilitarian.

It is recognised that graduates from this higher degree must have the confidence and self-esteem to be autonomous practitioners within the multidisciplinary team and be able to challenge and influence current thinking and practice. It aims to build on the operational emphasis within undergraduate study and develop the strategic thinking requirements of a senior health related professional.

It would be inappropriate to label the programme as adopting a single curricular model. The programme philosophy acknowledges the fact that the delivery of Health Care is changing to meet the needs of the client, thus educators need to provide appropriate education to prepare professionals for consistent, sustainable and progressive roles (Scottish Government 2017).

The educational focus of the programme is on students building on existing knowledge and skills in order that they continue to develop both academically personally and professionally. This supports the concept of lifelong and career- long learning, which stresses that learning is a continuous process of development, supported by meaningful study, reflection on personal and professional experiences and shared learning.

Gaining a postgraduate qualification in health studies can lead to a variety of career opportunities and destinations. Students have progressed to a variety of career enhancements e.g. Chief Nurse; Health Promotion/Improvement/Protection, University Lecturers, Health, Nursing and Midwifery and Managers.

### **Destinations**

Graduates from this programme will have the capacity to become leaders within their sphere of practice and destinations include opportunities for employability in education, NHS management and practice development. Previous students who have undertaken the MSc programme have been able to secure posts in the following areas: Chief Nurse; Nurse Consultant Unscheduled Care; Nurse Consultant Infection Control and several securing employment in Nurse Lecturer posts.

On completion of the programme, graduates will be equipped for further study in a variety of academic pathways. The University of the West of Scotland, School of Health and Life Sciences offers additional academic and professional programmes which include:

Master of Science by Research

(MSc) Master of Philosophy (MPHIL)

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Professional Doctorate (DProf)

The learning, teaching and assessment methods enable the learning outcomes to be achieved. A range of learning and teaching strategies are employed by online delivery and include online modified lectures via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE); seminars; workshops; group discussion; problem based-learning, independent study facilitated which supports students via synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning strategies. Students are encouraged to use the VLE to access study materials, discussion board items and video-streaming lessons. Students will be provided with information prior to the commencement of the programme to enable them to make appropriate preparations for online flexible delivery approach and to plan the management of their time. This will include information regarding software requirement for students own PC's in order to access the virtual learning tools via the VLE from home and also hardware requirements i.e. audio headsets in order to access/participate in module delivery. Programme specifications, handbooks and module descriptors will contribute to such information, along with a timetable and schedule which clearly illustrates the programme and module structure.

The assessment methodology is influenced by the learning outcomes to be tested and employs a range of methods are used including essays; reports; strategic planning proposals; critical incident analysis; projects; research proposal and dissertation. Each module is assessed independently of the others. Students are actively encouraged to read widely around specific topic areas and to compare and contrast complementary and competing paradigms and perspectives. Students are encouraged to plan and present project work to their class colleagues and students can then develop their own research/improvement proposals and projects and undertake studies.

Students studying on the programme are allocated a personal tutor for the duration of their postgraduate studies and the personal tutor is a member of academic staff. The personal tutor will be allocated at the beginning of the programme and will arrange contact with the student at certain points each year. This offers an individual support and guidance mechanisms at every stage of the programme.

## **Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning**

UWS Graduate Attributes aim to prepare graduates who will be Universal, Work ready and Successful. Therefore through studying the MSc Health Studies programme at UWS, students will develop attributes across three dimensions which encapsulate the breadth of the learning experience at University level, i.e. Academic; Personal; and Professional. Therefore within the context of health and social care, this programme develops graduates who are innovative; motivated; research minded and future leaders; within the care environment. In addition, it ensures students are socially responsible; critical thinkers; analytical and innovative and both enterprising and transformational in their approach to enable them to make a unique contribution to change and development within their work area.

The programme is designed to ensure that students exit with a detailed and critical understanding of a range of specialised theories, principles and concepts of contemporary health and social care issues. Inherent within the process of programme delivery are mechanisms which facilitate the development of transferable skills. It is part of the programme philosophy that students are enabled to learn for life, by learning how to learn; by being able to adapt and respond to change and by being change agents.

Students enrolled at the University of the West of Scotland shall through engagement with the PDP process, become aware of their knowledge, skills and abilities and how they might develop them in terms of personal development as lifelong/career long learners. University of the West of Scotland policy for the integration of Personal Development Planning is implemented throughout this programme of study.

### **Work Based Learning/Placement Details**

Not applicable

### **Engagement and Attendance**

In line with the Academic Engagement and Attendance Procedure, Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on Moodle, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this programme, this equates to the following:

In line with the Academic Engagement and Attendance Procedure, Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on Moodle, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

### **Equality and Diversity**

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: [UWS Equality and Diversity Policy](#)

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See Link <https://www.uws.ac.uk/about-uws/uws-commitments/equality-diversity/>

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards ( **Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework** )

**A. PG Cert**

**Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>A1</b>	Demonstrates a holistic, critical and comparative understanding of the principles, theories and concepts related to health.
<b>A2</b>	Demonstrates a critical awareness of theories, concepts and principles related to current issues in public health. Plans and develops strategies and interventions in the health field.
<b>A3</b>	Demonstrates a critical understanding and expertise in the use of research, scholarly and professional activities.
<b>Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>B1</b>	Demonstrate originality or creativity in the application of knowledge, understanding and / or practices related to health.
<b>B2</b>	Apply research based evidence and contemporary approaches to inform health care delivery.
<b>B3</b>	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding to health needs assessment, and planning in order to develop effective strategies and interventions.
<b>Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills</b>	
<b>C1</b>	Employs a range of Information and Communication Technology applications to support and enhance work.
<b>C2</b>	Undertake critical evaluations of a wide range of numerical and graphical data.
<b>Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation</b>	
<b>D1</b>	Identify, conceptualise and define new and abstract issues associated with health.
<b>D2</b>	Critically review, consolidate and extend knowledge, skills, practices and thinking in health.
<b>D3</b>	Critically evaluate policy and the economic issues impacting on health and contemporary health care provision.
<b>Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others</b>	
<b>E1</b>	Practise in ways which draw on critical reflection on own and others' roles and responsibilities.



<b>E2</b>	Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in professional and equivalent activities.
<b>E3</b>	Deals with complex ethical and professional issues and makes informed judgements on issues not addressed by current professional and/ethical practices.

### Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	MIDW11030	Responding to Public Health Challenges	20				

\* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

### Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	MIDW11010	Clinical Teaching	20				
11	NURS11064	Delivering Compassionate Care	20				
11	NURS11012	Independent Study (HSCE)	20				
11	NURS11017	Leadership For Effectiveness	20				
11	NURS11049	Quality Improvement in Healthcare	20				

\* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

As module timetabling may vary from above, students should seek academic guidance when selecting option modules.

### Criteria for Progression and Award

Successful completion of the above core and two option modules (total 60 credits, of which a minimum of 40 are at SCQF 11 and none less than SCQF level 10, in accordance to UWS Reg .21) is required for the award of Pg Cert Health Studies.

**B. PG Dip**  
**Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**

<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>A1</b>	Demonstrates an extensive, detailed and critical knowledge of the theories, principles and concepts of research and social marketing.
<b>Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>B1</b>	Apply knowledge, skills and understanding in the application of the key components of research to one's own domain of work or clinical practice.
<b>B2</b>	Demonstrates creativity and leadership in the application of theoretical concepts to enhance an evidence base for work or practice within health and social care contexts.
<b>B3</b>	Practices in a wide and often unpredictable variety of professional level contexts.
<b>Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills</b>	
<b>C1</b>	Uses a wide range of methods and tools to facilitate appropriate data collection and analysis.
<b>C2</b>	Communicates effectively with peers and more senior colleagues and specialists to disseminate key information from research and social marketing perspectives.
<b>Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation</b>	
<b>D1</b>	Develop original and creative responses to complex situations at the forefront of a subject / discipline.
<b>D2</b>	Synthesise information from the perspectives of research and social marketing in order to respond to complex problems and issues.
<b>Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others</b>	
<b>E1</b>	Demonstrates leadership and initiative and makes an identifiable contribution to change, development and management.
<b>E2</b>	Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in research and social marketing activities.

**Core Modules**

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	MIDW11003	Research for Health & Social Care	20				

11	NURS11009	Social Marketing in Health	20				
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\* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

### Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	MIDW11010	Clinical Teaching	20				
11	NURS11064	Delivering Compassionate Care	20				
11	NURS11012	Independent Study (HSCE)	20				
11	NURS11017	Leadership For Effectiveness	20				
11	NURS11049	Quality Improvement in Healthcare	20				

\* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

As module timetabling may vary from above, students should seek academic guidance when selecting their option modules.

### Criteria for Progression and Award

Successful completion of the above two core and one option modules, in addition to three modules under Pg Certificate Health Studies (total 120 credits, of which a minimum of 90 are at SCQF 11 and none less than SCQF level 10, in accordance to UWS reg 1.21) or other relevant postgraduate certificate such as PG Certificate in Child Protection, PG Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, are required for the award of Pg Diploma Health Studies. Following approval from the Programme Leader, additional relevant modules from other programmes that meet the learning outcomes of this programme may also be used as optional modules. Distinction will be awarded to awards of Diploma in line with University Regulations, Chapter 3. Before commencing the MSc Dissertation(HLS) Module, students normally complete all core and option modules in PG Cert and PG Diploma modules and accrued 120 credits of which a minimum of 90 are at SCQF 11 and none less than SCQF level 10, in accordance to UWS reg 1.21

Transfer of Credit

Students who have undertaken the PgC Child Protection and wish to transfer credit to the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Studies will require completing the core

module Responding to Public Health Challenges (PgC) and 2 core modules within the Pg Dip.



11	NURS11010	MSc Dissertation (HLS)	60				
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\* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

### Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

\* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

### Criteria for Award

On successful completion of the MSc Dissertation (HLS) module and having achieved in total of 180 credit points of which a minimum of 150 at SCQF 11 and none less that SCQF level 10 the student will be eligible for the award of MSc. Health Studies in accordance to UWS REG 1.21. Distinction will be awarded in line with University regulations, Chapter 3.

<b>Regulations of Assessment</b>
<p>Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the <b>University Regulatory Framework</b> .</p> <p>An overview of the assessment details is provided in the Student Handbook and the assessment criteria for each module is provided in the module descriptor which forms part of the module pack issued to students. For further details on assessment please refer to Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework.</p> <p>To qualify for an award of the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.</p>

## **Changes**

### **Changes made to the programme since it was last published:**

Updated: Programme leads name changed.

Updated: progression in line line with UWS Reg Framework 1.21.

Updated: Made reference to chapter 2 and 3

Updated: Graduate Attributes

Updated: Engagement and attendance

Updated: Criteria for Progression award

**Version Number: 2.05**