Programme Specification

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Programme title	MSc (PG Dip) Sport and Exercise Medicine
Awarding Institution//Body	University of Bath
Teaching Institution	University of Bath
Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation)	Royal College of Surgeons (Glasgow and Edinburgh) and the Royal College of Physicians
*Subject Benchmark Statement**Subject Benchmark Statement:	
Date of Specification preparation/revision	
Applicable to cohorts	
Programme Approved by	

Synopsis and academic coherence of programme

The postgraduate programme in Sport and Exercise Medicine (SEM) is a fully modular, postgraduate (M) level programme which has been designed to meet the professional needs of registered medical doctors whose practice involves them working with elite or recreational athletes and sports teams. It is designed to address the needs of doctors with a special interest in sport and exercise medicine.

The programme offers the flexibility to enable students to accumulate credit toward a Postgraduate Diploma or Master of Science qualification. Units are also available as stand-alone modules for continuing professional development.

The programme has the following underpinning principles:

- Evidence based
- Problem solving, practice-orientated approach
- Emphasis on reflective practice
- Designed to support the needs of those working in multi-professional teams

The Diploma consists of eight units, six flexible learning units of 6 or 12 credits each and two clinical longitudinal units of 6 credits each. The longitudinal units provide practitioner-based skills development, two residential teaching weeks, a series of on-line 'virtual clinics', a reflective log of clinical experience and an exit OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination). Satisfactory completion of all units is required prior to sitting the OSCE examination.

Each six-credit unit runs over a three month period, and each 12 credit unit runs over a six month period (apart from the clinical longitudinal units which run throughout the entire year). Students are expected to first complete *The Sports Doctor* and the two science-based units (*Exercise Physiology* and *Functional Anatomy and Sporting Movement Analysis*) before moving onto subsequent units. The 6-credit unit, *SEM in Practice 1*, is taken concurrently with the other units. Study activities within *SEM in Practice* will be scheduled to correspond to study in other units and reflect the increasing knowledge and expertise gained over time.

Students can suspend or defer their study for periods of up to twelve months at a time. Deferment or suspension is granted by the Director of Studies, who takes into account previous study history and due regard of the future ability of the student to complete their study within the normal maximum time period.

The Postgraduate Diploma must normally be completed within four years and the MSc within five years of the date of the student's first registration.

St ructure and Content:

The programme has been developed primarily to provide learning which is appropriate to the needs of working doctors. The web-based study guides and resource material form the basis for learning and these are supplemented and supported by practice/work-based experience and residential workshops. The workshops enable the students to meet and work together on real-work problems and engage in debate with practitioners from a variety of contexts. The programme is highly interactive: the web-based study guides are supported by on-line tutors and the face to face workshops have both academic and personal tutor support.

Accumulating credit toward an award works as follows:

Award Type	No. of units	Credit	Duration
Pg Diploma	8 units	60 credits	Normally 24 months, normal maximum 4 years
MSc	Pg Diploma + Research Project Design Unit and dissertation	90 credits	Normally 3 years, normal maximum 5 years

Details of unit contents can be found from the Unit Catalogue from

http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/other.html .

In order to encourage multi-disciplinarity and a close relationship between the Sport & Exercise Medicine and the Sports Physiotherapy programme, the Exercise Physiology (HL50071) and Functional Anatomy and Sporting Movement Analysis (HL50140) units are shared by the two programmes. In these two areas the education needs of the two professions are very similar. This integration helps to embed the principles of working in a multi-disciplinary team and encourage sharing of experiences between the two professions. Further opportunities for sharing of best practice are available through the workshops during the two residential week events.

Schemes of study

Completion of the first seven units (60 credits) is necessary for the award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Sport and Exercise Medicine.

The award of MSc in Sport and Exercise Medicine requires completion of all units.

Educational aims of the programme

The MSc/PG diploma in Sport and Exercise Medicine aims to develop the professional expertise of doctors with a special interest in sport and exercise medicine, including the management of recreational or elite athletes and the use of exercise for the health of all.

The programme has the following aims:

- To provide a foundation of scientific and evidence-based knowledge essential for building good SEM practice.
- To develop practical clinical skills in SEM as they apply to both primary and specialist care.
- To develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills in patient-centred contexts.
- To develop specialist SEM clinical expertise through self appraisal and reflection.

• Knowledge & Understanding:	**Diploma and MSc** • Systematically and critically evaluate appropriate interventions by illustrating a sound conceptual understanding of the appropriate / relevant medical issues in sport and exercise medicine • Demonstrate conceptual and comprehensive knowledge of sport and exercise medicine sufficient to take on the role of a team doctor • Recognise ethical issues in their (and others) practice and manage any implications • Demonstrate a practical understanding of, and critically evaluate, established techniques in dealing with sports injuries and the use of exercise for the health of all, including differential diagnosis, investigation and management *Assessed through unit assessments.* **MSc** • Critically appraise techniques applicable to their own research or practice-based enquiry in sport and exercise medicine • Collect relevant data in their research/practice area and critically analyse it in relation to previously published work in the area and to an original hypothesis *Assessed through Research Project Design unit and dissertation.*
• Intellectual Skills:	**Diploma and MSc** • Deal with complex academic and clinical issues systematically, critically and creatively • Synthesise information from a variety of sources in order to develop a comprehensive and coherent understanding of theory and practice • Develop self-direction and originality in problem solving and the application of knowledge in professional SEM practice • Demonstrate critical thinking and judgement with respect to sport and exercise medicine *Assessed through unit assessments.* **MSc** • Critically analyse, evaluate and interpret the evidence underpinning practice in sport and exercise medicine and to initiate change in practice appropriately *Assessed through Research Project Design unit and dissertation.*
• Professional Practical Skills:	**Diploma and MSc** • Apply theoretical knowledge of sport and exercise medicine to the investigation and management of sports injuries and the use of exercise for the health of all. • Provide emergency care to those engaged in sport or exercise as elite or recreational athletes. • Apply experimental, practical and analytical skills in sport and exercise medicine • Critically appraise a variety of sport- and exercise-related injuries or conditions and show ability to reach an appropriate differential diagnosis

	• Develop rehabilitation programmes for injured athletes or other patients in conjunction with other health professionals and coaches • Work effectively as part of a multidisciplinary team to provide sport and exercise medicine services to a clinic or team • Enhance communication skills through the development of effective relationships with patient/client groups and other health professionals *Assessed through SEM in Practice unit which includes an OSCE exam.*
• Transferable/Key Skills:	**Diploma and MSc** • Prepare and communicate information on complex contemporary issues in sport and exercise medicine to specialist and non-specialist audiences • Critically reflect on and develop personal professional practice • Demonstrate IT skills including the ability to search for, and critically evaluate, internet-based resources and to participate in on-line activities and discussions • Utilise problem-solving skills in a variety of practice, or simulated practice, situations • Plan and manage personal learning and develop sustainable strategies for lifelong learning and future professional development. *Assessed through unit assessments*

Summary of assessment and progression regulations

NFA - fully compliant

Progression Regulations and Awards

THHL-ADM10 MSc Sport and Exercise Medicine (Distance Learning)

THHL-ADM11 MSc Sport and Exercise Medicine (Distance Learning)

THHL-ADM12 MSc Sport and Exercise Medicine (Distance Learning)

THHL-ADL07 PG Dip Sport and Exercise Medicine (Distance Learning)

THHL-ADL08 PG Dip Sport and Exercise Medicine (Distance Learning)

THHL-ADL09 PG Dip Sport and Exercise Medicine (Distance Learning)

THHL-ADT03 CPD Sport and Exercise Medicine (Distance Learning)

THHL-ADT04 CPD Sport and Exercise Medicine (Distance Learning)

The programmes assessment and progression regulations are covered by the university's "New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations: Phases 2 & 3 for postgraduate taught programmes (NFAAR-PGT)" which can be found at http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm. Specific regulations for the masters are summarised in Appendix 11 at http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf.

Each unit is assessed individually. Assessment typically comprises both formative and summative assessment and is delivered on-line. The formative assessment includes self-assessment questions and multiple choice tests. Feedback on assignments and dissertation proposals provides further guidance to students.

Summative assessment varies between units but typically includes:

- Written assignments
- Compilation of portfolios of evidence
- Multiple choice tests
- Practical Examination
- Individual presentations at workshops
- Case Studies

Students undertaking the research project for the MSc degree will normally have twelve months to complete and submit this work.

Consequences of Failure

Re-assessment

A student is permitted one further attempt, following initial failure, at an individual assessment. The Programme Board of Examiners, having due consideration for the academic standards of the award, will determine the nature of the re-assessment requirement. Both the original mark and the mark gained following a referred assessment will be recorded on the student transcript. The original assessment mark will be carried forward for the purposes of grading the award. Re-submission will normally be required within 1 month of notification of failure.

A student will only be permitted to retrieve a failed dissertation/project unit at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and, normally, where the initial failure is deemed to be marginal. Re-submission of dissertations should normally be within 12 months of notification of failure.

Students will not be permitted to re-sit the whole programme.

Progression

The Unit Board of Examiners will normally meet several times a year. After this the students will be notified of their official mark for the unit they have completed. If a student does not reach the required standard to pass the unit the decision on whether they are asked to undertake re-assessment will be made by the Board of Examiners for Programmes at the end of their current Stage of the Programme. At this point the Board of Examiners will review the students' performance across all the units that they have taken and determine the required re-assessment.

Regulations regarding the maximum number of credits that can be retrieved through re-assessment are given in the University's "New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations: Phases 2 & 3 for postgraduate taught programmes (NFAAR-PGT)" which can be found at http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm. Specific regulations for the masters are summarised in Appendix 11 at http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/nfaar-pgt-appendix-11.pdf.

In the event of failure of a unit/units and a Board of Examiners for Programmes decision for re-assessment, students will be given 28 days from the time of notification to submit their re-assessment

Progression to Stage 3 will be permitted normally only after full and successful completion of the taught part (Stages 1 and 2) of the programme. There is a minimum requirement of 50% grade average to progress to the MSc. Progression to the SEM Research Project (HL50078) is dependent upon successful completion of the Research Project Design unit (HL50077).

Credit for units will be given a 'lifetime', after which it will no longer count towards an award. This lifetime will normally be five years from commencement of the unit unless otherwise stated in the Unit Description.

Details of Work Placements Requirements / Work Based Learning / Industrial Training Requirements

Students are required to gain approximately 100 hours of SEM Clinical Experience as outlined in the guidance in the study guides for the two SEM in Practice units. Opportunities for doing this will be advertised online, as will recommended centres or organisations that can provide such opportunities. Students who already have regular access to SEM cases need not seek additional hours of experience, but all students must demonstrate achievement of meeting the learning outcomes for this unit as detailed in the unit descriptor.

Students are also encouraged to take advantage of other clinical placement opportunities local to their own practice. These experiences are recorded and assessed through submission of a portfolio.

Details of Study Abroad Requirements

Details of Professional Accreditation

Admissions Criteria including APL/APEL arrangements

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions regulations of the University of Bath.

Admission onto the Postgraduate Diploma and MSc in Sport and Exercise Medicine is open to qualified medical doctors from anywhere in the world.

Those applicants whose first language is not English must be able to demonstrate a satisfactory level of both spoken and written English. This will normally take the form of scores of at least 6.5 on all elements of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). For further details see http://www.bath.ac.uk/health/sem/index.html#entryreq

Accreditation of Prior Learning [APL] and Prior Experiential Learning [APEL]

Students may be eligible to transfer credit for prior learning/experiential learning. This is considered on a case-by-case basis but as a minimum the course or programme in question must be recognised by the providing institution as being at M level and must contain an element of assessed work. A maximum of 30 credits toward the award of Diploma and 45 credits toward the award of MSc is normally allowable (in each case this amounts to half of the credit required, in line with the guidance provided in QA45/QA47). An accreditation Sub-Committee for the Programme, chaired by the Director of Studies, will oversee this activity, and guidance on the preparation of Portfolios of Evidence to support APL/APEL claims will be provided both to applicants.

Entry from professional qualifications

Specific credit exemptions are on a case-by-case basis and are reviewed from time to time.

Details of Support Available to Students

Department and Programme Specific Support Information

The following support is available to students:

- Introductory Programme Handbook on registration
- Full Programme Handbook available in *SEM online*

- Induction unit on-line and face to face Induction day

- On-line reflective practice log
- On-line 'virtual clinics'

- Access to tutors on-line (via email and on-line discussion boards);
- Feedback on assignments

- Web-based support including academic and peer support

- Unit Tutor, PDA and on-line facilitator support via MOODLE, email and phone

- Clinical attachment supervisor

- Clinical examination techniques available online

- Face-to-face sessions at residential weeks

- Group networking opportunities at residential weeks

- Research project and dissertation preparation sessions (via web and face to face)

- Ongoing project supervision, with regular reviews to ensure students are on track

- Programme co-ordinator support via MOODLE, email and phone

  Staff will be able to respond to most questions and concerns raised by students. A range of specialist student support services are also available. Staff can refer students to these services. Students can also self-refer to these services which provide information, advice and support in relation to emotional difficulties, assessment of needs and provision of support relating to disability, student funding, general welfare, academic problems, student discipline and complaints, careers, international students, spiritual matters, part time work, security and personal safety. The Students' Union can also provide advocacy for students. More information about these services can be accessed via: http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/.

Further information on the Programme can be found on the Department for Health web page http://www.bath.ac.uk/health