

## Surgical Studies

### Application Handbook - 2021/22



#### Courses:

Postgraduate Certificate in Surgical Studies

Postgraduate Diploma in Surgical Studies

Master of Science in Surgical Studies

#### Course Leader:

Ms Anouk Van Der Avoirt

[Anouk.VanDerAvoirt@bsuh.nhs.uk](mailto:Anouk.VanDerAvoirt@bsuh.nhs.uk)

#### Programme Administrator:

[SurgicalStudies@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:SurgicalStudies@bsms.ac.uk)

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## Introduction

The Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert), Diploma (PGDip) and the Masters (MSc) in Surgical Studies are part of the Clinical Specialties Programme within Brighton and Sussex Medical School. The courses are designed for part-time or full-time study to meet the educational development needs of staff working in Surgery. The course is not designed to duplicate the preparation for the Royal College exams; instead it will cover topics not routinely covered by standard training or included in mainstream textbooks. The emphasis is on acquiring knowledge and skills which will prepare students for advanced practice in surgery.

## Aims and Learning Outcomes for the Course

### Aims

This course aims to enhance existing support and training that will further develop surgical trainees and other allied health care professionals within the surgical field. The programme has been designed to be applicable to students with a wide range of background and skills within surgery, who require a detailed understanding of core research methodologies, critical evaluation, evidence-based approaches and the scientific basis of surgery.



- To provide Surgical Trainees with advanced education in order to equip them to be capable, informed and creative consultants of the future.
- To provide learning and insights into advanced professional practice in Surgery – many of which are not normally included in standard Surgical Training.
- To prepare Surgical Trainees to be research aware and research active.

The aim is to provide knowledge and skills for surgical practice, and to promote an ethos of critical thinking, self-directed learning, and originality within our students. Thus, the taught modules will challenge students to think and to problem-solve – both in clinical practice and in professional practice. Class discussions and student presentations are found in all modules to encourage the open expression and explorations of ideas. Students are exhorted to critically appraise “evidence” throughout the course. The dissertation is designed to promote original thinking in the planning, conduct and reporting of research in surgery.

## Learning Outcomes

### **PG Cert:**

Upon successful completion of the programme, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an advanced, in-depth awareness and understanding of common professional dilemmas faced by surgeons, and be able to provide appropriate solutions or actions to deal with those issues. (MDM170)
2. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the perioperative care of surgical patients. (MDM172)
3. Demonstrate an advanced, in-depth awareness and understanding of the use of simulation in training and practice for modern surgical practice. (MDM171)
4. Analyse and synthesise data from a wide variety of sources to inform evidence-based practice in Surgery. (All modules)
5. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of research methods and critical appraisal (MDM10)

### **PG Dip:**

Upon successful completion of the programme, in addition to the above students should be able to:

6. Evidence a critical understanding of the organisational and policy context and the drivers for change to enable clinicians to contribute more effectively to improving the design, delivery, outcomes and cost effectiveness of services (MDM110);
7. Display an advanced level of understanding of communication and teaching in relation to patients and colleagues of all levels (MDM122);

### **MSc:**

Upon successful completion of the programme, in addition to the above students will be able to:

8. Identify an original research question, plan, conduct and report/publish a research project in their chosen area of Surgery (MDM164)

### **PGCert Clinical Professional Studies:**

Upon successful completion of this programme students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of research methods and critical appraisal (MDM10)
2. Evidence a critical understanding of the organisational and policy context and the drivers

for change to enable clinicians to contribute more effectively to improving the design, delivery, outcomes and cost effectiveness of services (MDM110);

3. Display an advanced level of understanding of communication and teaching in relation to patients and colleagues of all levels (MDM122);

## Entry Requirements

This course is primarily aimed at Surgical Trainees who should have a minimum of two years of postgraduate experience and normally be post-Part 1 MRCS.

Applications will also be considered from other professionals in appropriate clinical practice.

Applicants may be interviewed. They will be expected to be aware of the latest trends and developments in Surgery and show that they have had regular contact with key surgical journals.

All applications will be subject to the University Equal Opportunities Policy. Applications are welcomed from International Students with appropriate qualifications and experience. Students for whom English is not a first language must demonstrate an acceptable standard of comprehension and communication in the English Language (IELTS: minimum overall score of 7.0 and 7.0 for the writing element).

Where necessary, applicants may enrol in an English Pre-session course which takes place before admission to the MSc Course. Claims for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be considered.

**The BSMS Postgraduate Induction Day will take place on Thursday 9th September 2021, for all successful applicants and you are strongly recommended to attend.**

## Course Structure

The academic standard is the same for each of the three awards (PGCert, PGDip and MSc) as they are all taught at Postgraduate (M/7) level. The difference lies in the number of modules taken and, for the MSc, the completion of a dissertation.

Successful completion of the Certificate, Diploma and MSc require 60, 120 and 180 credits respectively (one module is worth 20 credits and the Dissertation is worth 60 credits).

To achieve the PGCert Surgical Studies award, students are required to undertake three out of four modules surgical modules:

- Advanced professional issues in Surgery (MDM170)
- Principles and Practice of Simulation Surgery (MDM171)
- Perioperative Care of Surgical Patient (MDM172)

As well as the professional module:

- Research Methods & Critical Appraisal (MDM10)

PGDip students are required to undertake the three Surgical Studies content modules:

- Advanced professional issues in Surgery (MDM170)
- Principles and Practice of Simulation Surgery (MDM171)
- Perioperative Care of Surgical Patient (MDM172)

And three professional content modules:

- Research Methods & Critical Appraisal (MDM10)
- Leadership and Change Management in Clinical Services (MDM110)
- Communication, Learning and Teaching in Health and Social Care (MDM122)

MSc students are required to undertake the three Surgical Studies content modules and three professional content modules. In addition, students are required to undertake a 60-credit dissertation module, culminating in a 12,000-word dissertation with poster.

If students gain credits for the three professional modules (MDM10, MDM110 and MDM122) they can exit with a PGCert Clinical Professional Studies award.

## Postgraduate Certificate Surgical Studies (60 credits)

Module	Status
<b>Three out of four of the following Modules:</b> MDM170 Advanced Professional Issues in Surgery <b>PLUS/OR</b> MDM171 Principles and Practice of Simulation in Surgery	Mandatory (20 credits)  Mandatory (20 credits)

<b>PLUS/OR</b> MDM172 Perioperative Care of the Surgical Patient	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS/OR</b>  MDM10 Research Methods & Critical Appraisal	Mandatory (20 credits)

### Postgraduate Diploma Surgical Studies (120 credits)

Module	Status
MDM170 Advanced Professional Issues in Surgery	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS</b> MDM171 Principles and Practice of Simulation in Surgery	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS</b> MDM172 Perioperative Care of the Surgical Patient	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS</b> MDM10 Research Methods & Critical Appraisal	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS</b> MDM110 Leadership and Change Management in Clinical Services	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS</b> MDM122 Communication, Learning & Teaching in Health & Social Care	Mandatory (20 credits)

### Master of Science Surgical Studies (180 credits)

Module	Status
MDM170 Advanced Professional Issues in Surgery	Mandatory (20 credits)

<b>PLUS</b> MDM171 Principles and Practice of Simulation in Surgery	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS</b> MDM172 Perioperative Care of the Surgical Patient	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS</b> MDM10 Research Methods & Critical Appraisal	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS</b> MDM110 Leadership and Change Management in Clinical Services	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS</b> MDM122 Communication, Learning & Teaching in Health & Social Care	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS</b> MDM164 Dissertation	Mandatory (60 credits)

### Postgraduate Certificate Clinical Professional Development (60 credits)

Module	Status
MDM10 Research Methods & Critical Appraisal	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS</b> MDM110 Leadership and Change Management in Clinical Services	Mandatory (20 credits)
<b>PLUS</b> MDM122 Communication, Learning & Teaching in Health & Social Care	Mandatory (20 credits)

### Module Descriptions

#### Advanced Professional Issues in Surgery (MDM170)

This Module aims to provide students with a critical understanding of advanced professional issues in surgery with a view to increasing their awareness of them and their ability to deal with them both systematically and creatively in practice. It includes a range of social, psychological, ethical and practical issues which can confront surgeons in their practice.



### **Principles and Practice of Simulation in Surgery (MDM171)**

This module aims to enable to provide a sound basis of both knowledge and experience for students to gain an in-depth understanding of the role of simulation for modern surgical practice.

We aim to achieve this with practical sessions, demonstrations and consolidate with small group discussions.

### **Perioperative Care of the Surgical Patient (MDM172)**

This module aims to enable students to gain an in-depth and advanced understanding of different aspects of Perioperative Care in Surgery.

Students will develop an insight into evidence-based practice in Perioperative Care including, the clinical (including medical), social and psychological aspects of surgical practice. This module is clinically-focused and covers various aspects and specialties of Perioperative Care in Surgery.

### **Research Methods and Critical Appraisal (MDM10)**

The module aims to provide students with an understanding of how conduct and appraise research in their specialist areas. It aims to provide students with an understanding of research methods in health and social care and the ability to relate appropriate methods to research questions.

Students will be equipped to search and critically review the literature, to develop and justify a research proposal, and to anticipate potential ethical issues in their research proposal. Attendance at the Obtaining Informed Consent Workshop is a mandatory part of the module.

### **Leadership and Change Management in Clinical Services (MDM110)**

This module aims to provide an overarching understanding of the organisational context for change in health & care service settings to enable managers, practitioners and professionals to contribute more effectively to leading and improving the design of service models and new organisational bodies, and to the delivery, cost effectiveness and outcomes of services.

### **Communication, Learning and Teaching in Health and Social Care (MDM122)**

This module aims to facilitate the development of practitioners as communicators and educators, promoting the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes and practices of a competent clinical practitioner.

## **MDM164 Dissertation**

The Dissertation is an opportunity for students to research, in depth, a topic of their own choosing in Surgical Studies. The initial preparation for this begins in the Research Methods & Critical Appraisal module, where students will develop a research proposal. Students attend a Dissertation Day to help prepare them in the development of their Dissertation Proposal submission. This aims to assist them in clarifying their research question and matching methods; to identify any ethical issues to be addressed and any approvals which may be required; and to assist them in the completion of the application form. Additional workshops are laid on regularly in specific aspects

of research methods – e.g. interviewing, focus groups, data analysis, systematic reviews, obtaining informed consent, etc. – in order to provide practical skills training to equip students for the conduct of their research project.

## Timetable

Dependent on your chosen courses please see our website for the current [dates](#).

The University reserves the right to cancel modules for any reason it deems sufficient and to alter programmes without notice. In the event of such cancellations, the full fee will normally be refunded. If you have any queries about module dates or module choices, please do not hesitate to contact the Programme Administrator for further information.

## Fees

Fee information is available on the Surgical Studies course page at:

<https://www.bsms.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught-degrees/surgical-studies.aspx>

For any enquiries, please contact [fees@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:fees@brighton.ac.uk) or visit the following link:

<http://www.brighton.ac.uk/studentlife/money/>

## Teaching Staff

Academic staff from Brighton and Sussex Medical School and other faculties in the Universities of Brighton and Sussex are involved in the provision of teaching in a modular format, at Masters Level. Specialist teaching is provided by consultants, specialists and other clinical staff from Trusts and organisations in and around the region. The extensive contribution of expert practitioners to the teaching of the modules is a distinctive feature of courses at Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

## Teaching and Learning Methods

Teaching methods encompass lectures, whole group discussions, small group discussions, critical appraisal workshops, individual project work, simulations (including cadaveric surgery and mock courtroom testimony), 'TED' Talks and individual tutorials.

Maintaining employment throughout the course ensures the transfer of knowledge and skills from the course into the workplace.

As with all Masters Courses, there is a considerable degree of independent study. Classroom based learning will constitute approximately 20% of total learning hours with the remaining 80%

hours made up of independent learning

## Assessment

### **MDM170 Advanced Professional Issues in Surgery**

A 3,000 word essay in which students present two case studies

### **MDM171 Principles and Practice of Simulation in Surgery**

A 3,000 word essay

### **MDM172 Perioperative Care of the Surgical Patient**

A 3,000 word essay

### **MDM10 Research Methods & Critical Appraisal**

A 3,000 word assignment

### **MDM110 Leadership and Change Management in Clinical Services**

3,000 word critically reflective assignment on an aspect of Leading and Transforming services.

### **MDM122 Communication, Learning & Teaching in Health & Social Care**

A 15 -minute learning session which will be recorded and uploaded onto a web-sharing site. This recorded session then forms the basis of a 2, 500-word critical analysis and reflection of this communication, teaching and learning session,

For the **MDM164 Dissertation**, the assessment is made up of two components: a 12,000-word dissertation (worth 80% of the total marks), and a research poster (worth 20% of the total marks).

## How to Apply

Please apply online via the following link: <http://www.bsms.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply-now>

If you have any further questions please contact the Programme Administrator via the email address on the cover page.