

Programme Specification

Programme Title and Name of Award	PgDip Medical Imaging (Ultrasound)		
Academic Level	7	Total Credits	120
Professional Body Accreditation / Qualification	Accredited by the Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE)		
Date of Professional Body Accreditation	March 2023	Accreditation Period	Open ended approval, reviewed as a minimum every 6 years
UCAS Code	Not applicable		
HECoS Code	100129		
Criteria for Admission to the Programme	<p>The University's standard criteria for admissions apply. Please refer to the Applicant Information pages of the University website for more information. For APL, please refer to the University website. APL will usually be granted for academic credits achieved at another CASE accredited UK ultrasound course, provided an adequate match can be made to this course. APL from other courses will be considered on a case by case basis, but must always be at the appropriate academic level and have a high match to the learning outcomes to modules on this pathway.</p> <p>Detailed criteria for admission to this programme can be found on the programme webpage: https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/medical-imaging-ultrasound-pgd/</p> <p>The following additional requirements apply for entry to this programme:</p> <p>1st or 2nd class honours degree.</p> <p>Students with other qualifications may be admitted to the course via Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) procedures.</p> <p>Selection criteria:</p> <p>You will usually need to have at least 12 months' equivalent full-time post registration clinical experience, in your professional field, and you will need support from a clinical ultrasound department</p>		

	<p>and access to a suitable clinical placement in such a department for the duration of the course.</p> <p>You must have access to a suitable ultrasound placement with clinical mentor, and separate assessor, and suitable patient case load for a minimum of 21 hours per week. If your placement is terminated for any reason, the university cannot assist you in finding another placement. If a suitable clinical placement cannot be found in these circumstances, you will be required to withdraw from the programme.</p> <p>Applicants should usually be eligible for registration by their respective UK professional or regulatory body e.g. Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC), General Medical Council (GMC), Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC), and Society of Vascular Technologist (SVT). You will also need to provide one reference in support of your application, usually from the department offering a clinical placement.</p> <p>You will be required to pass an element of pre-course assessment in the department sponsoring you. It is the sponsoring department's responsibility to facilitate this assessment, and this will be carried out to ensure that you show an aptitude for Ultrasonography. You will need to undertake a preliminary practical assessment to demonstrate the relevant psychomotor skills such as hand-eye co-ordination, pattern recognition and spatial awareness. The assessment will be of an informal nature, carried out by experienced ultrasound practitioners in your clinical placement, who will then provide a written reference of your suitability.</p> <p>Before being accepted onto the course, all applicants will be interviewed, usually via Microsoft Teams. Interviewers from the course team will, amongst other attributes, be looking for a commitment to further study, an understanding of content and standard of the course and interpersonal skills.</p> <p>As part of the recruitment process, applicants may be assessed for their values using the core requirements set out in the Value Based Recruitment (VBR) Behaviour Framework as outlined in the NHS Constitution http://www.nhsemployers.org/case-studies-and-resources/2014/11/values-based-recruitment-behaviour-framework</p>
Teaching Institution	University of Cumbria
Owning Institute	Health
Programme delivered in conjunction with	NHS and private sector placement providers
Principal Mode of Delivery	Blended Learning

Pattern of Delivery	<p>This is a flexible part time pathway that may be completed over 2-4 years.</p> <p>Module delivery is usually via one-week academic study blocks, for most modules.</p>
Delivery Site(s)	Online and Lancaster Campus
Programme Length	Up to 2 years standard and 4 years maximum
Exit Awards	<p>If you exit the MSc Medical Imaging (Ultrasound) pathway early, and have passed all of the academic and clinical components required you may be awarded:</p> <p>PgDip Medical Imaging (Ultrasound) or PgCert Medical Imaging (Ultrasound)</p> <p>You may be awarded one of the following Exit Awards if you fail to achieve the requirements of the clinical components but pass the academic components: (Not CASE accredited)</p> <p>MSc The Theory of Medical Imaging Ultrasound PgDip The Theory of Medical Imaging Ultrasound PgCert The Theory of Medical Imaging Ultrasound A CoA in any specific modules passed (Not CASE accredited)</p>
Period of Approval	August 2023 – July 2029
<p>This programme has been approved (validated) by the University of Cumbria as suitable for a range of delivery modes, delivery patterns, and delivery sites. This level of potential flexibility does not reflect a commitment on behalf of the University to offer the programme by all modes/patterns and at all locations in every academic cycle. The details of the programme offered for a particular intake year will be as detailed on the programme webpage: https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/medical-imaging-ultrasound-pgd/</p>	

Cumbria Graduate Attributes

Throughout your studies, you will be provided with the skills and knowledge relevant to the global workplace. All successful graduates of the University of Cumbria will be:

- Enquiring and open to change
- Self-reliant, adaptable and flexible
- Confident in your discipline as it develops and changes over time
- Capable of working across disciplines and working well with others
- Confident in your digital capabilities
- Able to manage your own professional and personal development

- A global citizen, socially responsible and aware of the potential contribution of your work to the cultural and economic wellbeing of the community and its impact on the environment
- A leader of people and of places
- Ambitious and proud

Programme Features

This is a highly flexible part-time (PT) pathway that will appeal to a wide range of healthcare professionals who wish to develop ultrasound skills as an extension of their scope of practice. This pathway sits within the MSc Medical Imaging (Ultrasound) programme and is aimed at those employed within a suitable clinical environment. This pathway is open to registered health care professionals, or vascular scientists, who wish to undertake ultrasound training as a career development or as an extension of their existing clinical role. The PT pathway is highly flexible and offers a number of CASE accredited interim awards. This allows you to negotiate a bespoke programme of study that meets your own learning needs. On this pathway you must have the support of a suitable clinical placement prior to being accepted onto the course, and this must remain in place for the duration of their chosen award.

The pathway allows you to develop the knowledge and skills required to become a competent sonographer and it is accredited by the Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE) ensuring it meets national standards commensurate with similar/equivalent courses across the United Kingdom (UK).

The academic component for this pathway shares all modules within the medical imaging (ultrasound) programme. The programme is taught by a team of experienced ultrasound practitioners in both the university and clinical setting. Top of the range ultrasound equipment and test phantoms, as well as simulated practice facilities are available at the university to prepare you for your time on clinical placement. We currently have two well-equipped ultrasound simulation hubs, which is an excellent advantage for our students. It is hoped that the use of simulated practice will be developed further in the future, with opportunities to develop 'cloud based' shared/distance learning activity with other universities and practitioners. The ultrasound machines and practice simulators are housed in two purpose-built skills facilities, where you will be able to consolidate your theoretical knowledge and practical skills during the academic blocks at university, ensuring they are prepared with the appropriate skills, prior to each placement block.

You will be supported in developing your skills to become autonomous practitioners, who are able to undertake advanced practice safely, by ensuring clinical competencies achieved meet national standards. You will have the opportunity for inter-professional learning, during clinical placement through the sharing of best clinical practice. The development of critical, analytical and evaluative skills and incorporating these into the clinical environment, encouraging evidence-based practice will be a fundamental part of the course.

The clinical placement sites have been working with the university for many years, supporting students through the traditional part-time route for sonographers, and have friendly, supportive and experienced staff to help them develop their clinical skills whilst maintaining strong links with the university.

The principal academic staff members on the programme team are university lecturers as well as experienced sonographers. Colleagues from the wider medical science programmes at the University of Cumbria also support the programme.

The programme is supported by a wide range of locally and nationally respected ultrasound professionals and physicists who act as honorary lecturers of the University of Cumbria and provide advice on the programme content and contribute to the programme delivery.

The programme team are respected nationally in their field and are currently research active. The team are actively involved in the development and maintenance of ultrasound education at a national level.

You need to be aware that you will incur additional costs whilst on programme. The list below will provide you with an overview of additional costs.

Books and Journals

Books are reviewed annually and are therefore subject to change, course welcome information will provide you with an indicative list for the year.

The university holds copies of core texts (including some as ebooks, which are accessible online).

You may wish to spend approximately £100-£200 on purchasing your own copies of certain textbooks and scripts although this cost can be reduced considerably by sourcing second hand copies of these resources.

IT equipment/Stationery

Stationery for your own personal use (pens, papers, and folders, etc.).

Whilst you will choose how much you need, expect to pay around £30 - £40 per year for these.

The bulk of your work will be saved and written electronically, although there are IT facilities available (some 24hrs) on university campuses, most students do have their own laptop or PC.

You may use your allocated space on the university 'cloud' for electronically saved work or have some alternative personal remote safe storage including an external hard drive or some form of memory stick etc.

There will be some printing costs as required by yourself, but most of the assessments are submitted electronically, and feedback received similarly.

Clothing and Equipment

Part-time students are usually employees of their sponsoring placement site and consequently must be provided with an appropriate uniform by their employer in line with local policy.

Footwear must be purchased. Sensible, plain black, comfortable, and supportive flat footwear is suggested but you will be further advised on this subject by uniform policy from the Trust you are allocated to. You should budget approximately £20-£40 for footwear but be realistic about replacing this over the 3 years. You may also wish to purchase different footwear to use in the hospital theatre environment (if required).

Travel

Part-time ultrasound students are usually employed by their sponsoring placement and will therefore incur travel costs both to and from the university campus, and (if required) accommodation costs during academic blocks and required campus attendances such as written examinations and assessments (it is up to individual students to negotiate with their sponsor/employer as to whether any costs can be reimbursed locally).

Remote placement sites (part-time students) may need to pay for the travel and accommodation costs for a member of the programme team to attend a placement visit and a clinical assessment moderation, particularly for repeat visits (this will usually be discussed on application).

Ultrasound is a highly rewarding and rapidly expanding area of medical diagnostic imaging practice. Increasingly, trainees are drawn from a wide range of clinical professions. Access to training for this shortage area has also recently been expanded to attract high calibre graduates from science and other health related academic backgrounds.

The programme offers pathways that have been designed to prepare you for a career in ultrasound. A key overall outcome of the Programme is to develop effective, autonomous ultrasound practitioners whatever their professional or academic background and scope of practice.

In response to extensive local, regional, and national consultation, this innovative and flexible programme has been designed to provide high quality training opportunities that meet the needs of the current and future ultrasound workforce.

At present, sonography is not a registerable healthcare profession. On successful completion of the full MSc in Medical Ultrasound, graduate entrants (who do not hold an existing registerable qualification) will **NOT** be eligible for HCPC registration. However, in collaboration with CASE and the Society and College of Radiographers, this programme has been mapped closely against existing HCPC standards of proficiency for diagnostic imaging. On successful completion of all core and mandatory elements, you will be able to provide evidence of preparation for practice to the standards required for a first post-qualification sonographer post. Consultation with key service partners confirms that this would allow appointment of graduates in **most** regional NHS contexts.

Applicants from a non-healthcare background should note that, at present, employment in some NHS Trusts would **NOT** be possible due to the requirement for professional registration.

To be eligible for the target award MSc Medical Ultrasound programme you must complete a range of clinical option modules and an Independent Scholarship Dissertation project equivalent to a total of 180 credits. For students studying part time, module choice will be negotiated at the start of each academic year in consultation with your personal tutor (PT), workplace mentor and line manager.

For taught modules, a combination of online and campus based scheduled learning and teaching delivery is used. This delivery runs alongside continuous clinical placement, which is usually in your own place of employment.

Professional development activities

You will be encouraged to reflect on your relevant skills and experience on entry to the programme and your individual personal and professional development needs. This process will inform development of learning objectives for each stage of study that are linked closely with programme and module learning outcomes.

On this pathway, you are a part time student (entering with a recognised healthcare qualification), consequently you will be supported to reflect on your own personal and professional development and learning needs as your scope of ultrasound practice expands. There is no such thing as a 'typical' ultrasound student. Therefore, learning needs will vary considerably and an individually negotiated programme of development activities and opportunities will be encouraged.

Engagement with professional development activities will be captured through an e-portfolio (Pebbelpad). You will be asked to submit this for review at the end of each Clinical module.

Placements

Part time students must be able to demonstrate clinical placement agreement to support you for a minimum placement equivalent of 21 hours per week for the duration of the programme.

Programme Learning Outcomes

By the end of this Programme learners will be able to:

1. Prepare for a career in medical ultrasound by developing their understanding and clinical expertise in the theory and application of medical ultrasound.
2. To facilitate and support effective learning and develop students' abilities to reflect on their professional practice so that they will continue as independent practitioners with a commitment to lifelong learning, scholarship and research.
3. To ensure students have a comprehensive understanding of ultrasound, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their areas of professional practice.
4. To develop the students' enthusiasm for, and knowledge and understanding of, the continually expanding field of medical ultrasound by developing the transferable skills expected of the postgraduate student in health care who is able to recognise the interface between academic and applied clinical working and is able to manage and adapt to the rapidly changing technological, medico-legal and ethical frameworks of the National Health Service.
5. To ensure the students are both safe and proficient for first post competence (both in a subject specific way and having the evidence based techniques in their grasp to practice into the future as lifelong learners) in at least three clinical specialisms.

The programme aims, at the point of graduation, to produce graduates who will be able to:

6. Practice competently according to the HCPC Standards of Practice for Radiographers* and the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) Code of Conduct and Ethics
7. Critically evaluate the quality of the evidence-base and articulate difficulties related to its implementation in complex clinical situations
8. Demonstrate clear supervision, leadership and management abilities through appropriate decision-making, resource allocation and team working
9. To understand and apply the values enshrined within the NHS Constitution in all aspects of their professional practice
10. Plan and be prepared to undertake research in practice (if the research methods module is chosen as part of the PgDip, otherwise this is only relevant to the MSc)

*Where relevant to the role of 'Sonographer' and should this title become protected and registerable with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Level Descriptors

Level Descriptors describe in general terms the expected outcomes you will achieve at each level of study as you progress through your programmes. They describe the relative demand, complexity, depth of learning and learner autonomy associated with a particular level of learning and achievement. The University's Level Descriptors are aligned to the national [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) (FHEQ) and are a key mechanism for ensuring the academic standards of the University's provision.

At Level 7 (Usually Master's level), you will be able to demonstrate that you have the ability:

- To display a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice.
- Employ advanced subject-specific and cognitive skills to enable decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations.
- Generate new ideas and support the achievement of desired outcomes.
- Accept accountability for decision making including the use of supervision.
- Analyse complex concepts and professional situations by means of synthesis of personal and workplace reflection and data drawn from scholarship and research in the field.

Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After 60 credits of study (PGCert) you will be able to demonstrate:

- K1.** A detailed understanding of physical principles of ultrasound image formation and the relationships between tissue structure and associated image appearances.
- K2.** The requirements of diagnostic ultrasound requests and the advice which should be given to other health care professionals on matters of diagnostic imaging.
- K3.** The justification and critical analysis of the use of particular imaging modalities in different clinical situations.
- K4.** The evaluation of the medico-legal and ethical implications of using imaging techniques and the subsequent dissemination of the diagnostic information provided. The role of medical ultrasound practitioners/clinical specialists in a multi-disciplinary environment.
- K5.** The psycho-social effects of medical imaging on the patient and their partner/carer.
- K6.** The methods used to locate, interrogate, evaluate and synthesise the evidence in their chosen area of study.
- K7.** Demonstrate skilled, competent, reflective and safe ultrasound practice within a legal and ethical context in line with current local and national UK guidelines.
- K8.** A creative approach to learning in order to develop as an 'independent learner' in order to evaluate a wide range of research to gain a coherent understanding of theory and practice.
- K9.** Utilise appropriate strategies to solve complex problems and make evaluative judgements on the outcomes of ultrasound examinations and report findings accordingly.
- K10.** Recognise and act accordingly in situations where the limits of skill or knowledge are being approached (cognisance).

After 120 credits of study (PGDip) you will be able to demonstrate:

- K11.** A wide range of clinical practice in a range of specialist clinical areas.

And only if HMSU7074 Research Methods is chosen as part of the PgDip:

- K12.** A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.

K13. To understand and apply the values enshrined within the NHS Constitution in all aspects of their professional practice.

Programme Outcomes – Skills and other Attributes (including Employability Skills)

The programme provides opportunities for you to develop and demonstrate the following:

After 60 credits of study (PGCert) you will be able to demonstrate:

- S1.** The capacity for enquiry, inductive and deductive reasoning and critical thinking and analysis.
- S2.** A creative and independent approach to learning contributing to peer learning and support.
- S3.** Synthesise information from a wide range of sources in order to gain a coherent understanding of the relationship between theory and practice.
- S4.** Critically evaluate research techniques/methodologies, where appropriate propose new hypotheses.
- S5.** Demonstrate key transferable skills such as; information fluency skills, appropriate communication skills and the ability to manage resources effectively in the planning, commissioning and delivery of imaging services.
- S6.** The ability to disseminate and communicate ideas and findings coherently.
- S7.** Manage change effectively in response to changing demands.
- S8.** Reflect on and evaluate your own academic, professional and clinical performance, exercising autonomy in the management of your learning and recording of continuing professional development.
- S9.** The use of information technology (IT) competently and appropriately to support academic studies and ultrasound practice.

After 120 credits of study (PGDip) you will be able to demonstrate:

- S.10.** Clinical competence in a broad range of ultrasound specialisms.

External and Internal Reference Points

The following Subject Benchmark Statements and other external and internal reference points have been used to inform the Programme Outcomes:

The academic and clinical modules have been mapped against the Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE) recommended learning outcomes.

Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) professional standards in Radiography

Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) guidelines on professional standards

British Medical Ultrasound Society (BMUS) guidelines

Internal drivers having informed the development include:

University Academic Strategy

Graduate Prospects

Ultrasound remains a recognised shortage profession within the UK. There is a current estimated 20% deficit of sonographers and multiple sonographer job opportunities. CASE accredited ultrasound training programmes are also highly regarded worldwide.

Your advanced critical thinking, research and independent enquiry skills, acquired from completing this programme of study, will put you in a great position to advance your career and to take on the challenges that clinical leadership and more senior clinical roles can bring.

Ultrasound is a fundamental diagnostic tool with growing relevance in a range of clinical contexts.

Further career development opportunities exist for ultrasound practitioners. These include clinical role extension through further study, research engagement and development of a clinical management or clinical academic role. The University of Cumbria offer a wide portfolio of health related CPD modules as well as support for study up to doctoral level.

At present, sonography is not a registerable healthcare profession. On successful completion of the full MSc in Medical Imaging (Ultrasound), graduate entrants (who do not hold an existing registerable qualification) will unfortunately NOT be eligible for HCPC registration. However, the programme has been mapped closely against existing HCPC standards. Consultation with key service partners confirms that this would allow appointment of graduates in most regional NHS settings.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies employed to enable the Programme Outcomes to be Achieved and Demonstrated

As a student at the University of Cumbria, you are part of an inclusive learning community that recognises diversity. You will have opportunities to learn by interacting with others in a collegiate, facilitative and dynamic learning environment. Teaching, assessment and student support will allow equal and equitable opportunities for you to optimise your potential and develop autonomy.

We seek to create a stimulating and innovative community of learning, whether encountered on campus or at a distance, on placement or in the workplace. Facilitated by our expert practitioner staff, you will experience a learning environment that is well equipped, flexible, and stimulating.

The programme and modules are structured to meet the needs of students and employers. Taught components of the academic modules on the programme are delivered in attendance blocks at the university followed by clinical learning blocks in the designated clinical placement. You are supported on placement by experienced mentors who have been trained by the university. You are also able to access UoC digital resources, library facilities, [Pebblepad](#) and Blackboard (VLE), whilst on placement. You will also be supported by your personal tutor, who is a member of the academic team at the university. The clinical aspects of the programme are documented in your clinical e-portfolio and it is a requirement of the programme that you take ownership of this portfolio throughout the

programme in line with professional requirements to maintain lifelong learning and to monitor and ensure clinical progress and competence.

Learning is based within academic study and professional practice, and the programme team collaborates with experienced clinical ultrasound practitioners. These practitioners perform key roles in helping to maintain the currency and relevance of the programme through their involvement in curriculum planning and delivery as well as providing mentorship support for students during placement blocks.

Learning and assessment are considered as interrelated, as the assessments enable you to demonstrate the extent to which you have achieved the learning outcome of modules and the programme of study overall. You will be supported throughout the assessment process, and formative and summative assessment will be undertaken, and will be an integral part of the academic and clinical modules for ultrasound.

There are extensive opportunities within the clinical sphere, evidenced within the clinical portfolio in the form of reflective practice, for students to engage with inter-professional learning. Examples of how this might be achieved are: by following the patient pathway in an obstetrics/gynaecology clinic, or through other imaging modalities/radiology reporting sessions within an imaging department or reflective practice based on working with the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) on clinical placement.

A wide range of assessment methods are used which are clinically relevant and aligned to programme and module level learning outcomes.

Intellectual, professional and key transferable skills are central to learning opportunities and assessment. Successfully undertaking modules on this programme will enhance opportunities for your professional careers.

Student Support

We provide responsive learner support that promotes student success. Our approach to learner support is designed to support achievement and progression, champion inclusivity and accessibility, prepare you for opportunities beyond study, and promote independence and resilience, enabling you to achieve your potential.

As a student of the University of Cumbria, you will be taught by academics and expert practitioners who facilitate learning through structured inquiry. You will be provided with access to high quality academic resources through physical and digital libraries and will be supported to develop skills that enable you to become a critical, reflective, discerning and independent learner and researcher.

You will also be supported by a named mentor, and other clinical colleagues, at your designated placement site, for the duration of your course. Mentors will be offered training and support by the course team. All students on the course will normally receive a virtual placement visit by a member of the course team. If face-to-face visits are required, a charge may be applicable for remote placement sites.

Induction

There are a range of induction materials on the programme Blackboard site. In addition, you will be offered an induction to the programme online, via virtual classroom. You will also be welcome to organise a face-to-face induction to our on-campus skills hub which are organised at selected points throughout the academic year.

Induction portfolios are available from the New Students My Cumbria page:

<https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/New-Students/>

- [Postgraduate Induction Portfolio](#)

Personal Tutoring

You will be allocated a Personal Tutor. Your Personal Tutor will be proactively involved in the delivery of your programme and will have contact with you throughout your time at the University. They will support your learning and development, including through tutorials, Progress Reviews and other support as outlined in the Personal Tutoring Policy.

A comprehensive support network is also in place as articulated in your Placement Handbook.

Personal Development Planning

Personal development planning is integral to the programme. The assessment of clinical skills is also an integral part of the course. All students must complete a clinical portfolio, which consists of a number of sections which must be completed, as part of each clinical practice module and evidenced in the portfolio, to ensure the student is safe and proficient to practice ultrasound.

The Portfolio will also demonstrate that the student is progressing during their training, in-line with professional body requirements for lifelong learning and continued professional development. You will be required to demonstrate proficiency in pre-defined areas of current clinical practice. This will be assessed in a number of ways, which must then be recorded in the clinical portfolio. At the end of each clinical module the module leader and the lead mentor must agree that you have made satisfactory progress to continue with the course.

The main components for the assessment are the 'Record of Clinical Proficiency' (RCP) and 'Clinical Assessment of Practice' (CAP). It is expected that the clinical portfolio will be developed into the student's initial continuous Professional Development portfolio (PDP) which also includes evidence of professional development and reflective practice.

Library Services and Academic Skills

The Library home page can be accessed here: <https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning>.

Module leaders will collaborate with Library Services to ensure that your online reading and resource lists are current and items are available via the library discovery tool OneSearch. In order to maximise access, availability and usefulness, ebooks and electronic journal titles will, in most cases, be prioritised. You can access a wide range of electronic and print content using [OneSearch](#) and you can find out more about key texts, databases and journals for your subject by accessing the library's [subject resources webpages](#). Where appropriate, module reading and resource lists will be made available to you electronically on Blackboard using the University's [online reading and resource list system](#).

Each campus library has a dedicated webpage. Check out local information about opening hours, reserving books, using self-service kiosks, printing and photocopying, booking study spaces and more. <https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning/Libraries/>

An [Ask a Librarian](#) service runs from 17:00 - 09:00 weekdays and round the clock on weekends and holidays. This means you can get professional help using about library services, finding information, referencing and searching, even when the library is closed. <https://my.cumbria.ac.uk/Student-Life/Learning/Libraries/Ask/>

The [Skills@Cumbria](#) service can help support your academic, library and digital skills and success throughout your programme. It includes a suite of [online self-help resources](#) accessible 24/7 via the University's website and Blackboard site.

The [Student Enquiry Point](#) is a simple way to contact Library and [Skills@Cumbria](#) Services. Additional skills support for students is offered via:

- [Workshops](#)
- [Appointments](#)
- [Webinars](#)
- [Learn Well at Cumbria](#)
- [Study from Home Webpage](#)
- [Digital Capabilities](#) and [LinkedIn Learning Pathways](#)

[Head Start to Postgraduate Study](#): This free online pre-entry Master's level course is available free of charge through Blackboard. It provides a useful insight into the academic requirements of study at postgraduate level, including advice from academic tutors and current students, and an opportunity to refresh and develop the library, academic and digital skills for this level. It is recommended to students who are about to start their PG qualification.

The module is accessible via Blackboard on a self-enrol basis, where you receive badges and certificate of completion, or there is a non-certificated open access version available via the [Head Start webpage](#).

Student Support Services

The [Student Enquiry Point](#) is a simple way to contact Student Services. Using the Student Enquiry Point tile on the Student Hub you can submit an enquiry to any of the Student Services teams, which includes:

- [Careers and Employability](#)
- [Chaplaincy](#) for faith and spiritual wellbeing
- [Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)
- [Digital Skills](#)
- [Disability and Specific Learning Difficulty \(SpLD\)](#)
- [International Student Support](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Money Matters](#)
- [Safeguarding](#)
- [Skills@Cumbria](#)
- [Sports and Fitness Facilities](#)
- [University Student Accommodation](#)

Further support and guidance, including EDI and Safeguarding: We are an inclusive community, committed to supporting and learning from each other, find out more about [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\)](#). Depending on the nature of your course, you may well already know about or be learning about safeguarding in a professional context and to find out about the University of Cumbria's safeguarding policy and procedures visit: [Safeguarding](#).

Student Voice

As a student at the University of Cumbria you automatically become a member of the Students' Union. The Students' Union represents the views and interests of students within the University.

The Students' Union is led by a group of Student Representatives who are elected by students in annual elections. They also support approximately 400 Student Academic Reps within each cohort across the entire University. The Students' Union represent the views of their cohort and work with academic staff to continuously develop and improve the experience for all University of Cumbria students. You can find out more about who represents you at www.ucsu.me.

You can email at any time on studentvoice@cumbria.ac.uk.

IT and Technical Support

Technology is an invaluable asset when it comes to studying, so it's important you know how to make the most out of the excellent [IT facilities](#) we have available. Our aim is to ensure you can access university electronic resources from anywhere or any device, whether on or off campus. The [Student Hub](#) is your one-stop gateway to all University systems, Outlook email, and OneDrive.

Whether you consider yourself a computer expert or you're not confident about your IT skills, we're always around to ensure you get the level of support you need. We have a wealth of information and support available on the [IT Services website](#) and have a dedicated IT Service Desk where you can talk to someone by phone or log your question online from anywhere, at any time.

University Cumbria Students' Union (UCSU) Student Support

UCSU offers a free, independent and confidential advice service to all students. They can help with things like academic appeals, extenuating circumstances or if you're considering a formal complaint. UCSU are also on hand to represent you in any formal meetings, for example in malpractice panels or fitness to practice meetings. Appointments are telephone based and can be booked at www.ucsu.me/support.

Programme Curriculum Map					
Academic Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Module Status*	Programme Outcomes achieved
7	HMSU7162	Physical Principles and Technology in Ultrasound	20	Core	K1,K3, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S9
7	HMSU7163	Professional, Legal and Ethical Issues in Ultrasound	20	Core	K2, K3, K4, K5, K6, K8, K9, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9
7	HMSU7164	Obstetric Ultrasound (Theory)	20	Optional	K2, K3, K4, K6, K7, K8, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU9064	Obstetric Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	0	Qualificatory Unit	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU7165	Gynaecological Ultrasound (Theory)	20	Optional	K2, K3, K4, K6, K7, K8, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU9065	Gynaecological Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	0	Qualificatory Unit	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU7166	General Medical Ultrasound (Theory)	20	Optional	K2, K3, K4, K6, K7, K8, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU9066	General Medical Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	0	Qualificatory Unit	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10

7	HMSU7167	Vascular Ultrasound (Theory)	20	Optional	K2, K3, K4, K6, K7, K8, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU9067	Vascular Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	0	Qualificatory Unit	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU7168	Musculoskeletal Ultrasound (Theory)	20	Optional	K2, K3, K4, K6, K7, K8, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU9068	Musculoskeletal Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	0	Qualificatory Unit	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU7169	Breast Ultrasound	20	Optional	K2, K3, K4, K6, K7, K8, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU9069	Breast Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	0	Qualificatory Unit	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU7070	Negotiated Ultrasound Practice 1	20	Optional	K2, K3, K4, K6, K7, K8, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU9070	Negotiated Ultrasound Practice 1 (Clinical Practice)	0	Qualificatory Unit	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU7071	Negotiated Ultrasound Practice 2	20	Optional	K2, K3, K4, K6, K7, K8, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10

7	HMSU9071	Negotiated Ultrasound Practice 2 (Clinical Practice)	0	Qualificatory Unit	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU7072	Negotiated Ultrasound Practice 3	20	Optional	K2, K3, K4, K6, K7, K8, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU9072	Negotiated Ultrasound Practice 3 (Clinical Practice)		Qualificatory Unit	K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9, S10
7	HMSU7073	Independent Study in Ultrasound (non-Clinical Practice)	20	Optional	K6, K7, K8, K10, K12, K13, S1, S2, S3, S4 S5, S6, S7, S8, S9,
7	HMSU7074	Research Methods	20	Optional	K6, K7, K8, K10, K12, K13, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9

Notes

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes

Optional modules may be subject to availability and viability.

Optional modules cannot be condoned, i.e. it is not possible to carry a fail for the optional modules, they must be successfully passed at 50%.

The optional modules on this pathway are selected in collaboration of the university, student and allocated placement provider. This may vary from placement to placement and year to year dependent on the needs of the local service and availability of suitable patient caseload and mentor.

HMSU7162 and HMSU7163 are core modules and should normally be studied in the first semester, of registration.

Each clinical theory module has an associated Clinical Practice Module, which is a co-requisite, and must always be taken in conjunction with each other.

* Key to Module Statuses

Core Modules	Must be taken and must be successfully passed.
Optional Modules	Are a set of modules from which you will be required to choose a set number to study. Once chosen, it may possible to condone/compensate as a marginal fail (within the limits set out in the Academic Regulations and provided that all core or pass/fail elements of module assessment have been passed).
Qualificatory Practice Units	These are non-credit-bearing pass/fail components that are used to satisfy relevant professional, statutory or regulatory body professional requirements that are associated with the programme. These units must be successfully completed in order to pass the award but do not affect the final degree classification. An alternate award is available if you are not successful in the QPU element of your programme.

Programme Delivery Structure: Part Time / Block Teaching				
Module Code	Module Title	Delivery Pattern	Method(s) of Assessment	Indicative Assessment Deadline
HMSU7162	Physical Principles and Technology in Ultrasound	September- October	Coursework/Set Exercise	March-May
HMSU7163	Professional, Legal and Ethical Issues in Ultrasound	October	Coursework	April
HMSU7164	Obstetric Ultrasound (Theory)	Sept	Coursework/Set Exercise	January
HMSU9064	Obstetric Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	Year Long	Clinical Portfolio	September
HMSU7165	Gynaecological Ultrasound (Theory)	November	Coursework/Set Exercise	March
HMSU9065	Gynaecological Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	Year Long	Clinical Portfolio	November
HMSU7166	General Medical Ultrasound (Theory)	March	Coursework/Set Exercise	August
HMSU9166	General Medical Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	Year Long	Clinical Portfolio	April

HMSU7167	Vascular Ultrasound (Theory)	March	Coursework/Set Exercise	August
HMSU9067	Vascular Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	Year Long	Clinical Portfolio	April
HMSU7168	Musculoskeletal Ultrasound (Theory)	Sept	Coursework/Set Exercise	January
HMSU9068	Musculoskeletal Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	Year Long	Clinical Portfolio	September
HMSU7169	Breast Ultrasound (Theory)	Year Long	Coursework/Set Exercise	Negotiated
HMSU9069	Breast Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	Year Long	Clinical Portfolio	Negotiated
HMSU7070	Negotiated Ultrasound Practice 1 (Theory)	Year Long	Coursework/Negotiated	Negotiated
HMSU9070	Negotiated Ultrasound Practice 1 (Clinical Practice)	Year Long	Clinical Portfolio	Negotiated
HMSU7071	Negotiated Ultrasound Practice 2 (Theory)	Year Long	Coursework/Negotiated	Negotiated

HMSU9071	Negotiated Ultrasound Practice 2 (Clinical Practice)	Year Long	Clinical Portfolio	Negotiated
HMSU7072	Negotiated Ultrasound Practice 3 (Theory)	Year Long	Coursework/Negotiated	Negotiated
HMSU9072	Negotiated Ultrasound Practice 3 (Clinical Practice)	Year Long	Clinical Portfolio	Negotiated

Students exiting with 60 credits, including the 2 core modules, ONE clinical 'theory' module and passes in the associated Clinical Practice module would receive a PgCert Medical Imaging (Ultrasound).

In the case of a student successfully passing 60 academic credits including the 2 core modules and ONE optional theory module but a failure in the associated Clinical Practice Module, they may receive a PgCert The Theory of Medical Imaging (Ultrasound)

Students exiting with 120 academic credits, including the 2 core modules and at least 3 clinical 'theory' modules and passes in the 3 associated Clinical Practice modules would receive a PgDip Medical Imaging (Ultrasound)

In the case of a student successfully passing 120 academic credits along with passes in 1 or 2 Clinical Practice modules, they will receive a PgCert Medical Imaging (Ultrasound) and an academic transcript detailing all the modules and academic credit completed.

In the case of a student successfully passing 120 academic credits (including the 2 core modules) but a failure in 3 Clinical Practice modules they may receive a PgDip The Theory of Medical Imaging (Ultrasound) award

Part-time student pathways

1. PgCert Medical Imaging (Ultrasound)

You may wish to complete a PgCert with one clinical option and therefore you may opt for the following:

i. A Midwife/Radiographer focusing on Obstetric Ultrasound

Module	Start	Assessment	Provisional Feedback
HMSU7162	May	Coursework: September Exam: October	October/November
HMSU7164	September	Coursework: December Exam: January	February
HMSU7163*	January	Coursework: April/May	May
*Students may opt to take this in October instead but will be warned of the intensity of the study deadlines			

ii. A vascular Scientist/Radiographer focusing on vascular ultrasound

Module	Start	Assessment	Feedback
HMSU7162**	May or October	Coursework: March Exam May	April & June

HMSU7163*	October or January	January or May	Feb or June
HMSU7167	March	Coursework June Exam August	July/Sept
<p>*Students may opt to take this in October instead but will be warned of the intensity of the study deadlines if taking this option</p> <p>** Students may opt to take this by starting earlier in May</p>			

iii. A physiotherapist focusing on musculoskeletal ultrasound:

Module	Start	Assessment	Feedback
HMSU7162	May	Coursework: September Exam: October	October/November
HMSU7168	September	January	February
HMSU7163*	January	May	June
<p>*Students may opt to take this in October instead but will be warned of the intensity of the study deadlines if choosing this option</p>			

iv. A student taking an 80 credit PgCert focusing on Obsetric & Gynaecological ultrasound:

Module	Start	Assessment	Feedback

HMSU7162	May	Coursework: September Exam: October	October/November
HMSU7164	September	Coursework: December Exam: January	February
HMSU7165	November	Coursework: February Exam: March	March/April
HMSU7163*	January	April/May	May/June
*Students may opt to take this in October instead but will be warned of the intensity of the study deadlines			

2. PgDip Medical Imaging (Ultrasound)

A student wishing to complete a PgDip with three, or four clinical options may opt for the following:

Module	Start	Assessment	Feedback
HMSU7162	May	Coursework: September Exam: October	October/November
HMSU7164	September	January	February

HMSU7165**	November	Coursework: February Exam: March	March/April
HMSU7163*	January	May	June
HMSU7166	March	Coursework: June Exam: August	July/September
HMSU7168***	September	Coursework: December Exam: January	February
HMSU7074***	January	April	May
<p>*Students may opt to take this in October instead but will be warned of the intensity of the study deadlines</p> <p>** student may opt to take this in year 2 – similar equivalent dates of attendance and assessment</p> <p>*** students may choose an additional clinical module or the research methods module</p>			

Exceptions to Academic Regulations

This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes with the following permitted exceptions due to the requirements of CASE, who accredit the programme:

- The programme length is non-standard, as this is a flexible part-time programme for practitioners employed in the NHS and private sector healthcare organisations
- All summative assessments, other than exams, will have a stated word count or duration which provides a direction on the expected submission length. Academic assessments will carry penalties where the word count or duration in the assignment exceeds the allowed length and the penalties which will be applied as follows:
 - 1 – 10% No penalty
 - 11 – 30% Deduction of 10% marks
 - 31%+ Mark capped at 50%

The word count for each assessment submission should be calculated by highlighting all the text from the first word of the first sentence and the last word of the last sentence. It therefore includes headings, in text references, quotes, page numbers, dates and any other words in the main body of the text. It does not include the assessment title or the reference list. In dissertations or reports, the following would also be excluded where relevant: table of contents, list of tables, list of figures, abstract, acknowledgements, appendices.

- Re-take modules are not permitted for any of the modules, when studied as part of this programme, or as a CoA.

CASE position statement:

"In the absence of evidenced exceptional/mitigating circumstances or equivalent, CASE permits two attempts at each assessment (a first attempt and one reassessment). CASE does not permit the use of compensation or condonement in relation to failed elements of assessment; all assessments must be passed. In addition, CASE do not support 're-take' modules where a student has exhausted both first and re-assessment opportunities on the first attempt at a given module".

Methods for Evaluating and Improving the Quality and Standards of Learning

Mechanisms used for the Review and Evaluation of the Curriculum and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Methods

- Module Evaluation
- Programme Validation and Periodic Review
- Annual Monitoring
- Peer Review of Teaching
- External Examiner Reports
- Clinical Placement Evaluations
- Online Forums (Blackboard etc)
- Student Module Evaluations (given to students on completion of each academic module)
- Personal Tutor meetings with feedback to Module and Programme Leads
- Informal discussion with students

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff-Student Forum Meetings (SSFs) • Stakeholder and Steering Group meetings • Student Success and Quality Assurance Committee (SSQAC) • Module Assessment Boards • University Assessment Board
Mechanisms used for gaining and responding to feedback on the quality of teaching and the learning experience – gained from: Students, graduates, employers, placement and work-based learning providers, other stakeholders, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Student Forum • Module Evaluation Forms • Programme Evaluation: UK Engagement Survey • Module/Programme/Personal tutorials • Meetings with External Examiners • Regular communication with clinical placement sites to ensure programme/student/placement requirements are being met. Virtual visits are undertaken periodically or as required.

Date of Programme Specification Production:	October 2022
Date Programme Specification was last updated:	November 2024
For further information about this programme, refer to the programme page on the University website	

The following information has implications for potential international applicants who require a Student Visa to study in the UK	
Is the placement requirement more than 50% of the programme?	Yes
If yes, what % of the programme is the placement requirement?	60% (minimum)
If yes, is the amount of placement a statutory requirement to meet Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) or Department of Education requirements?	Yes