

MSc in Maternal and Child Health: Socio-Cultural Perspectives **Course Information**

(Validated April 2008)

Awarding body: University of London

The joint Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences (St George's, University of London and Kingston University) are offering an exciting modular MSc in Maternal and Child Health. The course can be taken over two years part-time or one years full time starting in October. This interprofessional masters course is ideal for children's nurses, midwives, health visitors and other practitioners working within maternity and children's services. Other practitioners working in health and social care might also find the course content of interest.

The course offers the opportunity for practitioners working in maternity and children's services across health and social care settings to acquire the skills of critical enquiry and appreciation of the underlying theory and principles guiding their practice. There is an emphasis on examining the best methods of integrating relevant theory and research into individual practice.

Students completing the MSc in Maternal and Child Health course complete the following core modules:

- Research Methods
- Research Project Planning and Management
- Determinants of Maternal and Child Health
- Power, Risk and Organisational Culture

Four option modules are also taken and include:

- Bio-Social Perspectives From Conception To Spontaneous Weaning
Factors Influencing Children And Young People's Development: A Global Perspective
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- Ethics and Law
- Globalisation, Youth and Culture
- Leading and Managing People in Health Care
- Managing Information in Health Care
- Managing Pain In Children
- Perinatal Mental Health
- Professional Development and Excellence in Clinical Practice
- Professional Responses to Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Sexual Health and Well-Being
- Supervision of Midwives (counts as two modules – 30 credits)
- Understanding Childhood Experience For Safeguarding Health And Promoting Well-Being

The progression towards production of high quality research appropriate to students' own interests and work area forms an important component of study.

Enquiries are welcomed from all practitioners working in health and social care. Informal discussion with the course director is encouraged.

Why this course?

This course is designed to equip those working in maternity and children's services with the skills they need to enhance and improve services at a time of change in health and social care when there is a need to ensure interprofessional working. This course will allow students to reflect on their practice and identify the strategies required to provide quality care for the women, and children they care for.

In designing this course current national and international policy has been taken into account. The overarching principle in the findings and recommendations from the review is that care to women, children and their families is of the highest quality and tailored to individual needs. It is vital that those working within the service have awareness of key issues that impact on both providers and recipients of care. This interprofessional programme will provide the opportunity for students to debate policy imperatives and apply knowledge and research evidence to practice situations.

In considering health care for London, the Darzi report (2007) outlines five principles on how to deliver better, safer and more accessible care to help people stay healthier. These themes are reflected in the desired outcomes of this programme which focuses on women, children and young people's care pathway.

St George's, University of London is the first London-based University to deliver an MSc in Maternal and Child Health: Socio-Cultural Perspectives. We are well placed to develop and lead an innovative interprofessional programme and utilise the strengths of academics from within the Faculty of Health and Social Care, and the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at St George's, and Kingston University and partners in local PCTs and acute trusts.

Aims

- Enable midwives, children's nurses and other professionals nationally and internationally to explore issues surrounding the health and social care of women, children and their families, whilst considering their unique role in service improvements.
- Facilitate practitioners' journey towards the leading edge of practice through deepening and widening of knowledge, and enhanced critical and analytical skills.
- Equip students with the skills to contribute to development and transformation of maternity and children's services, consider new roles and ways of working to meet changing workforce needs

In addition, the aim of the MSc is to:

- Provide the student with the opportunity to research, in depth, a specific area of maternal or child health related provision / care through a Masters level dissertation

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Critically appraise key national and international policies relating to the health and social care context for women, children and young people
2. Evaluate the significance of socio-economic, local and global developments in maternity and child health care
3. Review and critically analyse own and others' practice within an interprofessional context and debate the complexities of service developments through strategic partnerships across organisational boundaries
4. Challenge theories that inform practice and develop new understanding and theories to influence change in women and children's care and service provision
5. Critically evaluate the impact of organisational culture, politics and power relations on practitioner development and care provision
6. Demonstrate skills for expert practice, leadership and change management through critical analysis and application of key theoretical concepts
7. Critically review relevant literature and apply research skills to inquiry into a practice related issue, developing new insights and knowledge

Structure of the Course

The course is divided into a number of modules and you may be studying more than one module at a time.

- There are four core modules (details above) contributing a total of 75 credits.
- A further four modules will be drawn from the list of option modules (three modules if you take the supervision of midwives module) (60 credits)
- A further 45 credits will be gained from a dissertation in an area focused on research relating to maternal and child health.

Programme Structure

Year 1

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Research Methods Research Planning and Project Management Determinants of Maternal and Child Health	Research Methods Research Planning and Project Management Research Workshops (including statistics) Determinants of Maternal and Child Health	Power, Risk and Organisational Culture Option Module 1

Year 2: Outline Timetable

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Option Module 2 Research Project	Option Module 3 Research Project	Option Module 4 Research Project

Core modules

Research Methods

Aims to familiarise students with quantitative and qualitative approaches to research, and to enable students to employ appropriate methods in conducting their own research. This module is undertaken with other students registered to do masters within St George's University of London.

Research Project Planning and Management

To enable students to plan and execute research projects successfully. Content includes the research governance framework and legislation affecting research and appreciate the need for ethical and other approvals before commencing research. Issues relating to submitting a ethics research ethics committee application and planning a realistic timetable for your research project is also addressed. This module is undertaken with other students registered to do masters within St George's University of London.

Determinants of Maternal and Child Health

Allows students to explore various factors that determine health outcomes for women, children and young people. Global health patterns and trends, the effect of poverty, and inequalities in health will be considered in relation to government policy initiatives to improve health and social care. Issues relating to ethnicity, race and culture, gender and social class will also be explored.

Power, Risk and Organisational Culture

Allows students to examine the concept of organisational culture and its relevance to power relations between disciplines and service delivery. The application of risk management within organisations will also be examined.

Option modules (15 credits unless stated otherwise)

Bio-Social Perspectives From Conception To Spontaneous Weaning

This module presents new evidence about reproduction and fetal /neonatal development, to enable professionals to identify practices that complement and enhance distinct phases of the fertile cycle and bio-social interactions that occur between mother-father-offspring.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health

This module aims to develop an advanced level of knowledge and understanding among students in the area of child and adolescent mental health.

Ethics and Law

This module aims to develop students' critical thinking skills and examine attitudes values relevant to health and social care. The students will be encouraged to explore ethical theory and legal principles to develop their skill in reasoning and argument. Teaching strategies will include the use of case studies, seminar presentation and tutorials to foster group interaction and reflection on own and others views.

Factors Influencing Children and Young People's Development: A Global Perspective

This module will be based upon *Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory* and will draw on students' previous knowledge of child development (in-utero to adolescence) and factors that affect a child's development. The module will enable students to critically appraise the factors postulated as affecting a child's development and apply a range of psychological theories and psychopathological concepts to explain different outcomes in various children development.

Globalisation, Youth and Culture

In recent years young people have been faced with new opportunities, challenges and concerns as they grow up in an increasingly interdependent and globalized society. Those working within public services require courage, deep understanding and enhanced therapeutic skills to develop 'loving' environments for the millions of unloved children. A central aspect of the module is for students to undertake an alternative regional or country placement to reflect on their practice in order to respond to the changing experiences, learning and development needs of young people, at a personal, team and strategic level.

Leading and Managing People in Health Care

This module aims to:

- integrate theory and practice of leadership, management and organizational behaviour, towards understanding the performance infrastructure and the individual, group and organisational factors that underpin organisational effectiveness in health care services.
- critically evaluate the characteristics of successful organisations, group dynamics and individual high performers within the context of health care.
- develop performance differentiators that stimulates and catalyse high performance, organisational commitment and citizenship behaviour within the health care sector.

Managing Information in Health Care

This module aims to:

- develop an ability to understand and use information as a strategic resource in supporting the delivery of health and social care services.
- provide students with an understanding of the changing role of information and communications technology (ICT) in the light of structural changes in the NHS and social care.
- examine the enabling role of IT in facilitating communication and collaboration among professionals and patients in the health and social care sectors

Managing Pain in Children

This module is designed to offer healthcare professionals who care for children, from birth to 18 years, experiencing pain an opportunity for in-depth study of the physiological, psychological and social responses to children's pain. Evidence-based approaches to assessing and managing acute, chronic and procedural pain will be analysed, supported by reflection on professional practice, to enable students to deliver appropriate care to children and their families.

Perinatal Mental Health

This module will enable students to critically appraise the socio-political and cultural context of the care of women with antenatal and postnatal mental health problems, and will equip students with sound knowledge, skills and attitudes to meet current challenges in improving outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged families. It will enable students to understand the importance of providing effective high-quality care through effective interprofessional collaboration and development of managed care pathways.

Professional Development and Excellence in Clinical Practice

This module builds is for health and social care practitioners who wish to develop their professional leadership skills and to promote excellence in practice. The module will enable students to further develop the skills required to implement evidence-based practice. The module will provide opportunities for students to develop both professionally and personally through a variety of activities including reflection, study, groupwork, analysis of situation and synthesis. At the end of the module the practitioner will be able to use the skills and knowledge gained to develop their practice and to promote excellence in practice.

Professional Responses to Domestic Violence and Abuse

This module aims to:

- enable students to develop their understanding and awareness of the skills required in working with domestic violence and abuse and the roles of different professionals within this context.
- increase students' skills at implementing theoretical knowledge in professional practice

Sexual Health and Well-Being

This module will facilitate the students to examine their knowledge and understanding of current national and international developments in research, practice, assessment and the promotion of sexual health. It will explore sexual health and well-being across the lifespan, focusing particularly on the needs of young people and women.

Supervision of Midwives (30 credits)

This module is for nominated practising midwives who are eligible to undertake the preparation of supervisors of midwives programme (NMC, 2006) Key issues in the statutory supervision of midwives are explored and assimilated for the midwives to be come active in their role. On completion of the programme the supervisors of midwives will be able to support and develop midwives and the maternity care services and ensure the protection of the public.

Understanding Childhood Experience for Safeguarding Health and Promoting Well-Being

This module aims to:

- enhance critical appreciation of the needs and experiences of children and their carers.
- identify conditions necessary to safeguard and promote child welfare and enhance well-being.
- meet relevant knowledge requirements for the specialist award

Teaching

The learning process comprises tutor-led learning through classroom contact time, tutor-directed independent study, and student determined independent study. The majority of the tutor-directed independent study will be facilitated using Blackboard.

Facilities and student support

We understand that many participants will be trying to balance the challenge of commencing an MSc together with the demands of a busy professional life. We aim to be flexible to participants needs and offer support as needed before and at key points throughout the course. Participants on the MSc in Maternal and Child Health will benefit from a number of methods designed to provide a supportive learning environment for the duration of the time on the course.

These include:

- Excellent library and computing facilities
- Regular personal tutor support
- Project supervision
- Email accounts and discussion boards
- Peer assisted learning groups.

Assessment

The assessment strategies for the MSc Maternal and Child Health provide the opportunity for students to demonstrate learning, progress, and achievement of the module learning outcomes. A range of formative and summative assessment methods will be used for this purpose. The basis of much of the module assessments is the application of theory to practice and the demonstration of knowledge and skills.

A number of assessment methods will be used, including:

- Extended essays
- Case studies and other written assignments
- Presentations
- Reflective essays and portfolio development
- Report
- Dissertation

Research

The course team have expertise in many specialised areas of midwifery and child health research. They also have practical experience of implementing midwifery and child health research.

Opportunities to continue to MPhil or PhD study are available on completion of the MSc course.

Timing

For the part-time route the taught elements are normally scheduled across two calendar years, with attendance in term time on Thursdays during Year 1. The days you attend in Year 2 will depend on your choice of option modules. For the full time route you will attend on a Thursday and one other day in the week (depending on your choice of option modules).

Entry Requirements

Entry requirements for the programme are a first degree in an appropriate subject plus, in the main, a minimum of two years' practice experience in a health or social care setting. Graduates without a professional qualification but working in the relevant care setting will be considered. Qualified health or social care practitioners without first degrees may be admitted but will have to demonstrate an ability to study at master's level.

Graduates and qualified health or social care practitioners from overseas will be considered for the course if they possess equivalent academic qualifications and English IELTS score of 6.5. Applicants who meet the admissions criteria will be invited for a selection interview.

Fees

Fees for home/EU students commencing in 2009 are £5500 (full time) and £2900 (part time)¹ for 180 credits. Fees for overseas students are £9500 (full time).

¹ Additional fees will be due in the academic year commencing in Autumn 2010

Further Information and application forms

Application forms can be obtained from:

Karen Farquharson
Post Graduate Admissions Administrator
Faculty of Health and Social Care Sciences
Kingston Hill
Kingston, KT2 7LB

Email: postgrad@sgul.kingston.ac.uk

Phone: 020 8417 5732

For an informal discussion about the course email or phone:

Dr Alison Twycross

Principal Lecturer in Children's Nursing

Tel: 0778 552 5986

Email: a.twycross@sgul.kingston.ac.uk

Dr Regina Coppen

Principal Lecturer in Midwifery

Tel: 020 8725 0721

Email: rcoppen@hscs.sgul.ac.uk

Location

Sessions will normally be held at St George's, University of London Campus. It can be reached by:

- Underground (Northern line – Tooting Broadway),
- Rail (Tooting Graveney)
- Bus (numbers 44, 57, 77, 127, 133, 135, 155, 219, 264, 270, 280, 355, G1 and 493).

There is a pay car park on site and meter parking in surrounding streets.