Queen Margaret University

EDINBURGH

Programme Specification

Where appropriate outcome statements have be referenced to the appropriate Benchmarking Statement **(BS)**

1 Awarding Institution	Queen Margaret University
2 Teaching Institution	Queen Margaret University
3 Professional body accreditation	HCPC and BDA
4 Final Award	Master of Dietetics (MDiet)
Subsidiary exit awards	Completion of 120 SCQF credits (normally level 7): Certificate of Higher Education Completion of 240 SCQF credits (normally level 7 & 8) Diploma in Higher Education Completion of 360 SCQF credit (normally level 7, 8 & 9): *BSc Nutrition Studies *Note that the degree in Master of Dietetics is a Masters award, there is no MSc Dietetics or BSc Dietetics exit award
5 Programme Title	Master of Dietetics (MDiet)
6 UCAS code (or other coding system if relevant)	
7 SCQF Level	SCQF level 11
8 Mode of delivery and duration	Normally full time
9 Date of validation/review	April 2019

10. Educational Aims of the programme

- Provide a programme of study that develops an ability to evaluate and synthesise the issues and concepts related to Dietetics: health, well-being and disease at individual, group and population levels.
- Develop the ability to fully integrate contributory disciplines in the analysis and interpretation of factors influencing the maintenance or improvement of health and disturbance of the body's functions in relation to disease.
- Develop in students the capacity for advanced critical, analytical, reflective and independent thinking so that they become effective critical problem solvers and life-long learners.
- Facilitate the progressive development in students of a range of transferable skills relevant to the world of work including methods of communication, the commitment to life-long learning, leadership, reflection, clinical reasoning evaluation and a professional and ethical approach to working
- Further develop experimental and practical skills related to their field of study with associated skills in design of investigations, data collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination.
- Develop a student whose approach is proactive and flexible, has the ability to work within a diverse multi-professional, multi-agency domain and can recognise, lead and respond

positively to changing needs or demographics.

- Develop a student who demonstrates professionalism in all areas of practice and who meets the Standards of Proficiency to be eligible to apply for registration with the Health Care and Professions Council (HCPC).
- Encourage a research mindedness on the part of students so that they may better understand and evaluate relevant research, compare merits of alternative hypotheses and be able to undertake research themselves and in turn contribute to evidence based practice to support clinical interventions.
- Develop a student who is able to demonstrate research competence with limited supervision.

11. Benchmark statements/professional and statutory body requirements covered by the programme

HCPC Standards of Proficiency – Dietitians (2013)
HCPC Standards of Education and Training (2017)
BDA Curriculum Framework for the pre-registration education and training of Dietitians (2013)
Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) (2012) Level Descriptors
The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for Higher Education Benchmarking Statements-Dietetics (2017)

12. Learning Outcomes of the Programme

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

- Integrate knowledge of Dietetics and related subjects relevant to Dietetics especially in the context of improving and sustaining health as well as treating disease at individual, group and population levels. (KU, IS, TS)
- Demonstrate critical understanding of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary factors influencing the body's functions, metabolism and overall health or disease. (KU, PS)
- Demonstrate advanced scientific knowledge in the concepts and theories relevant to the dietetic management of the patient and to critically reflect and debate the relationship between theory and practice. (KU, IS, TS)
- Analyse, interpret, evaluate and synthesise data and information both within and across disciplines. (KU, PS, IS, TS)
- Demonstrate the ability to study in an independent manner and reflect on the need to take responsibility for their own continuing professional development (CPD). (KU, PS, IS, TS)
- Demonstrate research mindedness through the ability to evaluate current research and to undertake research themselves. (IS, PS, TS)
- Demonstrate the capacity for sustained independent work, problem solving and management of their own learning. (PS, TS)
- Display competency in a range of transferable skills relevant to the world of work. (PS, TS)
- Demonstrate a proactive, flexible, responsive approach to patients, clients, service users and members of the multi-professional team (PS, TS)
- Meet the criteria for the HCPC Standards of Proficiency in order to be eligible to apply for registration as a Dietitian. (KU, IS, TS, PS)
- Critically analyse, synthesise, evaluate and apply existing research and evidence related all aspects of Dietetics. (KU, IS, PS, TS)

13. Teaching and learning methods and strategies

The learning and teaching strategies utilised throughout programme aim to employ effective methods of achieving programme and module aims while encouraging flexibility and innovation in meeting student requirements. They include lectures, seminars, tutorial, laboratory-based classes, practical classes, inter-professional education, reflection, simulation, practice based learning. Learning and teaching is enabled through directed and self-directed learning and students are encouraged to work independently and within small groups.

14. Assessment strategies

Module (SCQF level) (credit rating)	Assessment
Year 1	
Physiology (7) (20)	Unseen examination (2 hours)
Contextualizing you and your profession (7) (20)	2,000 word assignment: Reflective essay incorporating a personal development plan
Food, lifestyle and society (7) (20)	Development of healthy lifestyle resource
Cell biology and genetics (7) (20)	Multiple choice and short answer unseen examination (2 hours)
Biochemistry (7) (20)	Multiple choice and short answer unseen examination (2 hours)
Intro to food science (7) (20)	Group presentation (20 minutes/group)
Evidence based practice (8) (20)	Critical Appraisal (1000 words)
Year 2 SCQF level) (credit rating)	
Introduction to Dietetic Practice (Placement A) (8) (20)	Portfolio and critical reflection (1500 words)
Nutrient Metabolism (8) (20)	Multiple choice and short answer unseen examination (2 hours)
Pharmacology (8) (20)	Case based group presentation (20 minutes/group)
Behaviour Change (8) (20)	Portfolio of video clips (10 mins) and reflective evaluation (1000 words)
Nutrition (8) (20)	Unseen examination - MCQ, and short essay questions (90 minutes)
Health Issues in the community (8) (20)	Case report (1500 words)
Epidemiology in Public Health (9) (20)	2000 word case study of a public health issue
Year 3	
Essentials of the Dietetic Management of Disease (9) (20)	20 minute case-based presentation.
Nutrition through the life course (9) (20)	Written Assignment (2000 words)
Disease Aetiology and Management (9) (20)	Unseen examination (essay question) (2 hours)
Dietetic Management of Long Term Conditions (11) (20)	Unseen examination critical essay style questions (2 ½ hours)
Dissertation (9) (20)	Literature review (3,500 words)
Developing Dietetic Practice (Placement B) (10) (60)	OSCE (50%) Practice based weeks pass/fail Written case based assessment (1500 words) (50%)
Year 4	
Innovative and Emerging Practice (11) (40)	3,000 word critical evaluation of a chosen area of practice/policy (50%) Case for change proposal (self-recorded 20 minute presentation using AV/digital technology (50%)
Consolidating Dietetic Practice (Placement C) (11) (60)	Practice based weeks pass/fail, 3000 word case based assignment
Dietetic Research Project (10) (60)	5000 word research dissertation

15. Programme structures and features, curriculum units (modules), credits and award requirements (including any periods of placement)

Overview of MDiet Structure	
Year 1 (SCQF level) (credit rating)	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Physiology (7) (20)	Cell biology and genetics (7) (20)
Contextualizing you and your profession (7) (20)	Biochemistry (7) (20)
Food, lifestyle and society (7) (20)	Intro to food science (7) (20)
	Evidence based practice (8) (20)
Year 2 (SCQF level) (credit rating)	
Semester 1	Semester 2
*Introduction to Dietetic Practice (Placement A) (8) (20) *Includes 2 weeks campus based and 2 weeks practice-based learning*	Pharmacology (8) (20)
Nutrient Metabolism (8) (20)	Nutrition (8) (20)
Behaviour change (8) (20)	Health Issues in the community (8) (20)
	******Epidemiology in Public Health (9) (20)
Year 3 (pre-requisite 2.1 or better SCQF level) (credit rating)	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Essentials of the Dietetic Management (9) (20)	Dietetic Management of Long Term Conditions (11) (20)
Nutrition through the life course (9) (20)	******Dissertation (9) (20)
Disease Aetiology and Management (9) (20)	Developing Dietetic Practice (Placement B) (10) (60) *Includes 12 weeks practice-based learning*
Year 4 (SCQF level) (credit rating)	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Innovative and Emerging Practice (11) (40) Delivered during the summer between years 3 and 4 of the programme	
Dietetic Research Project (10) (60)	Consolidating Dietetic Practice (Placement C) (11) (60) *Includes 12 weeks practice-based learning*

* advanced entry students will also complete the level 8 SCQF level 8 module Introduction to Dietetic Practice to ensure that they meet the practice based requirements of the programme
****** advanced entry students into year 3 of the programme will complete the SCQF level 9 module Epidemiology in Public Health rather than the Dissertation module

16. Criteria for admission

A summary of the admission criteria is given below.

<u>Typical entry</u>:

Scottish Higher: BBCC (96 UCAS tariff points) and must include Biology and Chemistry
A Level: AB (88 UCAS tariff points) and must include Biology or Chemistry
Irish Leaving Certificate: H3, H3, H3, H3 at Higher level (96 UCAS tariff points) and must include Biology and Chemistry.
International Baccalaureate: Overall score of 28 points to include Chemistry and Biology (both must be at Higher level)
Additional Requirements normally include National 5/GCSE/Irish Ordinary/or equivalent in English, Maths, Chemistry and Biology at C or above.

<u>FE & Access students:</u>

Year one entry: We welcome applications from students from science based Access or Foundation Courses that include adequate Biology and Chemistry. Each application is assessed on their

individual merits and prospective students are encouraged to call the Admission Tutor to discuss the options.

Direct Entry Year Two:

A small number of places are available for direct entry to year 2 of the programme. These applications will be considered on an individual basis but to ensure the applicants have developed the knowledge and skills acquired in year 1 of the MDiet programme will typically include:

A levels: ABBB which must include Biology and Chemistry (one of which must be at A grade), Health and Food Technology and one discursive subject e.g. History, Modern Studies, Sociology or English

UG study: Successful completion of year 1 of BSc (Hons) Nutrition at QMU or an equivalent programme

Advanced Entry Year Three

The minimum entry requirements for advanced entry to year 3 of the MDiet are:

i) an Honours degree (normally at upper second class honours or above) in a science subject which includes considerable emphasis on human physiology, human biochemistry and some nutrition content. Evidence of required skills development in year 1 and 2 of the MDiet programme must be evident in the applicant's personal statement. Where an applicant does not have the required academic content but has a related UG degree and appropriate skill development (e.g. nursing or psychology degree) opportunities to complete the biological science content in years 1 and 2 of the MDiet programme as an associate student would be possible and would permit entry into year 3 of the programme on the successful completion of this.

ii) exceptionally, we may consider an application based on either a lower class of degree or an unclassified degree in a science subject (again with considerable emphasis on human physiology and biochemistry and with some nutrition content). This would have to be supported by a portfolio of subsequent learning and/or activities that evidence the applicants learning capability within the Subject Area and at the appropriate level. Consideration of such cases follows standard QMU quality guidance on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

iii) evidence in the form of a personal statement (+/- CV) of motivation towards the course/profession; for example knowledge obtained by background reading/ researching and/or contacts with dietetic departments, a clear understanding of the role of a dietitian along with the skills and attributes to work as a dietitian is required

iv) a satisfactory academic reference; comments on aspects such as communication ability and interpersonal skills will be taken into account

In addition, the following programme specific admission criteria apply:

English Language: on admission to the programme all applicants to Year 1 and Year 2 of the programme must be able to communicate in English to the standard equivalent of level 7.0 of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), with no element below 6.5. Students entering the programme in year 3 as advanced entry must be fluent in both oral and written English. International students must provide evidence of English language ability (a minimum score of IELTS 7.0 is the entrance requirement with no individual component less than IELTS 6.5) to meet the requirements set by the HCPC Standards of Proficiency for Dietitian (2013).

Criminal Convictions: Applicants recruited onto the programme should ultimately be eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC, therefore admission onto the programme is dependent on applicants undergoing a criminal record check through the PVG (protection of vulnerable groups) Scheme.

Health: All students admitted to the programme undergo a formal Health Screen with an Occupational Health Nurse and then complete an annual self-declaration thereafter.

Professional Indemnity Insurance: students must provide evidence of professional indemnity insurance.

Over and above these requirements the standard precepts of the University Admissions Regulations apply.

17. Support for students and their learning

QMU programmes normally provide the following student support:

- Personal Academic Tutors
- Personal Development Portfolios
- Student handbooks
- Placement Handbooks
- Access to Student Learning Services, Library and IT support
- Access to Student Services: careers, counselling, disability advice
- Representation through Student-Staff Committees

18. Quality Assurance arrangements

This programme is governed by QMU's quality assurance procedures. See the QMU website for more detail: https://www.qmu.ac.uk/about-the-university/quality/