

Programme Title and Name of Award	University Award (40 credits) First Trimester Ultrasound		
Professional Qualifications / Accreditation	Accredited by the Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE)		
Academic Level	Level 7	Total Credits	40
UCAS Code	Not Applicable	JACS Code	B821
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 course.</p> <p>Programme webpage: https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/cpd-and-short-courses/first-trimester-ultrasound/</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 need to have at least 12 months' equivalent full-time post registration clinical experience, and you will need support from a clinical ultrasound department and access to a suitable clinical placement in such a department for the duration of the course.</p> <p>It is your responsibility to ensure a suitable clinical placement is organised, prior to, and for the duration of this award, and the university regretfully cannot assist you in finding or securing a clinical placement for this award, at any time during your time on the course.</p> <p>You must have access to a suitable clinical mentor and suitable patient case load for a minimum of 15 hours per week. If a student placement is terminated for any reason, the university cannot assist</p>		

	<p>you in finding or securing another placement. If a suitable clinical placement cannot be found in these circumstances, you will be required to withdraw from the course.</p> <p>Applicants should 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), Society of Vascular Technologist (SVT). You will also need to provide one reference in support of your application, 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 practitioners in your clinical placement, who will then provide a written reference of your suitability.</p> <p>Before being accepted onto the course, you will be interviewed, usually by telephone. 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, you may be assessed on your 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 Department	Medical and Sport Sciences
Programme delivered in conjunction with	NHS and private sector placement providers
Principal Mode of Delivery	Face to Face and Blended Learning
Pattern of Delivery	Part Time
Delivery Site(s)	All University of Cumbria campuses, gateway sites and approved partner locations.
Programme Length	1 year standard and up to 2 years maximum
Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)	Upon successful completion of this programme, you may receive a Diploma Supplement/Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

Exit Awards

In the case of a student successfully passing 40 academic credits but failing the associated Clinical Practice Module, they may receive a 40 credit University Award in The Theory of Medical Ultrasound (**not CASE accredited**)

If you exit the course early, without having achieved the 40 academic credits, you will receive a transcript of all passed credits (**not CASE accredited**)

Programme Features

This is a flexible part-time (PT) award that will appeal to a wide range of healthcare professionals who wish to develop ultrasound skills as an extension of their scope of practice. The award aligns with the MSc Medical Imaging (Ultrasound) programme and is aimed at those employed within a suitable clinical environment. This course is open to registered health care professionals, or scientists, who wish to undertake ultrasound training as a career development or as an extension of their existing clinical role. 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 the award.

The course will allow you to develop the knowledge and skills required to become a competent sonographer in First Trimester Ultrasound and is accredited by the Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE) ensuring you meet national standards commensurate with similar/equivalent courses across the United Kingdom (UK).

The academic components for this course shares some modules with the medical imaging (ultrasound) programme. The medical imaging (ultrasound) programme is taught by a team of experienced ultrasound practitioners both in the university and clinical setting. Top of the range ultrasound equipment and test phantoms, as well as simulated practice facilities (Medaphor Scan Trainer), are available at the university to prepare you for your time on clinical placement. We currently have one of the largest Medaphor ultrasound simulation labs in the world, which is an excellent advantage for you. Some of the formative clinical assessments will be performed using the Scan Trainer technology, ensuring you are confident in a range of basic skills. It is envisaged that the use of simulated practice will be developed further, with possible opportunities to develop 'cloud based' shared/distance learning activity with other universities and practitioners. The ultrasound machines and practice simulators are housed in a purpose built skills hub, where you will be able to consolidate your theoretical knowledge and practical skills during the academic blocks at university, ensuring you are adequately prepared with the appropriate skills.

You will be supported in developing your skills to become autonomous practitioners, 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.

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

The principal academic staff members on the programme team are university lecturers as well as still practicing ultrasound clinically in the NHS or private sectors. The programme is also supported by colleagues from the wider medical science programmes at the University of Cumbria.

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.

Aims of the Programme

The overall aims of the Programme are:

1. To prepare students for a career in medical ultrasound by developing their understanding and clinical expertise in the theory and application within First Trimester 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 and scholarship.
3. To ensure students have a comprehensive understanding of First Trimester 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 three or four clinical specialisms.

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

Programme Outcomes – Knowledge and Understanding

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

After 40 credits of study (University Award) 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 First Trimester Ultrasound.
- K7.** Demonstrate skilled, competent 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).

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

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

After 40 credits of study (University Award) 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.

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 2014-20;

Departmental Business Plan for Medical and Sport Sciences;

University of Cumbria Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2017-22

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

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 should be 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 collaborate 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 you 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 you to engage with inter-professional learning. Examples of how this might be achieved are: by following the patient pathway in an obstetric/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 you in your professional career.

Student Support

You will be supported by a named mentor for the duration of their course. Mentors will be offered training and support by the course team. You will normally receive a placement visit by a member of the course team at some point during the course. If further visits are required, a charge may be applicable for remote sites.

You will also 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 tutorials and other support as outlined in the Personal Tutor Policy.

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

Library and Student Services (LiSS)

Library and Student Services (LiSS) offer a wide range of support, including; access to library learning resources, academic skills, careers and employability, financial help, counselling, health and wellbeing and support for disabled students and those with specific learning requirements. We know that you want to get the most out of your programme, make the best use of your time and find or continue in the career you always dreamed of. Access university support and facilities easily and quickly via our [help is at hand](#) search.

The Skills@Cumbria service can help support your academic skills and success throughout your programme. The service is delivered by a team of professional Learning Enhancement Advisers within LiSS. It includes a suite of online self-help resources accessible 24/7 via the University's website and Blackboard site. It also provides group and individual advice and guidance accessible through and alongside your course and by different means such as face to face, email or virtual.

Module leaders will collaborate with LiSS advisers to ensure that your reading lists are current and items are available via the library collections. 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 great electronic and print content using [OneSearch](#) and you can find out more about key texts and journals for your subject by accessing the library's [subject resources webpages](#). Where appropriate, module reading lists will be made available to you electronically using the university's [online reading list system](#).

In addition to the range of guidance above, you have the opportunity to further develop your personal, academic and professional skills by taking part in a number of initiatives coordinated and delivered by LiSS Advisers:

Preparing for M Level Study

This free online pre-entry Master's level course is available free of charge through the Open Education

Platform powered by Blackboard as is Head Start Plus. It provides a useful insight into the academic requirements of study at postgraduate level and is recommended to students who are about to start their PG qualification.

To access the course simply follow the link to <https://openeducation.blackboard.com/cumbria> and set-up a free account with Open Education. Once logged on, select the course free of charge and work through it at your own pace.

Career Ahead

Career Ahead is the University's Employability Award that is accessible to all of our students regardless of level or programme of study. Available free through the Careers Team in LiSS, the award gives students the opportunity to make their graduate CV stand out. Based on what employers look for in an ideal candidate, this award works with students to identify any gaps in their skill set and reflect on their experiences. It also offers the opportunity to participate in exclusive programmes and activities with real life employers. The University of Cumbria's employability award is split into three stages: Bronze, Silver and Gold, with a further Career Ahead + Platinum level. Students' engagement in extra curricula activities such as volunteering, project and charity work and peer mentoring are recognised within Career Ahead. To find out more or to register email careerahead@cumbria.ac.uk.

Programme Curriculum Map: First Trimester Ultrasound					
Academic Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Module Status*	Programme Outcomes achieved
7	HMSU7062	Physical Principles and Technology in Ultrasound	20	Core	K1,K3, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S9
7	HMSU7094	First Trimester Ultrasound (Theory)	20	Core	K2, K3, K4, K6, K7, K8, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9
7	HMSU9094	First Trimester Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	0	Qualificatory Unit	K2, K3, K4, K6, K7, K8, K9, K10, K11, S1, S2, S3, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9
Notes					
<p>This programme operates in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and Academic Procedures and Processes</p> <p>Modules may be subject to availability and viability.</p> <p>Each clinical module has an associated Clinical Practice Module, which is a co-requisite and is shown underneath it's associated clinical module in the above table, and must always be taken in conjunction with each other.</p>					
* Key to Module Statuses					
Core Modules	Must be taken and must be successfully passed				
Qualificatory 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				

Programme Delivery Structure: Part Time

Module Code	Module Title	Delivery Pattern	Method(s) of Assessment	Approximate Assessment Deadline
		Autumn Semester / Spring Semester / Extended / Year-Long		
HMSU7062	Physical Principles and Technology in Ultrasound	Spring or Autumn Semester	Coursework/Exam	May or January
HMSU7094	First Trimester Ultrasound (Theory)	Autumn Semester	Coursework/Presentation	January
HMSU9094	First Trimester Ultrasound (Clinical Practice)	Year Long	Clinical Portfolio	September

Students exiting at this point with 40 credits, including the 2 core modules and a pass in the associated Clinical Practice module, would receive a 40 credit University award in First Trimester Ultrasound (CASE accredited)

In the case of a student successfully passing 40 academic credits including the 2 core modules but a failure in the associated Clinical Practice Module, they may receive a 40 credit University award in The Theory of Medical Ultrasound (not CASE accredited)

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 revalidation
- Annual Evaluatory Reports (AER)
- Peer Review of Teaching
- 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
- Staff-Student Forum Meetings (SSFs)
- Stakeholder and Steering Group meetings
- Student Success and Quality Assurance Committee
- 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, WBL venues, other stakeholders, etc.

- Staff Student Forum
- Module Evaluation Forms
- Programme Evaluation
- Module/Programme/Personal tutorials
- Meetings with External Examiners
- Regular clinical visits from link academic tutor to placement sites to ensure programme/student/placement requirements are being met, visits being undertaken at least once a semester

Date of Programme Specification Production:

05.07.2017

Date Programme Specification was last updated:

17.08.2017

For further information about this programme, refer to the programme page on the University website:-

<https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/cpd-and-short-courses/first-trimester-ultrasound/>