MSc Clinical Reproductive Medicine

- Critically examine the scientific basis of infertility and discover the legal and ethical implications of the work that is done to assist patients;
- Observe the high standards of treatment provided within the Hewitt Fertility Centre at Liverpool Women’s Hospital;
- Discover how modern, practical academic and research skills are applied towards the development of new therapies;
- Complete a practice assessment document (PAD) which is aligned with the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology’s clinical competencies.

This Masters degree has been designed to assist qualified doctors, working in obstetrics or gynaecology and seeking a career in fertility medicine, to enhance their knowledge and skills in relation to general subfertility problems. The programme provides a strong link between theory and practice and is delivered in partnership with the Hewitt Fertility Centre at Liverpool Women’s Hospital.

A key aim is to enhance your ability to provide interventions suitable to individual patient’s needs. You will develop expertise in synthesising findings from an individual’s history, combined with the results of any patient examinations and investigations undertaken, to autonomously devise an appropriate, tailored and justified treatment plan. The programme will guide you in how to select and order clinical investigations, how to interpret their results, and how to evaluate the local, national and international drivers that impact upon the development of advanced reproductive medicine.

Consideration will also be given to the systems and approaches required to manage risk as well as the professional, legal and ethical demands of working within reproductive medicine. You will develop expertise in clinical reflection and be able to recognise potential professional limitations and challenges in practice, gain a systematic and critical understanding of research governance within reproductive medicine and demonstrate a critical understanding of pharmo-therapeutics related to fertility management.

http://ehu.ac.uk/3nf
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Course in Depth

What will I study?
You will gain a comprehensive working knowledge of best practice in reproductive medicine, develop the ability to interpret and synthesise clinical and investigative information, and discover how to formulate a treatment strategy for disorders of the male and female reproductive system.

Gaining clinical competency in the use of ultrasound scanning in the investigation, diagnosis and management of infertility, you will also develop an advanced understanding of clinical andrology and oocyte retrieval.

An introduction to research methods and approaches will engage you with the evidence base that supports practice. This will prepare you for the completion of a dissertation that will enable you to plan, manage and implement a significant piece of investigative enquiry related to your professional practice.

Who will be teaching me?
The programme team is drawn from a wide range of clinical backgrounds relating to fertility practice. It includes consultant medics, sonographers, senior embryologists, senior fertility nurse specialists and counsellors.

Members of the programme team publish in international journals and present at national and international conferences on a regular basis.

How will I study?
The programme uses a diverse array of teaching methods. Some modules are delivered via blended learning which is underpinned by the University’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) while other modules require face-to-face sessions.

Across the course as a whole, you will learn through a combination of lectures, workshops, seminars, individual tutorials, group work and critical debates. The aim is to provide a framework to underpin the development of critical thinking and encourage sharing in the learning process.

How will I be assessed?
Assessment methods vary according to the requirements of each module but can be through assignments, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations, portfolios, seminar presentations, work-based learning and a small investigative research.

A Great Study Environment

Edge Hill University
The Faculty of Health and Social Care is one of the leading providers of education and training for health and social care professionals in the North West of England.

Offering some of the best facilities for health and social care students in the country, the innovative £14m Faculty of Health and Social Care building provides outstanding teaching and learning resources, including leading edge clinical skills facilities, ten teaching rooms, an 860-seat lecture theatre and a number of social learning spaces.

The faculty is home to a thriving research culture which includes a series of staff and student conference programmes, guest lectures and seminars, as well as active research groups.

Liverpool Women's Hospital
The Hewitt Fertility Centre at Liverpool Women's Hospital has been co-created with a number of clinicians, GPs, specialists and patients to design a useful, easy-to-use hub of information that matters to patients. You will be able to meet various specialists here, get to grips with the services they provide, get a taste of the patient journey and become acquainted with their ground breaking technology.
HEA4045: **Research: The Development of a Research Proposal** (20 credits)

Research: The Development of a Research Proposal introduces you to the research process. The module will cover the philosophical fundamentals of both quantitative and qualitative traditions and a range of research methodologies. You will develop a proposal that will demonstrate your ability to plan a small-scale empirical project in your chosen discipline and demonstrate awareness of the theoretical and practical implications of undertaking such a study. The online content that you will experience during this module is designed to encourage online group interaction as well as independent learning.

HEA4112: **Ultrasound Scanning for Reproductive Medicine** (20 credits)

Ultrasound Scanning for Reproductive Medicine develops your skills in the utilisation of ultrasound scanning for reproductive medical practice. The focus will be on the particular use of scanning for fertility investigations and interventions. The module provides you with comprehensive training in screening for female pelvic anomalies with respect to infertility investigation and treatment of the common causes of infertility. It will also provide tuition in the physics of ultrasound and the utilisation of equipment. You will gain a thorough working knowledge of the physics of ultrasound and the use of ultrasound equipment to enable you to further develop your skills in advanced fertility practice.

HEA4114: **Oocyte Retrieval** (20 credits)

Oocyte Retrieval has been devised primarily for the development of clinical skills associated with a safe and effective retrieval of oocytes as part of a whole programme for invitro-fertilisation. The skills combine a thorough knowledge of ultrasound techniques relevant to the speciality, together with the clinical skills necessary for safe and effective recovery of oocytes from the ovary.

HEA4115: **Clinical Andrology** (20 credits)

Clinical Andrology focuses on the application of advanced knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pathology and microbiology to clinical andrology. The module enables you to acquire an advanced understanding of the process involved in the investigation and treatment of the infertile and subfertile male.

HEA4157: **Clinical Reproductive Medicine** (40 credits)

Clinical Reproductive Medicine focuses on the application of physiology, pharmacology and pathology in the clinical environment in support of the reproductive medicine unit. You will acquire an advanced understanding of the management of the infertile couple from presentation at secondary level to basic invitro-fertilisation and intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection techniques. The module will guide you in how to interpret clinical investigative information and enable you to construct a management plan for an infertile couple.

HEA4081: **Dissertation for Health and Social Care Professionals** (60 credits)

Dissertation for Health and Social Care Professionals enables you to focus upon a significant piece of investigative enquiry from conceptualisation through to completion. Within this module, ‘research’ is interpreted as including empirical research involving qualitative and/or quantitative methods, service evaluation, clinical audit, systematic review or a negotiated investigative enquiry unique to your own field of specialism, for example historical/archival research. The subject chosen will reflect (and be directly relevant to) an identifiable area of the programme’s curriculum content and will be negotiated and agreed with the course team.

For more information about each module, including the dates and times of module sessions, please visit [http://ehu.ac.uk/3nf](http://ehu.ac.uk/3nf)
Timetables

You can expect to receive your timetable at enrolment. Please note that while we make every effort to ensure that timetables are as student-friendly as possible, scheduled teaching can take place on any day or evening of the week.

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our published course information, however our programmes are subject to ongoing review and development. Changing circumstances may necessitate alteration to, or the cancellation of, courses.

Changes may be necessary to comply with the requirements of accrediting bodies, revisions to subject benchmarks statements, to keep courses updated and contemporary, or as a result of student feedback. We reserve the right to make variations if we consider such action to be necessary or in the best interests of students.
Entry Criteria

Entry Requirements

The normal minimum requirement is an undergraduate medical degree. You should be a doctor practising at grade ST3 or higher (or equivalent), or have spent an equivalent number of years training, and have some experience working in obstetrics or gynaecology. You should also be registered as a professional with the General Medical Council.

All applications will be screened by the clinical leader from the Hewitt Fertility Centre at Liverpool Women’s Hospital and the programme leader at Edge Hill University. An interview will form part of the selection process.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Edge Hill University recognises learning gained elsewhere, whether through academic credit and qualifications acquired from other relevant courses of study or through recognition of an individual’s professional and employment experience (also referred to as ‘experiential learning’).

Previous learning that is recognised in this way may be used towards meeting the entry requirements for a programme and/or for exemption from part of a programme. It is your responsibility to make a claim for recognition of prior learning. For guidance, please consult the University’s Recognition of Prior Learning Policy and contact the faculty in which you are interested in studying.
Tuition Fees

If you are joining this MSc in academic year 2018/19 and are already registered with the General Medical Council, you can expect the tuition fee to be £16,000 for the entire programme.

Alternatively, if you are appointed as an International Training Fellow (and sponsored via this programme to register with the General Medical Council), you can expect the tuition fee to be £35,000.

Financial Support

For comprehensive information about the financial support available to eligible UK and EU students joining postgraduate courses at Edge Hill University in academic year 2018/19, together with details of how to apply for potential funding, please view our Money Matters 2018/19 guide at www.edgehill.ac.uk/postgradfinance2018.

Financial support information for international students can be found at www.edgehill.ac.uk/international/fees.
How to Apply

Apply directly to Edge Hill University.

Download the Health and Social Care Professional Development pathway application form (pdf) and notes for guidance (pdf).

Should you accept an offer of a place to study with us and formally enrol as a student, you will be subject to the provisions of the regulations, rules, codes, conditions and policies which apply to our students. These are available at www.edgehill.ac.uk/studentterms.

Get in Touch

If you have any questions about this programme, please contact:

- Faculty of Health and Social Care Student Recruitment and Marketing Support Team
  - Tel: 01695 657249
  - Email: cpdenquiries@edgehill.ac.uk

If you would like to talk to the programme leader about the course in more detail, please contact:

- Lai Chan
  - Tel: 0151 529 8645
  - Email: chanl@edgehill.ac.uk