Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MSc Paramedic Science
Award type	Taught Masters
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	2 years
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	This programme is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and endorsed by the College of Paramedics
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	**UK students:** Full-time fee for 2025/26 is: £9,535* **International students:** Full-time fee for 2025/26 is: £20,200*

How this information might change: *Please read the important information at http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.*

** We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/*

2. Overview of the Programme

The Faculty has a long tradition of providing professional programmes leading to registration with Regulatory Bodies, including our undergraduate Integrated Masters in Paramedic Science and this postgraduate Masters in Paramedic Science programme which benefit from cross-faculty support for different activities.

The MSc Paramedic Science programme design follows the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA): UK Quality Code for Higher Education and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of UK degree-awarding Bodies level descriptors (QAA, 2024a;2024b). The programme has been mapped to the College of Paramedics - Paramedic Curriculum (CoP, 2024), QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Paramedics (QAA, 2019), and the Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Education and Training, Standards of Proficiency for Paramedics and Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (HCPC, 2017; 2023 & 2024).

The School of Medicine at Keele University enjoys an excellent reputation in both education and research and embraces a multidisciplinary approach to health and social care education. The School offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes including Paramedic Science, Counselling and Psychotherapy, Medicine, Physician Associate, Public Health and Social Work; and is delighted to add the postgraduate MSc Paramedic Science to its portfolio. The development of the MSc Paramedic Science programme builds on the success of our MSci Paramedic Science programme.

This 2-year, full-time Masters programme, aims to reflect the expanding role of the profession in delivering complex and high-quality care in a wide range of healthcare organisations and environments; and has been developed in response to the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan (2023) to meet future workforce needs of the NHS. The MSc Paramedic Science programme builds on graduates' previous experiences and prepares them to be able to work in diverse areas of clinical practice once registered with the Health and Care Professions Council as a paramedic.

Paramedic practice is challenging and evolving, with an expectation that paramedics will deliver high-quality care in a variety of health and social care environments and organisations. This programme will prepare students for a career in fast-paced

emergency, urgent, primary and community-based care settings, which is attractive to experienced graduates who seek a change in career.

Utilising a rotational placement circuit, students will undertake practice-based learning across all areas, pillars and levels of practice as per the College of Paramedics Curriculum (2024). Students will engage with a wide range of practice-based learning experiences to support the improvement of patient experience and provide a range of career opportunities on qualification. Potential placement areas will include the ambulance service and acute areas (e.g. intensive care, walk-in centres, and emergency departments), social care settings, and a range of primary and community care opportunities (e.g. GPs, district nursing). The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences is experienced in running successful Interprofessional Education events which will give paramedic students opportunities to work with a wide range of other future healthcare professionals (including doctors, midwives, nurses, pharmacists, physician associates, physiotherapists, radiographers and social workers) and develop strong multidisciplinary working and problem-solving skills. Acknowledgement of the contribution paramedics can add to the multi-professional workforce has become essential to a modern-day health service.

3. Aims of the programme

The programme will develop the knowledge, skills, behaviours and values that underpin contemporary paramedic practice and develop students' competence in applying clinical skills to patients in diverse areas of practice. Students will develop clinical reasoning and decision-making skills to enable them to undertake paramedic practice in partnership with service users and colleagues. They will develop the competencies required for autonomous practice in a diverse range of health and social care settings and develop learning in multiple aspects of practice.

The programme will develop research acumen and its application to paramedic practice and the wider health and social care context, by providing students with the skills to adapt and respond positively to change. In doing this, students will develop key transferable skills in preparation for employment such as effective inter-professional and multi-disciplinary team working practices and the development of leadership and management skills.

This approach promotes engagement in lifelong learning, which is a key feature of the development of an autonomous professional.

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Develop and produce as an autonomous Paramedic Practitioner who is fit for purpose and able to foster a professional approach to life-long learning.
- Integrate theory, practice, and simulation-based education, that provides you with a high-quality educational experience affording both academic achievement and professional competence.
- Become a paramedic practitioner able to critically evaluate own practice and that of others by acting as a role model and mentor to others in the context of a clinical leadership role and able deliver high-quality care for patients and service users.
- Become fit for employment as a contemporary Paramedic Practitioner in a range of healthcare organisations through the development of key, specific, and transferable skills.
- Embrace and maintain a reflective approach to professional practice and develop your abilities to question clinical and theoretical concepts thus augmenting problem-solving, decision making, and critical reasoning skills.
- Facilitate your learning of the importance of collaborative, multi-professional, and multi-agency working including the value of professional judgment and clinical reasoning in complex areas of paramedic practice, while meeting service user needs.
- Acquire new knowledge and competencies through the integration of evidence-based practice and research into contemporary paramedic practice.
- Ensure you can apply the methods and techniques that you have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply your knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects and research.
- Be able to critically analyse and synthesize clinical effectiveness and problem-solving skills applicable across a range of complex and unpredictable health care settings.
- Critically demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the subject's underpinning paramedic enhanced practice, in a range of care settings including urgent, emergency, critical or other care settings providing innovative and contemporary solutions to patient care

4. What you will learn

The programme is designed to meet the Health and Care Professions Council's [HCPC] Standards of Education and Training (2017) therefore as a successful graduate of the programme, you will be equipped to meet the:

- HCPC Standards of Proficiency - Paramedics (2023)
- HCPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (2024) (revised)
- The programme is also aligned with the College of Paramedics, Curriculum 6th Edition (2024)
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Paramedics (2019)

The programme design reflects Keele University's Curriculum Expectations framework of ***Inclusivity, Digital Capability, External Engagement*** and ***Active Learning*** to ensure you benefit from the highest quality, contemporary educational offer, designed to equip you to be a successful graduate of the future with knowledge and skills fit for a changing society.

Inclusivity

The MSc Paramedic Science programme provides an inclusive learning environment, which is crucial for developing a diverse and competent paramedic workforce that can provide effective, professional and holistic care. Keele's Inclusive Education Framework ensures that all students, including those with protected characteristics and beyond, can participate and thrive in every aspect of the educational experience and process. Our curriculum integrates education on cultural competency to help paramedics understand and respect different cultural practices and beliefs. Admission onto the programme will consider a

wide range of student experiences and backgrounds beyond academic performance and will encourage applicants from a diverse range of backgrounds and cultures to embrace a new career path as a registered paramedic. Academic delivery teams, programme leads, and senior leaders undergo ongoing professional development on inclusivity, unconscious bias, and teaching strategies that accommodate diverse learning needs. The MSc Paramedic Science programme will use inclusive teaching methods, such as collaborative learning and problem-based learning, with appropriate facilitation that will cater to a wide range of learning styles to foster an inclusive environment that respects and values diversity, where students feel safe to express their identities and experiences.

Digital capability

Building digital capability into paramedic education is essential for preparing paramedics to effectively use technology in their practice. Blended Learning is embedded throughout the programme, using Keele's 'Blackboard Ultra' Learning Environment (VLE) combining online and face-to-face delivery, providing flexibility and enhancing learning experiences for students. Students are also required to complete eLearning modules for self-paced learning on various topics aligned to curriculum content, including digital health and technology use. Digital assessments, such as exams and quizzes both formative and summative, in addition to online submission drop boxes via Keele's VLE means students are able to demonstrate their digital literacy throughout the programme.

Students on the MSc Paramedic Science programme will learn skills such as digital health literacy such as how to find, evaluate, and use digital health information effectively. During clinical simulation and practice-based learning experiences, students will learn about telemedicine platforms for remote patient assessment and care and learn how to use a range of electronic patient records for documentation of healthcare encounters. The integration of health informatics into the curriculum will help students to understand the role of data in healthcare decision-making. In addition to electronic patient records students will learn how to use digital practice assessment documents, developing the student's ability to take ownership of their learning, in digital format. Students will be required to develop a digital portfolio during their studies and make use of the skills learnt for evidence of future continuing professional development.

High-fidelity simulation facilities that are authentic to real life means students will be required to use a range of equipment, such as cardiac defibrillators with built-in AI interpretation software, resources which include mobile and portable devices, to access online apps for clinical guidelines, and devices to replicate radio and telecommunications in the practice setting. This approach to digital literacy will not only enhance student's future clinical practice but also improve patient outcomes and operational efficiency.

External engagement

The Paramedic Sciences curriculum development team, subject area and academic delivery team, work in collaboration with various stakeholders outside of Keele University to enhance learning experiences and professional development.

The paramedic sciences academic team engage with external educational forums hosted by the College of Paramedics through the forum for higher education providers (FHEPs), and the National Paramedic Education Network (PEN) whereas senior leaders participate in Council of Dean forums to act as a voice for students and staff to advance healthcare education and influence policy. Students are required to gain student membership in the College of Paramedics which offers a range of services to support students' education.

Students undertake a range of Practice-based learning opportunities with a range of organisations from across the health and social care spectrum, including ambulance services, secondary care and primary care health providers. Students are also provided the opportunity to participate in placement opportunities with private, independent, voluntary and charity organisations to further broaden their learning experience and develop an understanding of organisations beyond that of NHS services.

Guest and expert speakers, including practitioners from a range of health and social care professions are invited to deliver specialist subject areas and assist students learning on current practices and emerging trends. Engaging alumni who are working in the field are invited to share their experiences, career paths and insights.

Interprofessional Education is core to the MSc Paramedic Science programme and through students' experiences in practice, they will have the opportunity to learn alongside nursing, medical and allied health professionals in a range of practice-based environments. Students also have the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of emergency services, including collaborative clinical simulation with the Fire Services, (road traffic collision casualty management, rescue scenarios and burning buildings).

In the final year of study students undertake an advancing practice project where they are required to engage with external stakeholders to identify service improvement needs and provide solutions to areas that could be improved or advanced.

Active learning

Students engage in a wide range of active social learning in line with Keele University's Learning Principles. Activities include Simulation-Based Learning, utilising Keele University's extensive facilities and simulated patients for authenticity. Students participate in simulation and case-based learning, working collaboratively to foster critical thinking and develop decision-making skills through multidisciplinary team working.

Problem-based learning (PBL) focusing on pathophysiology, pharmacological and non-pharmacology treatments develop students' knowledge and understanding through collaborative learning in small groups. Group-based learning equips students with life-long learning skills such as communication, conflict resolution, leadership and study skills. Students will also participate in a range of teaching and learning activities such as interactive lectures, real-time polling and quizzes during lectures.

Hands-on practice provides opportunities for students to participate in clinical skills workshops for practising specific procedures under the guidance of experienced lecturers and clinical practice teaching fellows.

Preparatory materials before class, following a 'flipped classroom' format, allow for time to be used for active problem-solving and application of knowledge.

Reflective practice is core to paramedic education and involves students reflecting on their experiences throughout the programme including experience during practice-based learning. The MSc Paramedic Science programme is structured to provide a 50/50 theory, practice divide to ensure students are given maximum opportunity to apply their learning in the practice setting. Students' ability to apply theory to practice is assessed through a range of competencies which must be achieved by the end of years 1 and 2. Students are encouraged to share their experiences through structured reflective forums and are also required to assess their skills and knowledge through self-assessment tools and reflective exercises.

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

As a student, you will develop knowledge, understanding and skills that are both generic to healthcare and specific to paramedicine.

The programme is structured following the College of Paramedics Curriculum (2024) domains:

- Physical, Life and Clinical Sciences
- Psychology, Sociology and Safeguarding
- Clinical Assessment and Management
- Ethics and Law
- Public Health and Well-Being
- Personal and Professional Attributes and Development
- Leadership and Non-Technical Skills
- Research and Evidence-Informed Practice

In line with the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Paramedics (2019) Successful students will be able to demonstrate the following:

- A comprehensive and cohesive knowledge of human anatomy and physiology, sufficient to recognise, identify and differentiate between normal and abnormal structures and processes, with emphasis on the cardiovascular, respiratory, nervous, digestive, endocrine, urinary, musculoskeletal and other systems.
- Knowledge of human growth and development across the lifespan, including the factors influencing individual variations in human ability and health status
- Knowledge of human disease sufficient to inform clinical judgement and other clinical findings and to recognise disorders which require referral for more investigation or additional professional support.
- Knowledge of human psychology and sociology, relevant to the acquisition and maintenance of health, sufficient to provide a context for critical clinical decision-making and patient management.
- Knowledge of the psychological and social factors that influence an individual in health and illness.
- Knowledge of how psychology and sociology can inform an understanding of health, illness and healthcare within the context of paramedic practice.
- Knowledge of pain neurophysiology and the impact this has on the patient and their clinical presentation.
- Knowledge of the theories of communication; communication and interpersonal skills are vital to competent and effective practice, informing effective interaction with patients, service users, carers, peers, and other healthcare professionals
- Knowledge of the theories of learning; the process of learning is important for both patients and paramedics. The theories underpin continuing professional development, enabling individuals to be active lifelong learners. This knowledge also equips the paramedic to become an effective teacher in a wide range of settings
- Knowledge of the theories of teamwork: understanding of effective multi-professional/multiagency teamwork that respects and uses the contributions of members of the health and social care team.
- Knowledge of the theories of leadership; understanding that clinical leadership is a key component of paramedic practice.
- Knowledge of mental health issues that patients' may present with, including the recognition, assessment and referral procedure(s) for appropriate management
- Knowledge and understanding of mental health legislation, agreements and policies and the implications within the context of paramedic practice.
- Knowledge and understanding of human factor principles encountered in paramedic practice.
- Knowledge and understanding of obstetric and gynaecological conditions and emergencies encountered in paramedic practice, including assessment, treatment and management.
- Knowledge and understanding of the principles of end-of-life care, and palliative care in relation to paramedic practice.
- Knowledge and understanding of the role paramedics contribute to, in relation to the public health and health promotion of service users.
- Knowledge of pathological changes and related clinical features of conditions encountered in paramedic practice.
- Knowledge of the physiological, structural, behavioural and functional changes in patient presentation and those that result from paramedic intervention.
- Knowledge of the theoretical basis of assessment, treatment and management and the scientific evaluation of their effectiveness.
- Knowledge of the principles of evaluation and research methodologies, which enable the integration of theoretical and practical applications.

- Knowledge of the perspectives and evidenced-based research into the design and implementation of effective paramedic practice.
- Knowledge of the theories supporting problem-solving and clinical reasoning.
- Knowledge of the principles of pharmacology and the safe administration of therapeutic medications.

Subject specific skills

Health and Care Professions Council - Standards of Proficiency for Paramedics (HCPC, 2023)

Successful students will be able to:

- practise safely and effectively within their scope of practice
- practise within the legal and ethical boundaries of their profession
- look after their health and wellbeing, seeking appropriate support where necessary
- practise as an autonomous professional, exercising their own professional judgement
- recognise the impact of culture, equality and diversity on practice and practise in a non-discriminatory and inclusive manner
- understand the importance of and maintain confidentiality
- communicate effectively
- work appropriately with others
- maintain records appropriately
- reflect on and review practice
- assure the quality of their practice
- understand and apply the key concepts of the knowledge base relevant to their profession
- draw on appropriate knowledge and skills to inform practice
- establish and maintain a safe practice environment
- promote health and prevent ill health

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- develop an adaptable, flexible, sustainable and effective approach to learning and study, including time management, creativity and intellectual integrity
- acquire, analyse, synthesise, summarise and present information and ideas from a wide range of sources: textual, numerical, verbal, graphical
- prepare, process, interpret and present data, using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques
- use a range of digital resources effectively, critically embrace emerging technological advancements including AI and apply ethical principles when using such platforms as a means of communication and a source of information
- cite and reference work in an appropriate manner, ensuring academic integrity
- communicate effectively to a variety of audiences by written, spoken and graphical means using appropriate techniques and language
- develop skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning, including working independently, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills
- work with others to identify and achieve collaborative goals and responsibilities and perform in a respectful and professional manner that is accepting of diversity and opinions of others
- Develop resilience and motivation to identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development

Keele Graduate attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility.** You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

5. How is the programme taught?

The programme is structured around key elements of paramedicine practice which are introduced, developed and enhanced via individual modules over the two-year programme. Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter. Teaching is undertaken in both the university and clinical environments. All teaching is designed to integrate university learning and learning undertaken in practice settings.

A variety of elements of the programme including paramedic practical skills are taught in small groups in the university. The number of students within these groups is variable depending upon the subject matter. In the practice setting students work with designated practice educators and a range of healthcare professionals and are also supported by visiting tutors from the school. Theoretical elements of the programme are taught using a variety of approaches including:

- **Lectures** where the lecturer provides students with a framework and context for further reading and independent study. Various lecture formats will be adopted including for example, interactive lectures designed to engage you in your learning. At other times **external speakers** may be invited. These individuals may be service users, clinicians, active

researchers, academics in the field of paramedicine and related health and social care practice; all offer invaluable perspectives designed to enhance your practice.
- **Practical work** allows you to observe or develop paramedicine practical skills under the supervision of academic staff.
- **Learning in the practice environment** (practice experience) where you are able to develop your clinical and professional skills under the supervision of allocated practice educator(s).
- **Small group workshops** when you will work together with other students to, for example, critically appraise research papers relating to some aspect of paramedic practice. Other approaches to the group workshop might involve working together over an extended period of time to develop a piece of work such as a poster which you may then subsequently present and defend.
- **Individual and group presentations** where you will research and present a topic with relevance to practice (for example specific approaches to communication or reasoning for approaches in paramedicine research) to the whole group with time allowed for interactive questions and discussion.
- **Student and tutor-led tutorials** which encourage topics of interest and relevance to a module to be explored in depth within a small group; problem-solving scenarios and case studies may be used as a vehicle for such discussion.
- **Web-based learning** using the Keele Virtual Learning Environment (KLE): this medium is used by all modules and provides a platform for students to share online discussions and to access a wide range of learning resources. In addition, applications such as Microsoft Teams and web-based audience feedback systems are used to support and monitor learning. 'Lecture Capture' and videos are also important adjuncts that are available to support your learning.
- **Independent study** will be required in each module; some study will be guided by tutors where necessary, but will also be self-directed depending upon the various demands of each module and its assessment. This type of learning may be facilitated by use of a range of resources such as work packages and access to specific web-based programmes. Independent study also forms an important part of the development of the final year research project, which is supported by an allocated member of the academic staff.
- Students will participate in **inter-professional learning** in groups made up of a range of other health and social care students, an approach that enables you to learn with, from and about your current peer group and the perspectives of future colleagues.
- Authentic **simulation** utilising Keele University's extensive simulation facilities across sites will develop student's ability to apply theory into practice to achieve clinical competence and confidence.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis and via the University Disability Support and Inclusion service.

6. Teaching Staff

The permanent academic staff contributing to the programme are drawn from the University's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences along with contributions from specialist experts when appropriate. The team includes professors, senior lecturers, lecturers, teaching fellows and academic-related staff. A significant proportion of permanent academic staff are fellows of, or are working towards Fellowship of, the Higher Education Academy. All current permanent academic staff hold (or are working towards) academic qualifications to at least a master's degree level. All staff who are Paramedics are HCPC registered and have had experience working in the NHS and other areas of healthcare. The staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and includes individuals with expertise in learning, teaching and research. The work of research-active staff has been widely published and shared via conference presentations.

The practice component of the programme is delivered and assessed by a range of Practice Educators and Practice Supervisors. These are suitably experienced practitioners working across a broad range of practice environments. All Practice Educators will have completed relevant training in the support and assessment of students in the clinical area and will have a sound knowledge of the programme and expectations of the student.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

7. What is the structure of the programme?

The programme is studied full-time over two years and teaching around key aspects of paramedicine practice is delivered via individual modules. Each academic year time is spent in both the university and practice settings.

The academic year runs from September to September and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of June. Our degree courses are organised into modules.

Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

All modules within your programme are compulsory, that is, you are required to study them. A summary of the credit requirements is identified below, with a minimum of 180 subject credits required for the programme.

A summary of the credit requirements is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional
Year 1 Level 7	75	0
Year 2 Level 7	105	0

Module Lists

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7	PAR-40069	30	Semester 1-2
Research & Evidence-Informed Practice	PAR-40071	15	Semester 1-2
Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics	PAR-40073	30	Semester 1-2
Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1	PAR-40081	0	Semester 1-2
Advancing Practice Project	PAR-40053	30	Semester 1-3
Clinical Leadership for Paramedics	PAR-40057	15	Semester 1-3
Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7	PAR-40079	30	Semester 1-3
Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2	PAR-40083	0	Semester 1-3
Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7	PAR-40085	30	Semester 1-3

Breakdown by year

Year 1 Modules:

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Principles of Paramedic Practice - Level 7	PAR-40069	30	Semester 1-2
Pathophysiology & Pharmacology for Paramedics	PAR-40073	30	Semester 1-2
Research & Evidence-Based Practice	PAR-40071	15	Semester 1-2
Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1	PAR-40081	0	Semester 1-2

Year 2 Modules:

Enhanced Paramedic Practice - Level 7	PAR-40085	30	Semester 1-3
Advancing Practice Project	PAR-40053	30	Semester 1-3
Behavioural Health for Paramedics - Level 7	PAR-40079	30	Semester 1-3
Clinical Leadership for Paramedics	PAR-40057	15	Semester 1-3
Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2	PAR-40083	0	Semester 1-3

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
A comprehensive and cohesive knowledge of human anatomy and physiology, sufficient to recognise, identify and differentiate between normal and abnormal structures and processes, with emphasis on the cardiovascular, respiratory, nervous, digestive, endocrine, urinary, musculoskeletal and other systems.	Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073
Knowledge of human growth and development across the lifespan, including the factors influencing individual variations in human ability and health status	Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073
Knowledge of human disease sufficient to inform clinical judgement and other clinical findings and to recognise disorders which require referral for more investigation or additional professional support.	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073
Knowledge of human psychology and sociology, relevant to the acquisition and maintenance of health, sufficient to provide a context for critical clinical decision-making and patient management.	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069
Knowledge of the psychological and social factors that influence an individual in health and illness.	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069
Knowledge of how psychology and sociology can inform an understanding of health, illness and healthcare within the context of paramedic practice.	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069
Knowledge of pain neurophysiology and the impact this has on the patient and their clinical presentation.	Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073
Knowledge of the theories of communication; communication and interpersonal skills are vital to competent and effective practice, informing effective interaction with patients, service users, carers, peers, and other healthcare professionals	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079
Knowledge of the theories of learning; the process of learning is important for both patients and paramedics. The theories underpin continuing professional development, enabling individuals to be active lifelong learners. This knowledge also equips the paramedic to become an effective teacher in a wide range of settings	Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057 Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069
Knowledge of the theories of teamwork: understanding of effective multi-professional/multiagency teamwork that respects and uses the contributions of members of the health and social care team.	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057
Knowledge of the theories of leadership; understanding that clinical leadership is a key component of paramedic practice.	Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057
Knowledge of mental health issues that patients' may present with, including the recognition, assessment and referral procedure(s) for appropriate management	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079
Knowledge and understanding of mental health legislation, agreements and policies and the implications within the context of paramedic practice.	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079
Knowledge and understanding of human factor principles encountered in paramedic practice.	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069
Knowledge and understanding of obstetric and gynaecological conditions and emergencies encountered in paramedic practice, including assessment, treatment and management.	Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085
Knowledge and understanding of the principles of end-of-life care, and palliative care in relation to paramedic practice.	Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085
Knowledge and understanding of the role paramedics contribute to, in relation to the public health and health promotion of service users.	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Knowledge of pathological changes and related clinical features of conditions encountered in paramedic practice.	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081
Knowledge of the physiological, structural, behavioural and functional changes in patient presentation and those that result from paramedic intervention.	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081
Knowledge of the theoretical basis of assessment, treatment and management and the scientific evaluation of their effectiveness.	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081
Knowledge of the principles of evaluation and research methodologies, which enable the integration of theoretical and practical applications.	Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053 Research & Evidence-Informed Practice - PAR-40071
Knowledge of the perspectives and evidenced-based research into the design and implementation of effective paramedic practice.	Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053 Research & Evidence-Informed Practice - PAR-40071
Knowledge of the theories supporting problem-solving and clinical reasoning.	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057
Knowledge of the principles of pharmacology and the safe administration of therapeutic medications.	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
practise safely and effectively within their scope of practice	Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081
practise within the legal and ethical boundaries of their profession	Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081
look after their health and wellbeing, seeking appropriate support where necessary	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069
practise as an autonomous professional, exercising their own professional judgement	Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081
recognise the impact of culture, equality and diversity on practice and practise in a non-discriminatory and inclusive manner	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085
understand the importance of and maintain confidentiality	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079
communicate effectively	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079
work appropriately with others	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057
maintain records appropriately	Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081
reflect on and review practice	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057
assure the quality of their practice	Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081
understand and apply the key concepts of the knowledge base relevant to their profession	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081
draw on appropriate knowledge and skills to inform practice	Research & Evidence-Informed Practice - PAR-40071 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057 Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053
establish and maintain a safe practice environment	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
develop an adaptable, flexible, sustainable and effective approach to learning and study, including time management, creativity and intellectual integrity	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069
acquire, analyse, synthesise, summarise and present information and ideas from a wide range of sources: textual, numerical, verbal, graphical¿	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Research & Evidence-Informed Practice - PAR-40071 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053
prepare, process, interpret and present data, using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques	Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053 Research & Evidence-Informed Practice - PAR-40071
use a range of digital resources effectively, critically embrace emerging technological advancements including AI and apply ethical principles when using such platforms as a means of communication and a source of information	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Research & Evidence-Informed Practice - PAR-40071 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053
cite and reference work in an appropriate manner, ensuring academic integrity¿¿	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Research & Evidence-Informed Practice - PAR-40071 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053
communicate effectively to a variety of audiences by written, spoken and graphical means using appropriate techniques and language¿	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Research & Evidence-Informed Practice - PAR-40071 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053
develop skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning, including working independently, organisational, enterprise and knowledge transfer skills¿	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Research & Evidence-Informed Practice - PAR-40071 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053
work with others to identify and achieve collaborative goals and responsibilities and perform in a respectful and professional manner that is accepting of diversity and opinions of others	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069 Research & Evidence-Informed Practice - PAR-40071 Pathophysiology and Pharmacology for Paramedics - PAR-40073 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 1 - PAR-40081 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40085 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057 Behavioural Health for Paramedics - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40079 Applied Practice & Simulation for Paramedics 2 - PAR-40083 Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053
Develop resilience and motivation to identify and work towards targets for personal, academic and career development	Principles of Paramedic Practice - LEVEL 7 - PAR-40069

8. Final and intermediate awards

MSc Paramedic Science	180 credits plus successful completion of practice modules	You will require at least 180 credits at level 7 plus successful completion of the practice modules. Graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC and upon successful registration are entitled to practice as a paramedic in the UK.
MSc Applied Healthcare Studies	180 credits	You will require at least 180 credits at level 7, without successful completion of all practice modules *NB: the title of any such award will not include the title paramedic. This MSc Applied Healthcare Studies award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are **not** entitled to practise as a paramedic.*
Postgraduate Diploma Applied Healthcare Studies	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 7 *NB: the title of any such award will not include the title paramedic. This PGDip Applied Healthcare Studies award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are **not** entitled to practise as a paramedic.*
Postgraduate Certificate Applied Healthcare Studies	60 credits	You will require at least 60 credits at level 7 *NB: the title of any such award will not include the title paramedic. This PGCert Applied Healthcare Studies award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are **not** entitled to practise as a paramedic.*

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

Written work/ assignments test the quality and application of subject knowledge. In addition, they allow you to demonstrate your ability to carry out basic literature searches, communicate your ideas effectively in writing and support your arguments with appropriate referencing. Written pieces vary in length depending on the module

Written Examinations are undertaken in a range of formats and include online multiple-choice examinations, web-based peer assessments, essays and short answer questions. This type of assessment is designed to test your knowledge and (as appropriate), your ability to apply that knowledge appropriately to professional practice.

Reflective assignments enable you to develop your skills of reflective learning and practice and support portfolio development. These are fundamental skills used by all healthcare professionals as part of their continuing professional development.

Oral presentations/ oral examinations assess your subject knowledge and understanding. They may also be used to test your ability to work effectively as a member of a team, to communicate what you know orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of your personal development.

Practical Examinations/ Interactive Practical Assessment [IPA] examinations or Objective Structured Skills Examinations (OSSE's) occur in modules that involve the teaching and learning of practical clinical skills These examinations enable you to demonstrate the safe and effective application of practical clinical skills, to justify your clinical choices and offer reasoned alternatives.

Advancing Practice Project. This assessment is designed to develop your capacity as an independent learner and your ability to engage in a significant piece of work on service improvement and initiating change. It also develops digital literacy and IT skills in the use of various software for presentation and data analysis (e.g. Word, Excel).

Practice assessment is undertaken during practice experience modules and enables you to demonstrate the safe and effective application of professional practice. Summative assessments are designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs.

Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also usually provided on all summative

assessments within three working weeks of submission unless Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes.

Summative assessment - the assessment of student performance against a standard where a final mark is awarded.

Formative assessment - informal assessment processes designed to provide feedback to students to improve their learning.

10. Accreditation

This programme is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Please note the following:

Graduates of the MSc Paramedic Science programme are eligible to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). In order to use the title 'paramedic' a practitioner must be registered with the HCPC. HCPC registration is a pre-requisite for employment as a paramedic in the UK NHS. The programme meets the requirements of the HCPC Standards of Education and Training (2017) and follows the College of Paramedics Paramedic Curriculum 6th Edition (2024).

Module Selection: All modules are compulsory.

Regulations: Your programme has professional accreditation and there are course-specific regulations, which you have to agree to abide by..

11. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/

Entry to the programme will be a:

2:1 in a biomedical science or health-related subject (e.g. Biomedical Science, Biochemistry, Physiology, Healthcare Science, Pharmacy, Nursing, Midwifery or Physiotherapy) OR 2.2 degree in a biomedical science or health related subject (e.g. Biomedical Science, Biochemistry, Physiology, Healthcare Science, Pharmacy, Nursing, Midwifery or Physiotherapy) AND a minimum of 2 years full or part time relevant paid/unpaid experience. AND evidence of continued professional development (CPD), this can include internal formal or informal training. If unsure whether your training is suitable please contact admissions@keele.ac.uk

An NMC or HCPC registered healthcare professional with conditions of practice will not be eligible to apply for this programme.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a recognised qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the Programme is Academic IELTS 7.0 (to include a minimum of 6.5 in each subtest) or equivalent.

Conditions of entry include satisfactory occupational health clearance and Enhanced Disclosure and Barring clearance

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will provide a sample of Academic English during their registration. Using this sample, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/

Funding Information: The programme is student finance-funded or funded by NHS England

13. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for student learning on the programme is provided in the following ways:

As a student, you are allocated to an Academic Mentor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on academic and practice progress. Academic Mentors also offer pastoral support, acting as a first point of contact for non-academic issues which may affect your learning. Academic Mentors can refer you to a range of specialist health, welfare and financial services coordinated by the University's Student Services. Module Leaders provide support for learning on the modules and the related assessments. They ensure that appropriate tutorial support is available via the module team and that the team provides feedback in a timely manner. Module leaders also ensure that individual feedback on in-course assessments is available to all students. The Disability Inclusion Tutor provides support for students with disabilities (including specific learning difficulties) and works closely with wider university student support staff.

The Programme Director for Paramedic Sciences is responsible for the overall student experience, and the Course Lead is responsible for the day-to-day management of the course and therefore able to provide support to students where Academic Mentors and module tutors are not available. Practice Educators provide supervision whilst you are on clinical placement. Visiting Tutors and Practice Liaison Lecturers liaise between the School and Clinical Bases and provide you with support during practice experience modules. Throughout the year members of academic staff operate an 'open door' policy during normal working hours. Academic staff may be available to see you on an individual basis outside normal working hours via a flexible appointment system. Those meetings may be face-to-face or can be facilitated via electronic media e.g. Microsoft Teams if you are, for example, on a placement that is distant from the University.

14. Learning Resources

In the main, the programme is delivered in modern teaching rooms in the School of Medicine and the wider Faculty of Medicine and Health Science facilities that are equipped with computers, internet access and projection equipment. Rooms are designed to be flexible and can be used for larger groups, and more informally for small groups working together.

The learning resources available to students on the programme include: An extensive collection of materials relevant to undergraduate and postgraduate study held in both the main University Library on Keele campus, and in the Health Library on the campus of the University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust. A number of relevant journals and eBooks are also accessible online from anywhere in the world with a University username and password and internet access. The Keele Virtual Learning Environment (KLE) provides easy access to: a wide range of learning resources including lecture notes, presentations and discussion boards enabling you to discuss topics with peers and tutors; all information about the programme; and all modules and other materials designed specifically for particular modules. It can also be used to develop reusable learning objects (RLOs) and integrate learning with assessment. The KLE and Microsoft Teams are also used to facilitate a blended learning approach to modules as appropriate.

Paramedic Science students will enjoy the outstanding existing facilities of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Keele University. Facilities include specially designed skills labs, a state-of-the-art anatomy suite and surgical skills training centre, acute-secondary care (including emergency department) and hospital-based clinical education and simulation centre, primary care simulation centre, three 'simulation houses', two training ambulances, one rapid response vehicle and will undertake multi-professional trauma days. Major incident scenarios and high-fidelity simulation will support a professional and research-active teaching environment to deliver an exciting and demanding programme.

In your programme you will sometimes be expected to role-play and engage in simulated clinical scenarios with other students, such as the practice and observation of practical skills in physical contact with other students. For some specific practices, this may necessitate modification of dress - e.g., shorts and a t-shirt. These activities will be conducted in a professional, safe, respectful and culturally sensitive way, under the supervision of academic staff, according to a defined protocol.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

Other opportunities: You may have the opportunity to present your final year project work via poster or presentation at conferences. A contribution from the School towards the costs incurred in these ventures may be available and will be considered on an individual basis. Such opportunities occur outside the normal timetabled programme; thus, will require a commitment of time on your part.

16. Additional Costs

Activity	**Estimated Cost**
Safety Boots	£40
Stethoscope	£30
Lab Coat	£25
Student membership to the College of Paramedics (£45 per annum)	£90 for the duration of the programme
Enhanced DBS Clearance (£65.20) and annual update (£16 per subsequent year)*	£86.80
Total estimated additional costs	£271.80

All the above costs are approximate and correct in March 2025.

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

Additionally: You will be provided with a uniform and helmet. If these are lost or damaged due to inappropriate use you will be expected to replace them at your own expense, at an approximate cost of £600 (correct at March 2025). A set number of uniform items will be provided by the university, and additional items of uniform can be personally purchased from our uniform supplier.

***Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**

Clearance for an enhanced DBS check is mandatory. Students will be provided with instructions on how to apply for a DBS check, including a link to apply via a company called UCheck. There is also an online DBS update service to sign up for once the DBS certificate has been received, which allows employers to check DBS status and lets students keep their DBS certificates up to date online.

The current costs for a DBS check are detailed on the additional costs webpage:
https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/postgraduatestudy/tuitionfeesandfunding/postgraduatetuitionfees/additionalcosts

Occupational Health screening and vaccine costs will be met by the School.

Practice-based learning (Placement) is a core component of the programme. Typical placement hours will be around 36 hours per week on practice experience modules. During the first year, 14 weeks are spent in the practice environment (504 hours) with 16 weeks in year two of the programme (576 hours). Practice experience opportunities are allocated based on availability and your clinical experience profile.

You may be required to travel distances to complete your practice experience and may prefer, therefore, to source accommodation for that time.

Variable costs associated with Practice Experience:- There are some associated costs with attending practice experience modules related to both travel expenses and accommodation. As part of your programme, you may also be required to travel to the different operational localities within a range of NHS Ambulance Services including the West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospitals of North Midlands (NHS Trust), Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and other NHS Trust and general practice providers.

Students can apply for the NHS Learning Support Fund to support travel to and from placement locations (eligibility criteria apply), if students are funded by NHS England, the LSF funding may not be available based on eligibility. Students may also be eligible for support towards expenses through NHS Learning Support Fund Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses application. Many students continue to fund their own university/ private accommodation whilst accessing additional accommodation for less local practice experience settings.

Optional costs: Additional items of branded Keele University clothing (i.e. Hoodies) and additional uniform items can be purchased from our uniform supplier.

17. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:
http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/

18. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. QAA (2024a) UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:
http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code
b. QAA (2024b) The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK degree-awarding Bodies level descriptors:
https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/qualifications-frameworks

c. QAA (2019) Subject Benchmark Statement: Paramedics https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-paramedics.pdf?sfvrsn=7735c881_6

d. HCPC (2023) Standards of Proficiency for Paramedics https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-proficiency/paramedics/

e. HCPC (2017) Standards of Education and Training https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-relevant-to-education-and-training/set/

f. HCPC (2024) Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics (revised) https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-conduct-performance-and-ethics/revised-standards/

g. College of Paramedics (2024), Paramedic Curriculum (6th Edition) https://collegeofparamedics.co.uk/COP/ProfessionalDevelopment/Developing%20a%20New%20Paramedic%20Curriculum.aspx

h. NHS (2023)Long Term Workforce Plan https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/nhs-long-term-workforce-plan/

i. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations

19. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

Programme Regulations: MSc Paramedic Science

Final Award and Award Titles	[MSc Paramedic Science]
Intermediate Award(s)	[MSc Applied Healthcare Studies, PGDip Applied Healthcare Studies; PGCert Applied Healthcare Studies] *NB: the title of any such award will not include the title paramedic. These Applied Healthcare Studies awards do not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are **not** entitled to practise as a paramedic*
Last modified	July 2025: DBS and OH information added
Programme Specification	https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions, variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **No exemptions apply.**

B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

Variation 1:

This programme varies from Regulation [B4].

[If you become pregnant whilst enrolled on the MSc Paramedic Science programme you must inform the programme director as soon as possible. Depending what stage, you are at with your studies you may be required to take leave of absence for the duration of your pregnancy and until you are declared fit by Occupational Health. This is due to the West Midlands

Ambulance Service (WMAS) policy around pregnancy which states that no pregnant student paramedics are permitted to undertake shifts on the frontline. As there are placements with WMAS in each year of the course and ambulance service placements are integral to achieving the required outcomes for the programme, it will not be possible to study on the programme whilst pregnant.]

Additional Requirements

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

Additional 1: Students who have successfully completed all assessments and accrued 180 credits but have not successfully completed the practice-based learning modules for the programme, following standard re-assessment opportunity as per Keele University Regulation D1: Assessment, will be awarded an MSc in Applied Healthcare Studies. The title of this award will not include the title paramedic. This MSc Applied Healthcare Studies award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are not entitled to practise as a paramedic

Additional requirement 2: There are specific requirements with regard to health screening and disclosure and barring service requirements. Occupational health screening and Disclosure and Barring Service details are subject to modification via external agencies, as such, the School will supply prospective students with relevant detail upon request.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

Clearance for an enhanced DBS check is mandatory on this programme. Students will be provided with instructions on how to apply for a DBS check, including a link to apply via a company called UCheck. Students must also sign up to the online DBS update service once the DBS certificate has been received.

Any student who has not completed the DBS application and sign up process, or who has not made the Programme Team, Student Support, Admissions Team aware of any Exceptional Circumstances, by the first working day in November (for September start programmes) or the first working day in March (for January start programmes) will be in breach of regulation B8 (11.1) in relation to providing incomplete information during the application process, and will enter the formal termination of studies process.

Occupational Health

An Occupational Health assessment confirming fitness to commence the programme is mandatory on this programme.

Any student who has not completed all aspects of the Occupational Health process, or who has not made the Programme Team, Student Support, Occupational Health Team aware of any Exceptional Circumstances, by the first working day in January (for September start programmes) or the first working day in May (for January start programmes) will be in breach of regulation B8 (11.1) in relation to providing incomplete information during the application process, and will enter the formal termination of studies process.

Additional requirement 3: The Health and Care Professions Council require that academic regulations for the approved MSc Paramedic Science programme are appropriate. As such they may be more stringent than University norms in some areas in order to ensure safe and effective paramedicine practice**.**

Additional requirement 4: As a professionally regulated programme the MSc Paramedic Science and its students are subject to the Fitness to Practise regulation (Regulation B5) and Health and Conduct processes if required. Further details of these can be found in the programme handbook.

Additional requirement 5: Student Additional Placement Requirement

An additional placement requirement may be required where you:

- Fail your PSRB capabilities in a planned placement and an additional placement is required to support your regulatory standard attainment
- are outstanding skills and capabilities to support your programme progression.
- are outstanding your required PSRB capabilities to support professional registration.
- are outstanding PSRB work based practice days to support your course completion and professional registration. (N.B. this list is not exhaustive)

The following guidance applies to any circumstances where an additional placement is required.

Work Based Placement Provision

Work based placements are provided by Local Authorities, NHS Trust and Private Voluntary and/or Independent Organisations (PVIO) for programmes in FMHS. All Local Authorities, NHS Trust/organisation providers manage and coordinate their own work based student placements for all learners. This is done through liaison with the university.

Work Based Placement Pathway

Each university has a planned work based placement pathway for every student cohort group completing PSRB training and education programmes. This is to ensure that you meet all the professional practice capabilities and requirements for your programme of study. The planned work based placement pathway is agreed with the university.

Additional Work Based Placements

Should you need an additional work based placement, outside of the agreed placement pathway, the university would need to liaise closely with the educational team for the relevant Local Authority, NHS Trust/PVIO organisation provider. An additional

placement request would need to be made.

Additional Work Based Placement Considerations

The ability to accommodate you with an additional placement outside of the normal placement pathway, is dependent upon several variables. For example, the number of mentors, practice assessors/educators, available in placement areas to support your learning and assessment and the numbers of student learners already situated in planned placements from other cohort groups and or other universities. The above factors sit mostly outside of the university's sphere of control.

Additional Work Based Placement Requests

If you require an additional work based placement, this will be requested and managed by the School's Placement Team (at the point at which the team are informed that additional placements for students are required and numbers are known). For social work courses, these placements are located by the placement coordinator, and in counselling by you with quality assurance checks undertaken by the relevant academic staff member

Additional Work Based Placements Timings

There may be times when it is not possible to secure an additional placement at the point at which you require an additional placement, and some organisations may not be able to offer any additional placements for you outside of the university agreed plans. You may therefore need to wait until a suitable placement opportunity becomes available within a Local Authority, NHS or PVIO provider organisation and the organisation is able to accommodate your additional placement request.

Additional Work Based Placement Progression Delay

Additional placement opportunities may not occur for you again until the next cohort group undertakes the equivalent placement experience in the next academic year. The need for any additional placements may lead to a delay which may affect your ability to continue to progress on programme with your cohort group.

Additional Work Based Placement Travel and Accommodation

Your school will make every effort to secure you an additional placement, however, this may mean that you will be expected to make informed decisions and take responsibility about travel, accommodation, and financial subsistence when the additional placement area secured is not within the normal placement pathway. The decision you will need to make will be between continuing with your current cohort group or delaying your progression on programme.

Programme Progression and Completion

Where your programme progression or course completion end date is impacted, it is important for you to seek advice and guidance from your programme specific Academic Mentor or Student Support Services, and if applicable your School International Director. Delays in your progression may have consequences for your professional registration and employment/financial/accommodation offers, visas, and or other contractual arrangements.

(International students only) Due to UK Home Office Visa (UKVI) restrictions, students who enrol on a Masters programme are not able to transfer to an alternative programme without the change meeting UKVI requirements. Where students wish to take an exit award they are able to do so, but it is recommended to speak with Immigration Compliance and Support (visa@keele.ac.uk) before taking this option as this affects current and future Visa options. All other students who are considering a course change or find themselves in circumstances where they need to change will need to speak to Immigration Compliance and Support (Student Services Centre) (visa@keele.ac.uk first to check eligibility and review the consequences of the transfer and the timings of a new Visa application from outside the UK.

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[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 14 August 2025

What's Changed

Additional costs amended.

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.1	2025/26	KEVIN ARMSTRONG	07 July 2025	Updated information relating to DBS and Occupational Health requirements added to the programme-specific regulations annex
1	2025/26	KEVIN ARMSTRONG	19 June 2025	