

# Course Information Document: Undergraduate

## For Academic Year 2025/26

### 1. Course Summary

<b>Names of programme and award title(s)</b>	MSci Paramedic Science
<b>Award type</b>	Single Honours (Masters)
<b>Mode of study</b>	Full-time
<b>Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award</b>	Level 7
<b>Normal length of the programme</b>	4 years
<b>Maximum period of registration</b>	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
<b>Location of study</b>	Keele Campus
<b>Accreditation (if applicable)</b>	This programme is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and endorsed by the College of Paramedics
<b>Regulator</b>	Office for Students (OfS), Health and Care Professions Council
<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<p><b>UK students:</b></p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £9,535*</p> <p><b>International students:</b></p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £24,900**</p>

**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.

\* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

\*\* These fees are for new students. 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. What is an Integrated Master's programme?

The Master's level programme described in this document allows you to focus exclusively on the study of Paramedicine. Paramedicine education at Keele University was developed with the support of a Health Education England Strategic Support Fund grant in 2020/21 to meet the needs of a 21st Century health system. Integrated master's awards are delivered through a programme that combines study at a bachelor's degree with honours with study at master's level. As such, a student graduates with an integrated master's degree after a single four-year programme of study.

The integrated master's programme described in this document allows graduates to gain enhanced skills and knowledge to masters level which will afford them opportunities to work in an enhanced practice role on successful completion of the programme. The integrated master's programme described in this document builds upon the three year Single Honours programme by adding a fourth year in which students study modules at an advanced level.

### **3. Overview of the Programme**

Keele was the first new United Kingdom University of the 20th Century, established with degree awarding powers in 1949 as the University College of North Staffordshire. University status, as the University of Keele, followed in 1962. The University was founded to promote interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary scholarship and makes a distinctive contribution to higher education by emphasising the strength of a broad educational programme. It is the UK's largest integrated campus university and occupies a 617-acre estate, with Grade II registration by English Heritage, the central feature of which is 19th Century Keele Hall.

Keele's campus estate is one of the exceptional features of the University, and is integral to the quality of experience enjoyed by students, staff and visitors alike. A one hundred acre area of the estate, adjacent to Keele Hall, has designated conservation status confirmed by Newcastle Borough Council. Many architectural and landscape features dating from 19th century are of regional significance. Keele has built on its pioneering campus role by maintaining the highest proportion, around 70%, of full-time students in campus residence of any university in the country. On-campus housing is also provided for a large proportion of academic staff. It is situated in outstanding countryside about two miles west of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and about six miles west of the centre of the Potteries.

Keele has an enviable record in Education. We have a TEF Gold award and consistently achieve highly in the NSS in a range of our subjects. We have 96% graduate employability and the Keele Institute for Innovation and Teaching Excellence (KIITE) brings together expertise in academic development, student learning, employability and employer engagement as well as global opportunities.

#### **Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences**

The Faculty comprises three schools: the School of Allied Health Professions & Pharmacy, the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing & Midwifery. Schools are responsible for delivering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, and for generating and supporting research, enterprise and knowledge exchange activities, hosting visiting academics; organising research seminars and conferences and for the training and supervision of research students.

The Faculty has a long tradition of providing professional programmes leading to registration with regulatory bodies and as such, the Paramedic Science programme benefits from cross-faculty support for different activities. In 2019 we launched Keele Deal Health setting out our commitment to work with partners in Staffordshire, Stoke on Trent, Shropshire and South Cheshire, to address local health and care priorities, whilst our strong regional networks extend across not only the West and East Midlands but also to the North West and beyond. Our geography is diverse, covering remote and rural areas of the country in addition to highly-deprived inner cities locations.

The MSci Paramedic Science programme design follows the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) UK Quality Code for Higher Education: The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK degree-awarding Bodies level descriptors (QAA, 2014); UK Quality Code for Higher Education Part B1 (QAA, 2018). The programme has been mapped to the College of Paramedics - Paramedic Curriculum Guidance (CoP, 2019), 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, 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 Counselling and Psychotherapy, Medicine, Physician's Associate, Public Health and Social Work; and is delighted to add the MSci Paramedic Science to its portfolio. The development of the MSci Paramedic Science programme is at the forefront of paramedic education in the UK. This innovative, 4-year integrated Master's programme, reflects the expanding role of the profession in delivering complex and high-quality care in a wide range of healthcare organisations and environments. Paramedics now work in primary, urgent, unscheduled, emergency, and critical care settings. Traditionally, only postgraduate education alongside knowledge, skills, and experience gained over a number of years working as an ambulance service paramedic gave opportunities to undertake employment in such areas. However, the undergraduate MSci Paramedic Science programme prepares graduates to be able to work in these diverse areas of clinical practice once registered with the Health and Care Professions Council as a paramedic. Paramedics provide care to service users who may present with a variety of needs, such as life-threatening, acute, chronic, and/or long-term conditions, minor illness, or injury, mental health, obstetric, palliative, and end of life care (EoLC) needs.

Utilising a rotational model as detailed by the Health Education England Rotating Paramedic Programme (2018), students will engage with a wide range of practice 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.

Paramedic Science students will enjoy the outstanding existing facilities of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Keele University. These facilities include specially designed skills labs, a state-of-the-art anatomy suite, a hospital-based clinical education and simulation centre, a campus-based multi-profession simulation centre, a 'Crime-house', training ambulance's, Road Traffic Collision Training Vehicles and 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., to shorts and 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.*

## 4. Aims of the programme

To develop the knowledge, skills, behaviours and values that underpin contemporary paramedic practice and develop competence in applying clinical skills to patients in diverse areas of practice. You will develop clinical reasoning and decision-making skills to enable you to undertake best paramedic practice in partnership with service users and colleagues. The programme will enable you to develop the competencies required for autonomous practice in a diverse range of health and social care settings. This four-year programme also offers you the opportunity to develop learning in multiple aspects of practice, following a rotational model of placements. The Health and Care Professions Council and the College of Paramedics do not stipulate the number of hours required to successfully complete a programme of study in paramedic practice, however, the programme meets their standards in offering the number, duration, and range of experiences to ensure students are able to meet intended outcomes and Standards of Proficiency for paramedics.

The programme aims to develop research acumen and its application to paramedic practice and the wider health and social care context, and to provide you with the skills to adapt and respond positively to change. In doing this, you will develop key transferable skills to prepare you for graduate employment.

Throughout the programme you will get the opportunity to enhance the development of your interpersonal skills along with effective team working and partnership skills. This approach promotes engagement in lifelong learning, which is a key feature of the development of an autonomous professional.

The programme promotes effective inter-professional and multi-disciplinary working practices and facilitates the development of leadership and management skills.

The broad aims of the programme are to:

- Develop and produce autonomous Paramedic Practitioners who are fit for purpose and able to foster a professional approach to life-long learning.
- Integrate theory, practice, and simulation-based education, providing students with a high-quality educational experience affording both academic achievement and professional competence.
- Produce Paramedic Practitioners able to critically evaluate their own practice and that of others, by acting as a role model and mentor in the context of a clinical leadership role, able to deliver high-quality care for service users.
- Prepare students to be fit for employment as a contemporary Paramedic Practitioner in a range of healthcare organisations through the development of key, specific, and transferable skills.
- Encourage students to embrace and maintain a reflective approach to professional practice and develop students' abilities to question clinical and theoretical concepts thus augmenting problem-solving, decision making, and critical reasoning skills.
- Facilitate students to learn 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.
- Encourage the acquisition of new knowledge and competencies through the integration of evidence-based practice and research into contemporary paramedic practice.
- Ensure that students can apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects and research.

- Develop critical analysis and synthesise clinical effectiveness and problem-solving skills applicable across a range of complex and unpredictable health care settings.
- Critically demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the subjects underpinning advanced practice, in a range of care settings including urgent, emergency, critical or other care settings providing innovative and contemporary solutions to patient care.

## 5. 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 (2016)
- The programme is also aligned with the College of Paramedics, Curriculum Guidance 5th Edition (2019)
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Paramedics (2019)

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 Guidance (2019) themes:

Physical, Life and Clinical Sciences
Social, Health and Behavioural Sciences
Patient Assessment and Management
Ethics and Law
Public Health and Well-Being
Personal and Professional Attributes
Leadership and management skills
Evidence-based Practice & Research

These are introduced, developed and enhanced via individual modules (worth credits ranging from 15-30, see section 8) over the 4-year-programme; each year carries 120 credits. The curriculum also facilitates the progression from novice to advanced beginner to competent practitioner (Benner, 2001; Benner, 2009).

### The 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.

## 6. 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 four-year programme. Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. Teaching is undertaken in both the university and clinical environments. Integrating university learning with learning from placement settings allows the student to consolidate their knowledge and apply it practically to clinical practice.

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 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 particular 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.

You 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.

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 and Dyslexia Support services.

## 7. 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 Master's degree level. All teaching staff hold current valid registration to their own regulatory bodies where applicable. The staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level and includes individuals with expertise in learning and 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, 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 delivery (HCPC and CoP requirements will continue to be met through quality monitoring processes). The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

## 8. What is the structure of the programme?

The structure of the programme has been designed to support students' gradual transition from education to employment on completion of the programme. Therefore, the number of taught weeks and practice experience weeks gradually increases from Year 1 to Year 4 to better reflect a working pattern and prepare students for full-time employment (see below).

The programme is studied full time over four 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.

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.

All modules within your programme are compulsory, that is, you are required to study them. A summary of the credit requirements per year is identified below, with a minimum of 120 subject credits required for each year.

Modern Language modules: You are able to take up to 60 credits across your degree programme as Faculty Funded additional Modern Language modules in order to graduate with the Enhanced Degree Title. [Please see [link](#) for more information on Enhanced degree titles.]

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	120	0	0
Level 5	120	0	0
Level 6	120	0	0
Level 7	120	0	0

## Module Lists

### Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Public Health and Wellbeing for Paramedics	PAR-10001	15	Semester 1-2
Fundamental Life Sciences for Paramedics	PAR-10003	30	Semester 1-2
Fundamentals of Paramedic Practice	PAR-10005	30	Semester 1-2
Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 1	PAR-10007	30	Semester 1-2
Introduction to Professional Practice for Paramedics	PAR-10009	15	Semester 1-2

### Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Introduction to Evidence-based Practice & Research	PAR-20001	15	Semester 1-2
Pharmacology and Medicines Management in Paramedic Practice	PAR-20003	15	Semester 1-2
Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology	PAR-20005	30	Semester 1-2
Principles of Paramedic Practice	PAR-20007	30	Semester 1-2
Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 2	PAR-20009	30	Semester 1-2

### Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Behavioural Health for Paramedics	PAR-30001	15	Semester 1-3
Older Persons & Frailty	PAR-30003	30	Semester 1-3
Enhanced Paramedic Practice	PAR-30005	30	Semester 1-3
Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 3	PAR-30007	30	Semester 1-3
Evidence-based Practice	PAR-30009	15	Semester 1-3

## Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics	PAR-40047	15	Semester 1-3
Advancing Practice Project	PAR-40053	30	Semester 1-3
Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic	PAR-40055	30	Semester 1-3
Clinical Leadership for Paramedics	PAR-40057	15	Semester 1-3
Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 4	PAR-40059	30	Semester 1-3

## 9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

<b>Master's Degree Paramedic Science</b>	480 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5, 6 and 7 including successful completion of all placements.</p> <p>MSci Paramedic Science graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the HCPC and on successful registration are entitled to practice as a paramedic in the UK.</p>
<b>Honours Degree Applied Healthcare Studies</b>	360 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6</p> <p><i>NB:</i> the title of any such award will not include the title paramedic. This BSc (Hons) Applied Healthcare Studies award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are <b>not</b> entitled to practise as a paramedic.</p>
<b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>	240 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher</p> <p><i>NB:</i> the title of any such award will not include the title paramedic. This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are <b>not</b> entitled to practise as a paramedic.</p>
<b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>	120 credits	<p>You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher</p> <p><i>NB:</i> the title of any such award will not include the title paramedic. This award does not confer eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and recipients are <b>not</b> entitled to practise as a paramedic.</p>

The programme is designed to educate paramedic practitioners. Consequently, the expectation is that you will

complete the full programme of study obtaining 480 credits and so be awarded the MSci Paramedic Science. As a student you usually accumulate 120 credits per academic year. If you leave the programme before completing 480 credits you may be eligible for an alternative award.

Paramedics must complete an approved programme of study in order to be eligible to apply for professional registration and so use the title 'Paramedic' as it is a protected title. Successful completion of the MSci Paramedic Science programme offers eligibility to apply for HCPC registration, successful HCPC application then offers entitlement to practise in the UK as a Paramedic.

Should you not achieve the award of MSci Paramedic Science you **will not** be eligible for registration with the HCPC and so will not be able to practise as a Paramedic. You may be eligible for an interim award, but should be aware that any such award will not contain the term 'paramedicine' or 'paramedic'.

## 10. 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 integrated master's 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 their length depending upon the module.

**Written Examinations** are undertaken in a range of formats and include online multiple-choice examinations, web-based peer assessment, essay 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 own personal development.

**Practical Examinations/ Interactive Practical Assessment [IPA] examinations or Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE'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 ability to engage in a significant piece of work on service improvement and initiating change. It also develops 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 there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

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

*[2] Formative assessment - informal assessment processes designed to provide feedback to students to improve their learning.*

## 11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.



The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, practical classes. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

## Activity

	<b>Scheduled learning and teaching activities</b>	<b>Guided independent Study</b>	<b>Placements</b>
<b>Year 1 (Level 4)</b>	22.5%	42.8%	34.8%
<b>Year 2 (Level 5)</b>	17.5%	42.7%	39.8%
<b>Year 3 (Level 6)</b>	13.9%	39.6%	46.4%
<b>Year 4 (Level 7)</b>	10%	43%	47%

## 12. Accreditation

This programme is approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and endorsed by the College of Paramedics. Please note the following:

Graduates of the 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 the College of Paramedics Paramedic Curriculum Guidance 5th Edition (2019).

**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.

## 13. 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'.

## 14. 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.

## 15. Additional Costs

During the programme there will be some additional mandatory costs:

Activity	Estimated Costs
Safety Boots	£40
Stethoscope	£30
Lab Coat	£25
Student membership to the College of Paramedics (£45 per annum)	£180 for the duration of the programme
Enhanced DBS Clearance for the enhanced DBS check, plus annual cost for the update service*	c.£102.20
Total estimated additional costs	£377.20

All the above costs are approximate and correct at October 2024.

**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 February 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/undergraduate/tuitionfeesandfunding/undergraduatetuitionfees/additionalcosts>

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

You will usually undertake a minimum of 2,064 hours of practice experience before graduating. Typical hours will be around 36 hours per week on practice experience modules. During the first year, approximately 10 weeks are spent in the practice environment with approximately fourteen weeks in the second and twenty weeks in each of the third and fourth years of the programme

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 with 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 are able to apply for the NHS Learning Support Fund to support travel to and from placement locations (eligibility criteria apply). 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.

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside 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.

## 16. Annex - Programme-specific regulations

### Programme Regulations: MSci Paramedic Science

<b>Final Award and Award Titles</b>	MSci Paramedic Science
<b>Intermediate Award(s)</b>	BSc (Hons) Applied Healthcare Studies
<b>Last modified</b>	July 2025: DBS and OH added September 2025: Repeat year text clarification (Variation)
<b>Programme Specification</b>	<a href="https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications">https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications</a>

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:

##### **This programme varies from Regulation B4:**

If you become pregnant whilst enrolled on the MSci 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 state 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 it will not be possible to study on the programme whilst pregnant.

##### **This programme varies from Regulation D5:**

Students must successfully complete all assessments in all modules. There will be no condonement or compensation in any module or at any level.

The MSci Paramedic Science programme is a professionally regulated programme that must meet the requirements of the Regulatory Body. Whilst there are some variations to the University Regulations, set out in Section 21 Annex of the Programme Specification, which reflect the professional nature of the programme, the following information is designed to provide clarification of how the programme aligns to University Regulations and progression arrangements across the 4 years of the programme.

#### **Progression**

In variation to Regulation D2, all students must successfully complete all modules and achieve the required 120 credits to progress to the next academic year.

If a student has outstanding assessment attempts for theory based modules, they would be required to step off the programme and take any outstanding assessments at the next assessment opportunity. They would then recommence the programme in the subsequent academic year.

If a student has outstanding assessment attempts for a placement module, the outstanding assessment opportunity will be undertaken during the summer re-assessment period, prior to re-assessment board.

### **Progression from Level 5 (Year 2) to Level 6 (Year 3)**

In accordance with Regulations D2 to progress from Level 5 to Level 6 of an Integrated Master's Degree Programme, you must also achieve a minimum average module mark at Level 5 of 50%.

Students who do not achieve an average module mark at Level 5 of 50% can either:

- Continue onto Level 6 (Year 3) studying the following MSci Paramedic Science modules: PAR-30001 PAR-30003, PAR-30009 only, plus x1 30 credit module and x1 15 credit module from a range of Level 6 modules available in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. The choice of modules will be agreed by the programme director for paramedic sciences. On Successful completion of Level 6 (Year 3) an exit award of BSc (Hons) Applied Healthcare Studies will be awarded.

Or

- Exit the programme at the end of Level 5 (Year 2) with a Diploma in Higher Education

**NB:** the title of the above awards will not include the title paramedic. This BSc (Hons) 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.

### **Progression from Level 6 (Year 3) to Level 7 (Year 4)**

In accordance with Regulations D2 and C3, the student must have achieved 360-credits (at minimum lower second-class classification equivalent), to progress to level 7 of the programme. If a student has outstanding assessment attempts, including for the placement module, they would be required to step off the programme and take any outstanding assessments at the next assessment opportunity. If successful and they achieve the minimum lower second-class classification equivalent, they would then recommence the programme at Level 7 in the subsequent academic year.

### **This programme varies from Regulation D2: (1.1.4, 1.2.4 and 1.6.4)**

The repeat year options outlined in the regulation will be subject to approval by the Progression and Award Board. In making decisions, the Progression and Award Board will offer repeat options based on the prospect of the student progressing or completing the failed modules or assessments. Students with approved exceptional circumstances will be granted repeat options, subject to the caveat noted below. For students without approved exceptional circumstances, Progression and Award Boards will take the following into account when making decisions: students must have achieved a module mark on all failed modules within 10 percentage points of the module pass mark and/or demonstrated engagement with their studies through an attendance record of at least 80% (not including reported absences) to be eligible for a repeat year option. If it is identified that additional support is required, students will be guided towards the Support to Study process.

Where a repeat year or module option requires a clinical placement, this option may be deferred depending on placement capacity and students may be required by the Progression and Award Board to take a leave of absence until such time that the placements can be undertaken.

## **C) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

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

### **Additional requirement 1: 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.

## **Additional requirement 2: 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 MSci 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 MSci 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**

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 an integrated master's programme are not able to transfer to an alternative programme without the change meeting UKVI requirements. Where students wish to take an exit award of a Bachelor's Degree at the level 6 boards 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:** 16 September 2025

### ***What's Changed***

Repeat options wording clarified

### **Previous documents**

<b>Version No</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Summary of and rationale for changes</b>
1.2	2025/26	KEVIN ARMSTRONG	14 August 2025	Additional costs amended.
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	13 May 2025	
1	2024/25	KEVIN ARMSTRONG	31 May 2024	
2	2023/24	KEVIN ARMSTRONG	13 March 2024	Variation added to the regulations section regarding repeat options
1	2023/24	KEVIN ARMSTRONG	07 March 2023	
1	2022/23	KEVIN ARMSTRONG	28 January 2022	
1	2021/22	CLAIRE CARTWRIGHT	09 July 2021	