

## Programme Specification: Undergraduate For Academic Year 2026/27

### 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 (*Subject to re-endorsement June 2026)
<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 2026/27 is £9,790*</p> <p><b>International students:</b></p> <p>Fee for 2026/27 is £20,800**</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 a master's level, which will afford them opportunities to work in a range of practice roles and support more rapid career progression. 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. 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 (CoP, 2019 & 2024), QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Paramedics (QAA, 2019), and the Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Education and Training (HCPC, 2017), 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 Assistant, Public Health, Social Work, Human Anatomy, Clinical Education, Global Healthcare Leadership and Paramedic Sciences. 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. This enhanced undergraduate programme prepares graduates to be able to work in 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 assistants, 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 does 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 College of Paramedics, Paramedic Curriculum suggest learners would benefit from a minimum of 40 weeks of Practice Based Education and Learning across the duration of their studies. The MSci Paramedic Science programme at Keele provides 56 weeks of practice-based learning.

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 (2024)
- The programme is also aligned with the College of Paramedics, Paramedic Curriculum 6th Edition (2024)
- 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 (2024) themes:

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 Skill
Research & Evidence-Informed Practice
Practice-Based Learning

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).

### [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, environmental 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, Advance HE Fellowship. All teaching staff hold current, valid registration with their own regulatory bodies where applicable. The staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels 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.

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 in achieving all intended learning outcomes and the overall programme outcomes across the 4 years of delivery. The programme structure is as follows:

- Year 1 - 33 Weeks
- Year 2 - 36 Weeks
- Year 3 - 36 Weeks
- Year 4 - 36 Weeks

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.

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
Introduction to Professional Practice for Paramedics	PAR-10009	15	Semester 1
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

### Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Introduction to Evidence-based Practice & Research	PAR-20001	15	Semester 1
Pharmacology and Medicines Management in Paramedic Practice	PAR-20003	15	Semester 1
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

<b>Compulsory modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
Evidence-based Practice	PAR-30009	15	Semester 1
Older Persons & Frailty	PAR-30003	30	Semester 1-2
Enhanced Paramedic Practice	PAR-30005	30	Semester 1-2
Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 3	PAR-30007	30	Semester 1-2
Behavioural Health for Paramedics	PAR-30001	15	Semester 2

## **Level 7**

<b>Compulsory modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
Clinical Leadership for Paramedics	PAR-40057	15	Semester 1
Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics	PAR-40047	15	Semester 1-2
Advancing Practice Project	PAR-40053	30	Semester 1-2
Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic	PAR-40055	30	Semester 1-2
Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 4	PAR-40059	30	Semester 1-2

## **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.

### **Level 4**

Learning outcomes for the programme follow the QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Paramedics (QAA, 2019)

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
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, musculo-skeletal and other systems	Fundamental Life Sciences for Paramedics - PAR-10003
Knowledge of human growth and development across the lifespan, including the factors influencing individual variations in human ability and health status	Fundamental Life Sciences for Paramedics - PAR-10003
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.	Fundamental Life Sciences for Paramedics - PAR-10003 Fundamentals of Paramedic Practice - PAR-10005
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.	Public Health and Wellbeing for Paramedics - PAR-10001

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Knowledge of the psychological and social factors that influence an individual in health and illness.	Public Health and Wellbeing for Paramedics - PAR-10001
Knowledge of how psychology and sociology can inform an understanding of health, illness and healthcare within the context of paramedic practice.	Public Health and Wellbeing for Paramedics - PAR-10001
Knowledge of pain neurophysiology and the impact this has on the patient and their clinical presentation	Fundamentals of Paramedic Practice - PAR-10005
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 health care professionals	Introduction to Professional Practice for Paramedics - PAR-10009
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	Introduction to Professional Practice for Paramedics - PAR-10009
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.	Introduction to Professional Practice for Paramedics - PAR-10009
Knowledge and understanding of human factor principles encountered in paramedic practice.	Introduction to Professional Practice for Paramedics - PAR-10009
Knowledge and understanding of the role paramedics contribute to, in relation to the public health and health promotion of service users.	Public Health and Wellbeing for Paramedics - PAR-10001
Knowledge of the theoretical basis of assessment, treatment and management and the scientific evaluation of their effectiveness	Fundamentals of Paramedic Practice - PAR-10005
Knowledge of pathological changes and related features of conditions encountered in paramedic practice	Fundamentals of Paramedic Practice - PAR-10005 Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 1 - PAR-10007

<b>Intellectual skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Discuss and debate principles	Public Health and Wellbeing for Paramedics - PAR-10001
Contextualise and translate theory to practice	Public Health and Wellbeing for Paramedics - PAR-10001 Fundamental Life Sciences for Paramedics - PAR-10003 Fundamentals of Paramedic Practice - PAR-10005 Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 1 - PAR-10007 Introduction to Professional Practice for Paramedics - PAR-10009
Reflection in and on action	Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 1 - PAR-10007 Introduction to Professional Practice for Paramedics - PAR-10009
Problem-Solving	Fundamentals of Paramedic Practice - PAR-10005 Introduction to Professional Practice for Paramedics - PAR-10009
Academic Study Skills -Writing	Introduction to Professional Practice for Paramedics - PAR-10009

## **Level 5**

Learning Outcomes for the programme follow the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Paramedics (QAA, 2019)

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
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, musculo-skeletal and other systems.	Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005
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.	Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005 Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
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.	Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005 Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
Knowledge of the psychological and social factors that influence an individual in health and illness.	Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005 Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
Knowledge of how psychology and sociology can inform an understanding of health, illness and healthcare within the context of paramedic practice.	Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005 Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
Knowledge of pain neurophysiology and the impact this has on the patient and their clinical presentation.	Pharmacology and Medicines Management in Paramedic Practice - PAR-20003 Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005 Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
Knowledge of the physiological, structural, behavioural and functional changes in patient presentation and those that result from paramedic intervention.	Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
Knowledge of the theoretical basis of assessment, treatment and management and the scientific evaluation of their effectiveness	Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
Knowledge of the principles of evaluation and research methodologies, which enable the integration of theoretical and practical applications.	Introduction to Evidence-based Practice & Research - PAR-20001
Knowledge of the perspectives and evidenced-based research into the design and implementation of effective paramedic practice.	Introduction to Evidence-based Practice & Research - PAR-20001
Knowledge of the theories supporting problem-solving and clinical reasoning.	Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
Knowledge of the principles of pharmacology and the safe administration of therapeutic medications.	Pharmacology and Medicines Management in Paramedic Practice - PAR-20003 Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
Knowledge of pathological changes and related features of conditions encountered in paramedic practice	Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005 Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007 Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 2 - PAR-20009

<b>Intellectual skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Developing criticality - analysis, understanding	Introduction to Evidence-based Practice & Research - PAR-20001 Pharmacology and Medicines Management in Paramedic Practice - PAR-20003 Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
Interpretation	Pharmacology and Medicines Management in Paramedic Practice - PAR-20003 Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005 Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
Reflection	Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
Discuss and debate principles	Introduction to Evidence-based Practice & Research - PAR-20001 Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005
Evaluation	Introduction to Evidence-based Practice & Research - PAR-20001 Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005
Ability to review and consolidate evidence from a wide range of sources extending their own body of knowledge	Introduction to Evidence-based Practice & Research - PAR-20001 Pharmacology and Medicines Management in Paramedic Practice - PAR-20003 Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005 Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007
Contextualise and translate theory to practice	Introduction to Evidence-based Practice & Research - PAR-20001 Pharmacology and Medicines Management in Paramedic Practice - PAR-20003 Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005 Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007 Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 2 - PAR-20009 All Level 5 Modules
Academic writing skills	Introduction to Evidence-based Practice & Research - PAR-20001 Pharmacology and Medicines Management in Paramedic Practice - PAR-20003 Applied Anatomy & Pathophysiology - PAR-20005 Principles of Paramedic Practice - PAR-20007

## **Level 6**

Learning Outcomes for the programme follow the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Paramedics (QAA, 2019)

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
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 - PAR-30001 Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005
Knowledge of the psychological and social factors that influence an individual in health and illness.	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - PAR-30001 Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
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 - PAR-30001 Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005
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 health care professionals	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - PAR-30001 Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005
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.	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - PAR-30001 Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005
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 - PAR-30001 Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 3 - PAR-30007
Knowledge and understanding of mental health legislation, agreements and policies and the implications within the context of paramedic practice.	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - PAR-30001
Knowledge of the theoretical basis of assessment, treatment and management and the scientific evaluation of their effectiveness	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - PAR-30001 Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005
Knowledge of the principles of pharmacology and the safe administration of therapeutic medications.	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - PAR-30001 Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005 Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 3 - PAR-30007
Benchmark Standards: Section 6. Professional Paramedic: 6.1.1 - 6.1.15 Principles and Concepts of Application 6.2.1 - 6.2.22 Subject Knowledge, Understanding and Associated Skills 6.3.1 - 6.3.13 Generic Skills 6.4.1 - 6.4.8	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - PAR-30001 Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005 Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 3 - PAR-30007 Evidence-based Practice - PAR-30009 All Level 6 Modules
Knowledge and understanding of obstetric and gynaecological conditions and emergencies encountered in paramedic practice, including assessment, treatment and management.	Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005
Knowledge and understanding of the principles of end-of-life care, and palliative care in relation to paramedic practice	Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003
Knowledge of pathological changes and related features of conditions encountered in paramedic practice	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - PAR-30001 Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005 Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 3 - PAR-30007

<b>Intellectual skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Criticality - Analysis, Evaluate, Reflect	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - PAR-30001 Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005 Evidence-based Practice - PAR-30009
Gather, evaluate and disseminate information appropriately.	Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005 Evidence-based Practice - PAR-30009
Critically analyse and synthesise information to enable risk assessment, problem-solving and decision-making.	Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003 Enhanced Paramedic Practice - PAR-30005 Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 3 - PAR-30007
Critiquing research and the evidence base	Evidence-based Practice - PAR-30009
Enhanced Academic Writing Skills	Behavioural Health for Paramedics - PAR-30001 Older Persons & Frailty - PAR-30003 Evidence-based Practice - PAR-30009

## **Level 7**

Learning Outcomes for the programme follow the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement Paramedics (QAA, 2019)

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
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.	Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics - PAR-40047 Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055
Knowledge of pain neurophysiology and the impact this has on the patient and their clinical presentation.	Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics - PAR-40047 Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055
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 health care professionals	Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055
Knowledge of the physiological, structural, behavioural and functional changes in patient presentation and those that result from paramedic intervention.	Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics - PAR-40047 Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055
Knowledge of the theoretical basis of assessment, treatment and management and the scientific evaluation of their effectiveness	Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics - PAR-40047 Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055
Knowledge of the principles of evaluation and research methodologies, which enable the integration of theoretical and practical applications.	Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Knowledge of the theories supporting problem-solving and clinical reasoning.	Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics - PAR-40047 Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057
Knowledge of the principles of pharmacology and the safe administration of therapeutic medications.	Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics - PAR-40047 Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055
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 the theories of teamwork: understanding of effective multiprofessional/multiagency teamwork that respects and uses the contributions of members of the health and social care team.	Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics - PAR-40047 Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055
Knowledge and understanding of the principles of end-of-life care, and palliative care in relation to paramedic practice	Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055
Benchmark Standards: Section 6. Professional Paramedic: 6.1.1 - 6.1.15 Principles and Concepts of Application 6.2.1 - 6.2.22 Subject Knowledge, Understanding and Associated Skills 6.3.1 - 6.3.13 Generic Skills 6.4.1 - 6.4.8	Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics - PAR-40047 Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053 Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057 Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 4 - PAR-40059 All Level 7 Modules
Knowledge of pathological changes and related features of conditions encountered in paramedic practice	Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics - PAR-40047 Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055 Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 4 - PAR-40059

<b>Intellectual skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Critically discuss, evaluate and application	Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057 Applied Paramedic Practice & Simulation 4 - PAR-40059
Complex decision making and reasoning	Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics - PAR-40047 Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053 Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055
Develop, create and appraise	Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053
Ability to review and consolidate evidence from a wide range of sources extending their own body of knowledge	Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053
Discuss, debate and present	Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055
Enhanced academic writing skills	Introduction to Critical Care Practice for Paramedics - PAR-40047 Advancing Practice Project - PAR-40053 Primary, Urgent & Unscheduled Care for Paramedic - PAR-40055 Clinical Leadership for Paramedics - PAR-40057

## **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	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5, 6 and 7 including successful completion of all placements. 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.
<b>Honours Degree Applied Healthcare Studies</b>	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 <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.
<b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher <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.
<b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher <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.

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>	20.4%	44.8%	34.8%
<b>Year 2 (Level 5)</b>	15.2%	45%	39.8%
<b>Year 3 (Level 6)</b>	13.9%	39.6%	46.4%
<b>Year 4 (Level 7)</b>	10.1%	42.6%	47.4%

## 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. 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/>

Applicants must be able to satisfy the general requirements of Keele University and the School of Medicine. The School implements an inclusive system of academic requirements to widen access for appropriately qualified candidates at different career stages.

Details of the specific academic requirements for the MSci Paramedic Science Programme can be found at the following location:

[Paramedic Science with Integrated Master's - Keele University](#)

*NB:* Applicants are expected to have a minimum of 2 years post GCSE study or work experience. Although it is recognised that some applicants will be mature students where this may not be applicable.

All offers are normally conditional upon the applicant having a satisfactory Occupational Health assessment, and an enhanced clearance by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The School requires students to become student members of the College of Paramedics. Student membership of the CoP provides access to a range of useful resources and also provides insurance for clinical placements. Further information can be found at the CoP website [https://collegeofparamedics.co.uk/COP/Membership/Join\\_the\\_College.aspx](https://collegeofparamedics.co.uk/COP/Membership/Join_the_College.aspx)

Applicants who are not currently undertaking any formal study or who have been out of formal education for more than 3 years and are not qualified to A-level or BTEC standard may be offered entry to the University's Foundation Year 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.

#### 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. This will replace any GCP modules. *NB:* students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

English Language Modules at Level 4:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 5:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)

- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 6:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2); ENL-90005 Advanced Business English Communication
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

**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.

## 15. How are students supported on the programme?

The School provides a comprehensive range of support for student learning on the Programme in addition to that provided by the University. Key to the success of this support are the following:

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 on 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 Paramedicine is responsible for the overall student experience 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 appointments 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.

## 16. Learning Resources

In the main, the programme is delivered in modern teaching rooms in the School of Medicine, 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.

The School of Medicine has a wide range of relevant teaching materials available including a large selection of anatomical models, and online resources, Advanced Life Support Patient Simulators, training ambulance, and simulated clinical and professional learning environments.

Regular opportunities to attend the University's Anatomy Suite (situated in the School of Medicine) are embedded in teaching throughout the course of the programme.

Computers are situated in both the Main Library and in the Health Library.

## 17. Other Learning Opportunities

**Other opportunities:** You may have the opportunity to present your final year project work via poster or presentation at conferences. Such opportunities occur outside the normal timetabled programme; thus will require a commitment of time on your part.

**International:** There may be opportunities to undertake international placements as part of the programme. An application and separate eligibility process apply to all international placement opportunities arranged within the programme. International Electives can be arranged by students on an individual basis

## 18. Additional Costs

### Mandatory costs

You can expect some additional costs as a student on this course, which may support learning activities, specialist equipment, fieldwork, placements, or other course-related requirements. Details of these mandatory costs are outlined below to help you plan accordingly.

Students may also incur general expenses related to university study, such as for printing, textbooks and other materials. Students who undertake a placement may be responsible for additional costs, such as travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. For further information, please refer to the [additional costs](#) information.

Activity	Estimated Costs
Uniform (x3 Polo Shirts with Keele University Branding, x3 Trousers). All uniform items are supplied by Keele University Approved supplier	£191.97
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 plus annual cost for the update service (£60.70 Enhanced DBS, £16 annual for update service)	£124.70
Total estimated additional costs	£591.67

All the above costs are approximate and correct as of October 2025.

**Additionally:** You will be provided with a helmet, a hi-visibility jacket, and a softshell jacket. 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 £276 (correct at October 2025). Students **must** purchase Keele-branded uniform (polo shirts and trousers). Additional items of uniform can be personally purchased from our uniform supplier. Details will be provided on commencement of studies.

### \*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. Students **must** sign up for the update service as per programme requirements or they risk being removed from the programme. If students do not sign up to the update service within the correct timeframe as stipulated by UCheck an additional cost will apply to start a full DBS clearance process again.

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 2,016 hours of practice experience before graduating. Typical hours will be around 36 hours per week on practice based learning modules. During the first year, approximately 10 weeks are spent in the practice environment with approximately fourteen weeks in the second and sixteen 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.

**Travel to Placements:** Students are responsible for reasonable costs incurred in travelling to placements and making travel arrangements - in the same way as for travel to and from the University generally. However, 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.

As part of your programme, you may 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 Trusts and general practice providers.

Many students continue to fund their own university/ private accommodation whilst accessing additional accommodation for less local practice experience settings.

**Optional costs:** Replacement ID cards: up to £15, Replacement name badge: £5. 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.

## 19. 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 National Student Survey, 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/>

## 20. 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:

Benner P (2001) *From novice to expert: Excellence and power in clinical nursing practice*. Prentice Hall NJ

Benner P (2009) *Expertise in nursing practice: caring, clinical judgment and ethics*. Springer Pub Co New York

College of Paramedics, Paramedic Curriculum 6th Edition (2024)

Department of Health (2012) *Health and Social Care Act*

Department of Health (2015) *Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Act*

Equality Act (2010) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15>

Health and Care Professions Council (2023) Standards of Proficiency for Paramedics <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-proficiency/paramedics/>

Health and Care Professions Council (2024) *Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics* <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-conduct-performance-and-ethics/>

Health and Care Professions Council (2017) Standards of Education and Training <https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-relevant-to-education-and-training/set/>

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

NHS England (2010) *Career Framework for Health Descriptors*. Skills for Health

NHS England (2014) *Five Year Forward View*. NHS England

NHS England (2015) *Delivering the Forward View: NHS Planning Guidance 2016/17 - 2020/21*. NHS England

Quality Assurance Agency (2018) *UK Quality Code for Higher Education* <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

Quality Assurance Agency (2019) *Subject Benchmark Statement: Paramedics (2019)*

World Health Organisation (2011) *World Report On Disability* <https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/disability-and-rehabilitation/world-report-on-disability>

## 21. 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 DipHE Applied Healthcare Studies CertHE
<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.

All students are required to maintain their annual subscription to the DBS update service for the whole duration of their programme of study, including any repeat elements or extensions. Any student who does not maintain their annual DBS update service subscription will be required to complete the full DBS application and subscription sign-up process again at their own expense, to comply with the mandatory enhanced DBS clearance detailed above.

#### **Additional requirement 2: Occupational Health**

Satisfactory Occupational Health clearance is a condition of your offer. You must be declared fit for the programme by the Occupational Health service. If you are not fit for the programme, you will be required to leave the programme.

You will be required to attend appointment/s with the Occupational Health team. Please respond immediately to any requests from the Occupational Health Service for further information or any invitations to attend appointments. These appointments are mandatory.

It is important to complete all requests from Occupational Health as not doing so may affect your ability to go onto placement and complete your programme.

*NB: Any student returning from a Leave of Absence or repeating a year of study will be subject to the programme requirements outlined in the programme specification of the cohort they are joining rather than any previous cohort they may have belonged to which may include variations to costs and requirements.*

**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. In variation to the Student Attendance and Engagement Policy, all parts of the programme require mandatory attendance. Students are expected to attend all timetabled sessions of the programme, to include theoretical learning hours, clinical placements, other environment placements and associated briefings.

**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.

[\[1\]](#) 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:** 01 April 2026

### Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.3	2025/26	KEVIN ARMSTRONG	16 September 2025	Repeat options wording clarified
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	