

## **MSc Physician Associate:**

### **Top-up route for qualified Physician Associates** (subject to validation)

The top-up route is for qualified Physician Associates with a Post-graduate Diploma in Physician Associate Studies that wish to complete an MSc without starting a masters' course from scratch.

#### **Course structure**

The course is studied part-time over 12 months, via distance learning. There are two entry points, in September and January. In both instances, you begin with the module *Research methods in health* which is covered in one term, before commencing the dissertation. As part of the application process you should set out the general area of research you are considering for your project, however, you will develop this as part of the research methods module, culminating in the submission of a 2000-word outline dissertation proposal that is the summative assessment for this module.

The *dissertation* follows on from the research methods module, being submitted in August. This is a 12,000-word research project or systematic review. It can be in any area of clinical practice, healthcare policy, public health, sociology applied to healthcare or medical education, however, this needs to be an area in which the University can realistically provide supervision in.

Initially this course will have one start date, in September, but this may be expanded to a second date in the future.

#### **Learning and Teaching**

The course makes use of the Blackboard VLE and "classes" are online, to be completed at the students' own pace, with supporting online seminars, arranged for evenings to avoid clashes with working hours. For the dissertation you will be assigned a supervisor from the department. The first meeting with the supervisor will be face to face in Worcester, thereafter these can be via Skype/telephone and email.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Term 1 September to December	MSPA4024 Research Methods in Health 15 credits	2,000-word outline dissertation proposal. Submitted online in early January
Christmas Break		
Term 2 January to April	MSPA4030 Dissertation 45 credits	12,000-word dissertation. Submitted online in late August
Easter Break		
Term 3 April to August		
Dissertation Submission		

### **Research Areas**

The School of Allied Health and Community has a variety of research areas. Within the Department of Paramedic Science and Physician Associates we have research interests in:

- Physician Associate education, both pre- and post-qualification
- Clinical practice of Physician Associates
- Clinical simulation and clinical placements
- The Physician Associate profession: policy, workforce development and education
- Healthcare policy
- Resuscitation
- Medical law, especially as applied to Physician Associates
- Mental health and addiction
- Public Health and health promotion
- Pre-operative healthcare and pre-habilitation
- Sociology applied to healthcare

### **Entry requirements**

1. Post-graduate Diploma in Physician Associate Studies
2. A pass in the RCP Faculty of Physician Associates National Certification Examination for Physician Associates
3. BA/BSc degree with minimum lower second-class honours
4. GCSE (or equivalent) Grade C or above in Maths and English

## **Making an application**

Applications for the top-up course, for those wishing to upgrade their PGDip to a Master's degree, can no longer be made directly through our website. All applications must now be made through [UCAS](#) using the course code: BB96.

This is the same process and route for both the two-year MSc and the top-up course. Information can be found on the UCAS website on the [University of Worcester Physician Associate page](#).

After application via UCAS you will be contacted by Admissions at the University and asked to provide your degree and PGDip certificates and transcripts, copy of national certification exam certificate and to complete the personal statement form. Admissions will also send you a credit transfer form to be completed.

Although you are not required to submit a research proposal as part of your application, you should have a rough idea of the topic you would like to research at the time you apply and should outline this briefly in the personal statement form. You are also advised to contact the course leader by email to discuss your topic of interest and if the department has research capacity. Applications will be reviewed for academic ability, research ideas and ability for provision of project supervision. You will not need to attend an interview.