

**UNIVERSITY OF  
FORWARD  
THINKING  
WESTMINSTER**

**Part one: Programme Specification**

Course record information

Name and level of final award	<b>MSc Herbal Medicine</b> Intermediate awards: The MSc degree is Bologna FQ-EHEA first cycle degree or diploma compatible.	<b>MSc Chinese Medicine: Acupuncture</b>
Name and level of intermediate awards	Postgraduate Diploma Herbal Medicine Postgraduate Certificate Herbal Medicine	Postgraduate Diploma Chinese Medicine: Acupuncture Postgraduate Certificate Chinese Medicine: Acupuncture
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster	
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body	
Location of delivery	University of Westminster	
Language of delivery and assessment	English	
Course/programme leader	Dr Julia Green	
Course URL	<a href="http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/complementary-medicine/postgraduate-courses/full-time/p09fphem-msc-herbal-medicine">http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/complementary-medicine/postgraduate-courses/full-time/p09fphem-msc-herbal-medicine</a>	<a href="http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/complementary-medicine/postgraduate-courses/full-time/p09fpcma-msc-chinese-medicine-acupuncture">http://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/subjects/complementary-medicine/postgraduate-courses/full-time/p09fpcma-msc-chinese-medicine-acupuncture</a>
Mode and length of study	MSc FT (1 year); PT (2-5 year)	
University of Westminster	W50	

course code		
JACS code		
UCAS code	046481	036082
QAA subject benchmarking group	Health Studies (2008)	
Professional body accreditation	The National Institute of Medical Herbalists have been consulted with a view to recognising elements of the course as professional CPD.	The British Acupuncture Accreditation Board and British Acupuncture Council (BAcC) have been consulted with a view to recognising elements of the course as professional CPD.
Date of course validation/ review	May 2010	
Date of programme specification	May 2010	

## Admissions requirements

The University will at all times seek to ensure equality of opportunity for all applicants as described in its Admissions policy.

Applicants must be registered and insured practitioners who undertake the equivalent of one day per week in practice. Additionally they should normally possess at least one of the following:

- BSc Honours degree, at 2:1 or above, in an appropriate complementary medicine or equivalent.
- A professional qualification of equivalent status and associated work experience.
- An equivalent qualification which is deemed suitable by the course team, including relevant overseas qualifications.

Enquiries about the acceptability of these or other qualifications should be made to the Admissions Office ([cav-admissions@wmin.ac.uk](mailto:cav-admissions@wmin.ac.uk)). (Please see below in relation to

establishing equivalence of training.) Whenever possible, applicants will normally be interviewed and assessed for their suitability to join the course. Competence in written and spoken English language for those whose first language is not English is required to at least IELTS 6.5 (6.0 minimum in each component). We welcome mature applicants with work experience, training or study that can be matched against specific entry requirements.

Before beginning the course applicants will be required to sign that they have read, considered and agree to our Code of Professional Practice.

### **Establishing equivalence in relation to entry requirements**

Assessment of equivalence for entry requirements will normally be made by admissions administrators in consultation with teaching staff.

Equivalence in respect to initial practitioner training:- Applicants who have gained their initial training in complementary medicine through a route other than the BSc (Hons) Scheme of complementary medicine degrees at the University of Westminster will be assessed in relation to the length and depth of the courses followed, and in relation to the orientation of the syllabus. Applicants in this position will also need to demonstrate equivalence in health sciences, research and practitioner development. Professional accreditation of their course, the time since qualification and currency of practice will also be taken into account. If the level of study cannot be ascertained applicants will be asked to complete a written activity followed by an interview.

Applicants may be required to complete a short course or modules from the undergraduate scheme to ease their transition to study.

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### **Accreditation of Prior Learning**

It may also be possible to have previous learning or experiential learning (work experience) assessed for exemption from part(s) of your course.

### **Aims of the course**

MSc Herbal Medicine: The focus is to further the growth of students as scholar practitioners and enable them to develop as leaders in research, clinical governance and policy and practice within the herbal medicine profession whilst advancing their

own professional practice and embedding lifelong learning into the community of practice.

The underpinning ethos is to produce graduates equipped with the knowledge, skills and practical experience to enhance their professional role in the field of herbal medicine. This is fostered through the focussed academic and professional experience in both the theoretical concepts and the diagnostic practice within students own practise.

MSc Chinese Medicine: Acupuncture: The focus of this postgraduate course is to further the growth of students as scholar practitioners and enable them to develop professionally and personally as leaders in research, practice, clinical governance and policy within the Chinese Medicine Acupuncture profession.

The course aims to present appropriate clinical and analytical content in an integrated interprofessional forum that fosters critical debate, original and independent thinking, peer mentoring and supervision and reflexivity. Additionally an exploration of the diversity of East Asian medicines will enlarge the context of the course.

### **Employment and further study opportunities**

This course is designed to enhance the skills of professionals already in practice and encourage diversity into other areas of work including the creation of multidisciplinary practices, working in other healthcare environments such as: the NHS, charitable organisations, private outpatient hospitals, GP practices, sports clubs and events, CM industries including herb production and homoeopathic pharmacies. Graduates may continue in education, entering Ph.D. programmes or they may find employment in academia or research institutes, as well as management, marketing and development in Governmental and community healthcare provision and related industries.

Graduates obtaining the appropriate grade can progress to the University of Westminster's Professional Doctorate for Health and Social Care Professionals. (Validated 2009)

## **Learning outcomes**

### **Knowledge and understanding:**

On successful completion of the course, a student will be able to:

#### **MSc Herbal Medicine**

- 1) demonstrate the ability to work critically with theoretical and research-based knowledge at the forefront of herbal medicine and its context within the wider scientific and health related community;
- 2) apply skills of critical exploration, evaluation and analysis to the propositional, professional and personal knowledge acquired or self-generated through clinical practice;
- 3) analyse, synthesise and engage in debate of contemporary issues in a collaborative interprofessional setting with other healthcare professionals and the wider scientific community;
- 4) apply skills of peer supervision and mentoring to critically analyse how reflexivity informs clinical decision making and CPD.
- 5) demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the profession;
- 6) apply knowledge of methodological principles and techniques of data collection to the design of a research project;
- 7) process, analyse and critically interpret data gathered and formulate conclusions and recommendations demonstrating awareness of the wider literature.

#### **MSc Chinese Medicine: Acupuncture**

On successful completion of the course, a student will be able to:

1. critically evaluate classical and modern theory to reveal the context of Chinese and east Asian medicines;
2. explain complex signs and symptoms of illness and dysfunction in relation to treatment planning within an integrated framework;
3. apply skills of critical exploration, evaluation and analysis to the propositional, professional and personal knowledge acquired or self-generated through clinical practice;
4. analyse, synthesise and engage in debate of contemporary issues in a collaborative inter-professional setting with other healthcare professionals and

the wider scientific community;

5. apply skills of peer supervision and mentoring to critically analyse how reflexivity informs clinical decision making and CPD;
6. demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the profession;
7. apply knowledge of methodological principles and techniques of data collection to the design of a research project;
8. process, analyse and critically interpret data gathered and formulate conclusions and recommendations demonstrating awareness of the wider literature.

### **Specific skills**

On successful completion of the course, a student will be able to:

#### **MSc Herbal Medicine**

- 1) engage effectively in advanced academic study and critique of modern and traditional herbal medicine practice drawing on an extensive knowledge base and high level practitioner skills
- 2) explore and explain their clinical reasoning (cognitive and tacit) in the development of treatments for individual patients or specific health conditions across a series of consultations;
- 3) demonstrate and evaluate developed awareness of the interactions that take place in the practitioner-patient relationship by recognising and reframing the sensory information on which it is based;
- 4) review and challenge both modern and traditional concepts and practices in the light of the most recent scientific research, clinical theory and practice application;
- 5) engage effectively in group and individual mentoring and supervision and advance their practitioner knowledge and understanding, utilizing reflexivity through action learning to develop higher level reasoning;
- 6) act autonomously in framing and implementing new knowledge at a professional level;
- 7) undertake an independent research project and present findings in a professional

format that is clear and coherent to publication standards;

8) engage critically in current debates and issues within complementary medicine

### **MSc Chinese Medicine: acupuncture**

On successful completion of the course, a student will be able to:

1) explore and explain their clinical reasoning (cognitive and tacit) in the development of treatments for individual patients or specific health conditions across a series of consultations;

2) demonstrate and evaluate developed awareness of the interactions that take place in the practitioner-patient relationship by recognising and reframing the sensory information on which it is based;

3) review and challenge both modern and traditional concepts and practices in the light of the most recent scientific research, clinical theory and practice application;

4) engage effectively in group and individual mentoring and supervision and advance their practitioner knowledge and understanding, utilizing reflexivity through action learning to develop higher level reasoning;

5) act autonomously in framing and implementing new knowledge at a professional level;

6) undertake an independent research project and present findings in a professional format that is clear and coherent to publication standards;

7) engage critically in current debates and issues within complementary medicine

### **Key transferable skills**

On successful completion of the course, a student will be able to:

1) act with initiative and personal responsibility as a facilitator and mentor within a peer group;

2) show self evaluation skills and the ability to reflect on self and others' participation;

3) manage complex and diverse sources of information effectively;

4) act autonomously in planning, implementing and evaluating tasks in complicated and unpredictable contexts;

- 5) communicate competently to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- 6) demonstrate problem solving abilities involving the application of knowledge and/or via information seeking;
- 7) demonstrate originality in their application of knowledge which is at or informed by the discipline or area of professional practice;
- 8) show autonomy by acting as an independent and self-critical learner, managing requirements and undertaking research tasks with minimum guidance;
- 9) effectively report information, ideas, research and clinical decision making.

### **Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

The teaching and learning strategies which underpin this master's course acknowledge that you will have come to the course as committed practitioners wanting to extend your practice, as well as to take on the generic intellectual skills of higher level critique. Teaching will be grounded in case studies, where you will be drawing on your own experience, and focusing on the processes of your discipline and practitioner research.

Contact time will be spent primarily on critical debate and clinical experience. You will be expected to cover reading and research in your own time at home or in the library. We also recommend that you meet regularly with your fellow class mates. As you check your developing ideas against those of your peers you will be able to see the filters through which you view theory and practice.

A master's degree is challenging and at times arduous. In addition to scheduled classes we would recommend that you will need to do at least 3-4 hours of study for each contact hour.

### **Learning**

The curriculum strategy for the course is to create a learning environment that acknowledges and builds on difference in individual starting points, and that is practice-led. Contact time is used to develop practice skills and to make sense of theory through practical problem-solving, followed by self-directed appraisal. The aim is to create an interactive environment, which is balanced by developing ability to manage learning through reflexive appraisal and goal-setting, with a view to

embedding these skills into professional life. Learning occurs in relation to personal experience, but also from sharing and exploring the perspectives and experience of others.

The teaching and learning strategies built into these courses acknowledge that students will have come to the course to extend their current practise.

A key aspect of modern education is the use of technological resources to enhance learning. The University's virtual learning environment (VLE), Blackboard, is one of the primary ways in which technology is used. As students are expected to adopt skills of autonomy and self-directed learning, it is expected that a proportion of the study will be undertaken both on and off site through advanced utilisation of the Blackboard learning environment.

## **Teaching**

A range of teaching methods including formal lectures, seminars, tutorials, practicals and self-directed learning, facilitated peer-group seminars, individual mentoring, poster and oral presentations will be used. Problem-solving and literature analysis exercises will also be included.

Knowledge is taught through problem-framing and problem-solving. The Course views the student as being at the centre of the learning process and students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning, to further develop skills acquired by their previous study and to further pursue knowledge through active engagement with learning resources provided.

The Course utilises a variety of teaching methods and approaches, including a mixture of formal lectures, clinical encounters, tutorials (student-centred learning activities), facilitated peer-group seminars, individual mentoring, poster and oral presentations. These combined teaching approaches aim to both improve students' knowledge of complementary medicines, as well as helping to develop their critical faculties through an experiential approach. Research skills are developed through the taught module Research Methods, and also through the Research Project modules. In addition, the key communication skills required by any professional therapist are developed throughout the course.

## **Assessment**

The assessment strategy for the CM Masters Scheme reflects the principle that assessment should be appropriate to the situation in which the knowledge, skills and attitudes are eventually to be used. Engagement with the complementary medicine profession and interprofessional agencies is a key aim of the course and much of the assessment is geared to presentation of material at professional, publishable standards. Essential skills in critical thinking, communication, utilising resources effectively, team working and self-management are developed through all assessments. The strategy also addresses the needs of the profession by enabling you to demonstrate clinical competence through clinical practice in the adjustment and creation of appropriate treatment plans for patients with complex illnesses. This second aspect is achieved in holistic assessments which integrate performance and professional attributes within an interdisciplinary framework.

Assessment is in oral or written form, and throughout the course emphasis will be placed on development of both general communication skills and also on the requirements of formal scientific writing. Systematic and consistent referencing will be a requirement. Use of technology is implicit in all work requiring literature exploration, and in the written or oral presentation of work.

Summative assessment of the students' work is based on elements drawn from the whole range of their learning experience. A variety of assessment methods include problem solving assignments, unseen tests, practical work and reports, poster and seminar presentations, dissertation and unseen examinations. The coursework assessment elements are used formatively where possible.

In the MSc research project practical skills will be assessed by the results obtained and their contribution to the overall standard of achievement.

Cognitive skills are summatively assessed by, inter alia, information abstracting and reviewing exercises, problem solving exercises, essays requiring the ability to sustain an argument, and the Research Project report and its oral defence. Poster and seminar presentations provide scope for both peer assessment and immediate formative feedback.

## Course structure

This section shows the core and course specific modules and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits over a long-year. Part-time may be between two and five years.

<b>Credit Level 7</b>				
Module code	Module title	Status	UK credit	ECT S
FCMR734	Researching Contemporary Issues in CM	Core	40	20
FCMM790	Clinical Reasoning	Core	40	20
FSL700	Research Methods	Core	20	10
FSL701	Research Project	Core	40	20
for MSc Herbal Medicine Core subject specific module:				
FCMP708	Advanced HM Materia Medica and Therapeutics	Core	40	20
<b>Award available: MSc Herbal Medicine</b>				
for MSc Chinese medicine: Acupuncture Core subject specific module:				
FCMA709	Chinese Medicine: A Living Tradition Course	Core	40	20
<b>Award available: MSc Chinese Medicine: Acupuncture</b>				

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

## Academic regulations

The MSc Herbal Medicine and the MSc Chinese Medicine: Acupuncture, and their intermediate awards operate in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in 2008.

At Level 7 a pass is achieved in a module when the overall mark is greater than, or equal to 50% with at least 40% in the final assessment and any qualifying marks, and/or sets, achieved as detailed in the module handbook.

All students should make sure that they access a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called Essential Westminster, which is available at [westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster](http://westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster). The following regulations should be read in conjunction with Section 18: Modular Framework for Postgraduate Courses and relevant sections of the current Handbook of Academic Regulations, which is available at [westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations](http://westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations)

## **Award**

To qualify for the award of **MSc Herbal Medicine or MSc Chinese Medicine: Acupuncture**, a student must have:

- obtained a minimum of 180 credits at Level 7;
- attempted modules worth no more than 240 credits; and

Note: A first attempt of any module will count as an attempt, and a re-attempt of any module that a student has failed will count as a further, separate attempt. Re-assessment following referral at the first sit will not count as a further separate attempt.

- complied with the CM Scheme Code of Professional Practice.

The University may award:

- a Masters Degree with Merit to a student whose marks average at least 60% across modules at Level 7.
- a Masters Degree with Distinction to a student whose marks average at least 70% across the modules at Level 7.

## **Support for students**

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the Faculty Registry. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at their Faculty. Students can search the entire library

collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books).

The complementary medicine courses of the School of Life Sciences have a subject specific librarian who can provide in-depth training in the use of library resources, including RefWorks. Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

At University level, Services for Students provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The International Office provides particular support for international students. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University.

## **Reference points for the course**

### **Internally**

The course draws upon the mission statement of the University and of the Faculty, and is an integral part of the Faculty Business Plan. It seeks to establish the quality and good practice in teaching and learning that are articulated through the University's policies and quality assurance mechanism.

The following University documents are referred to for guidance in planning and reviewing all courses.

- University of Westminster Mission Statement
- University teaching and learning policies

- University quality assurance handbook and Modular Frameworks
- Handbook of Academic Regulations
- Faculty of Science and Technology Mission Statement
- Faculty of Science and Technology teaching, learning and assessment strategies

## **Externally**

### **QAA and SEEC**

The QAA suggest the EwNI (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) credit level descriptors be used as a point of reference. The South East England Consortium (SEEC) have set out detailed descriptors for knowledge skills and attributes at each academic level that have been adopted by the University as good practice.

### **QAA Subject benchmarks**

Whilst specific subject benchmarks for Complementary Medicine have not yet been finalised by the QAA we have sought guidance from and made reference to the QAA honours degree subject benchmark for Health Studies (2008) and masters degree subject benchmark for Medicine (2002). In addition reference has been made to the QAA Masters Degree Characteristics (2009) for specific guidance of M-Level academic outcomes. Members of academic staff are involved in the preparation of subject specific benchmarks, and it is the intention of the School and the University to work within these guidelines once they are established.

## **Professional body accreditation**

The National Institute of Medical Herbalists and the British Acupuncture Accreditation Board have been consulted with a view to recognising elements of the course as professional CPD.

## **Quality management and enhancement**

### **Course management**

The course is managed on a day-to-day basis by the Communication and Dissemination Group which consists of the Head of the Department, all the course

leaders and core theme leaders. This group meets monthly to monitor the provision and ensure issues raised by students, staff and the university are disseminated, discussed and actioned. This management structure is supported by the module leaders and lecturers.

The Faculty offers a range of undergraduate, postgraduate and short courses in the areas of complementary medicine as well as biomedical science, human and health science and molecular & applied science, all of which are the overall responsibility of the Dean of Faculty, Prof. Jane Lewis.

### **Course approval, monitoring and review**

The MSc CM Scheme has been formulated through the University's Validation procedure commencing with approval at First Filter in July 2009, with the Curriculum and Assessment Enhancement Workshop in Oct 2009 and the Validation Review panel during 2010. The Review and Validation Panels include internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia, professions and industry to ensure the academic integrity, comparability of the course to those offered in other Universities and the relevance to employers. Periodic course review helps to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

Annual monitoring each year ensures that the courses are running effectively and that issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff consider the outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement, the reports from External Examiners as well as results from the student surveys, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The University audits this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council of the University, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

### **Student involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement**

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee. Student

representatives will be elected to sit on the Committee to represent the views of their peer group in various discussions. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the Course Committee.

All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback Questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey, which elicits feedback from students about their course and University experience.

Students meet with review panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course committees is part of the Faculty's' quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course: please contact the course leader:

MSc Herbal Medicine - Dr Julia Green ([J.Green3@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:J.Green3@westminster.ac.uk) )

MSc Chinese Medicine - Acupuncture Jane Wilson

([J.Wilson01@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:J.Wilson01@westminster.ac.uk) )

**Please note:** This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with the Course Handbook provided to students and Module Handbooks, which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

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