

Postgraduate Diploma Gynaecology for Practitioners with a Special Interest (PwSI) Postgraduate Programme Specification

Academic Year:	2025/26
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Delivery Organisation:	The Ridge Education Ltd.
Subject Benchmark:	Health Studies (QAA 2019)
Pathways Available:	Gynaecology
Target Awards:	Postgraduate Diploma; [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Level 7]
Mode of Study:	Part-time, distance learning with some attendance
Programme duration:	Between 18 months and 36 months

Please note: The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when you accept an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford. [View our Student Contract for further details.](#)

Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

Minor Modifications Schedule

- (v1) July 2023: Annual changes for 2023/24 academic year
- (v2) February 2026: Annual changes for 2025/26 academic year

Introduction

The Postgraduate Certificate Gynaecology for Practitioners with a Special Interest programme (PwSI) is taught and run by advanced clinicians, allied health professionals and service improvement specialists. The PwSI diploma programme is managed by The Ridge Education Ltd and graduates receive a University of Bradford award.

The part-time Diploma programme is offered, containing a large element of work-based learning. Attendance is only required for a total of eight study days on five separate occasions throughout the 18 months, so each programme is accessible to students nationally. The programme enables qualified practitioners to gain a formally recognised standard of competence in **Gynaecology** as a Special Interest (also known as Advanced or Extended Roles in these areas). Students who successfully complete all modules gain the Postgraduate Diploma.

Programme Overview

During the PwSI programme the emphasis is on critical thinking, reflective learning and the practice of evidence-based medicine. Students are enabled to directly apply their learning to their current and future roles. While we recommend students complete a full course of study leading

to an award, any module can be selected as a standalone if they do not wish to complete the whole programme.

The programme structure is specifically designed to encourage the development of the specialist practitioner role, by encouraging collaborative clinical work-based training between the practitioner and the clinical mentor. The issues of ethics and informed consent are an integrated part of the students' daily practice, and it is implicit in all the modules that there is conformity to the usual standards and guidelines in these areas.

On successful completion of the core modules students will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma and will have greater breadth of knowledge of their Special Interest area.

Working together in partnership

The Ridge Medical Practice - Ridge Education Limited is the host organisation for the PwSI programme. They provide the premises, recruit and support teaching staff, and undertake the administration and management of the courses. Admissions are undertaken by the partner although administered formally by the university. Teaching is carried out by practising subject specialists recruited by staff at Ridge Education Ltd but subject to approval by the university.

The programmes fall under the collaborative provision regulations, so although they are taught wholly by the external partner, quality assurance and assessment are governed by University of Bradford regulations. The university is responsible for areas such as the coordination of assessment procedures, including committees and exam boards, and the continual validation of the programmes to local and national standards. The Faculty of Health and Social Care, School of Nursing, Public Health and Healthcare Leadership provides academic and administrative support.

Certificate and Diploma Programme Aims

The programme has a distinct set of aims as they relate to the Special Interest area and a shared set of Learning Outcomes for PwSI as a whole. The aims and Learning Outcomes are mapped to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ, 2014) at Level 7.

Gynaecology Programme Aims

The Gynaecology for Practitioners with a Special Interest programme is intended to:

- A1 develop the specialist knowledge and skills to enable primary care practitioners to practice gynaecology at a higher level and to deal with complex clinical situations systematically;
- A2 develop a thorough understanding of the role and responsibilities of consultant specialists and the multidisciplinary team in secondary care and to establish appropriate relationships with these professionals;
- A3 position practitioners at the forefront of their area of gynaecological care to develop and establish the most appropriate integrated care pathways between primary and secondary care for the patient within current NHS guidelines;
- A4 engage practitioners in life-long learning through the enhancement of key skills, a thorough knowledge of critical appraisal and reflective practice;
- A5 provide practitioners with a special interest with transferable nationally recognised training in gynaecology

Programme Learning Outcomes (LOs)

For the award of the Postgraduate Certificate students will have studied ONE clinical module and so will have developed expertise in a single area of their Special Interest.

For the award of the Postgraduate Diploma students will have studied THREE clinical modules and will have achieved a wider specialist expertise.

To be eligible for a named FHEQ Level 7 Certificate or Diploma award in their area of Special Interest, students will be able to:

- P1 Critically analyse and apply current knowledge and skills to enable practitioners to work independently and manage patients in their care and to deal with complex clinical situations systematically;
- P2 Contribute to the development of clinical protocols and practice within the care pathway linking primary and secondary care in line with current recommendations;
- P3 Make strategic and appropriate clinical decisions within the relevant care pathway at a higher level with regard to the diagnosis, management, treatment and referral of patients;
- P4 Communicate complex clinical conclusions clearly and effectively to patients and the clinical team;
- P5 Evaluate the PwSI role, and its implications for the whole patient pathway and current techniques for improving the delivery of patient care;
- P6 Act autonomously and collaboratively in a multidisciplinary context.

Certificate and Diploma Curriculum

The service improvement module – PSI7001-C Applied Methodologies – can be taken alongside one or more of the other modules, over a maximum period of 18 months.

Code	Module Title	Credit	Level	Period	Selection
PSI7001-C	Applied Methodologies	30	7	Full Year	Core
PSI7005-C	Abnormal Uterine Bleeding	30	7	Half Year	Option
PSI7006-C	Family Planning, Sexual Health and Cervical Pathology	30	7	Half Year	Option
PSI7007-C	Menopausal Issues, Gynaecological Cancers, Incontinence and Prolapse	30	7	Half Year	Option

Each of the three clinical modules on the PwSI programmes lasts six months. For students who wish to exit at Certificate level they can choose to complete only one clinical module from the options. Certificate students therefore complete one clinical module and the service improvement module. To achieve the Diploma all modules are compulsory (core).

Students will be eligible to exit with the award of Postgraduate Certificate in Gynaecology for Practitioners with a Special Interest if they have successfully completed at least 60 credits including PSI7001-C and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Students will be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Gynaecology for Practitioners with a Special Interest if they have successfully completed at least 120 credits and achieved the award learning outcomes.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

Diploma Programme

The Postgraduate Diploma programme is run and delivered by The Ridge Education Ltd and the award is made through the University of Bradford. A key feature of the programme is the development of clinical competence in a work environment.

A variety of teaching methods are employed on the programmes, to enable students to fulfil the varied modular learning outcomes. The learning within the programmes is gained through:

- 1 **Direct tuition:** this occurs at the beginning of each module. Tutors are available by email if required during attachment periods to handle learning queries. Tutors are advanced clinical practitioners, allied health professionals and service improvement specialists.
- 2 **Work-based learning:** this forms the central part of the programme of study in the form of clinical attachments. Each module should contain at least 14 sessions of direct clinical practice in a secondary care environment. This learning is undertaken on attachment in the locality, under the supervision of a clinical mentor. Students will approach the mentor in the first instance: they must be a registered advanced clinician in the Special Interest area who has teaching experience. The clinical mentor will receive a Mentor Guide including advice and support from the programme management team in fulfilling the role of mentor.
- 3 **Guided reading (given by tutor and mentor):** this complements the attachment and enables students to fulfil the theoretical background necessary for their attachment activities and prepares them for their written and presentational assignments.
- 4 **E-learning:** the virtual learning environment gives access to the peer group and tutors during attachment, facilitating learning through clinical discussion, as well as providing support.
- 5 **Local research and application:** The Applied Methodologies module involves working within the healthcare community and applying two different service improvement methodologies: a clinical audit and a patient pathway analysis. Learning takes place during the activities of researching and reading information, planning, preparation and application of these.

Programme Learning Outcomes 1, 3, and 6 will be developed through lectures, seminars and workshops on the teaching/assessment days; a programme manual; practical engagement with patients in the hospital setting under the supervision and mentorship of the consultant; reflective discussion with the mentor; reflective learning through case study preparation and clinical learning diary recording; the application of learning with patients in general practice and will be supported by guided reading. Outcomes 2 and 5 will be developed through the Applied Methodologies module. Outcomes 3 and 4 will be developed through practical engagement with patients in the hospital setting as well as their own practice under the supervision and mentorship of the consultant and through reflective discussion with the mentor on these and other occasions. Outcomes 4, 5 and 6 will be developed throughout the programme in all modules.

Optionality is available to students studying for the Certificate in their choice of modules. It is available to students studying for the Diploma in the choice of cases for the written reflective studies and the presentations.

Assessment Strategy

Students will be provided with a detailed student handbook, containing guidance, marking criteria and reading lists. Assessment is designed to enable students to have a rounded measurement of the skills needed for their role in the healthcare community.

Clinical competence is verified through mentor signature after observation and discussion during the attachment periods.

All assessments are of an applied nature. In the clinical modules assessment is in the form of the verification of competence and key skills as observed by the mentor. This is supported by a learning diary which demonstrates both breadth of learning and experience. Reflective case studies are undertaken and presented. These address patients whom students have seen and managed clinically. Students are required to prepare and present a critical appraisal of a piece of published research to the student group.

In the Applied Methodologies module students submit a clinical audit and a patient pathway analysis in order to demonstrate their engagement with quality improvement procedures in patient care.

Students submit their work electronically and receive a summative numerical mark and written feedback. A draft may be sent to tutors for formative assessment. Students are awarded a numerical mark and receive written and verbal feedback.

Students will be provided with a detailed student handbook, containing guidance, marking criteria and reading lists. Assessment is designed to enable students to have a rounded measurement of the skills needed for their role in the healthcare community.

Assessment Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations published on the University's website (<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/about/legal-and-governance/governance/regulations/>) for postgraduate courses (Regulation 9) with variance from the regulation as outlined below and documented in the Variance Register:

Variance from 4.2 - Students must achieve at least the pass mark stated in the module descriptor for all individual components within each module, to pass all modules on the programme.

Certificate/Diploma Admission Requirements

The standard entry requirements for the programme are as follows:

- Students must be a suitably qualified registered primary or secondary care practitioner, demonstrating successful study skills at level 6, with at least two years relevant work experience in the UK;
- Students must obtain written support from a registered advanced clinician or clinician with extended roles in Gynaecology for mentorship and the provision of a clinical attachment;
- Students must produce evidence of relevant registered qualification, currency and academic qualifications:
- As the assessment elements of the Programme require a substantial amount of written work at FHEQ level 7, in accordance with regulations from the University of Bradford non-native speakers require an IELTS rating of at least 6.5, with no sub-test lower than 5.5, or the equivalent score in another recognised English Language test:
<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/international/entry-requirements/>

The University of Bradford welcomes applications from all potential students and most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate's potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this particular programme. Consideration of applications will be based on a combination of formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning in order to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. For more details about the University Recognition of Prior Learning procedures visit: <https://www.brad.ac.uk/teaching-quality/prior-learning/>