

Programme Information		
Programme Title	Programme Code	HECoS Code
Health Policy	A3G224 / A3G225	For Registry Use Only

Award	Length of Study	Mode of Study	Entry Point(s)	Total Credits	
				ECTS	CATS
PG Certificate – (Policy Theory, Economics and Public Health) A3G2B	10 months	Part time	Annually in October	30	60
PG Diploma – A3G2D	22 to 23 months	Part time	Annually in October	60	120
MSc – A3G224 / A3G225	25 Months or 37 Months	Part Time	Annually in October	90	180

PG Certificate, PG Diploma and MSc are available as points of entry.

Ownership			
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London	Faculty	Faculty of Medicine
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London	Department	Department of Surgery and Cancer
Associateship	Diploma of Imperial College (DIC) (MSc only)	Main Location(s) of Study	Online
External Reference			
Relevant <a href="#">QAA Benchmark Statement(s)</a> and/or other external reference points		N/A	
<a href="#">FHEQ Level</a>		Level 7 Master's	
<a href="#">EHEA Level</a>		2nd cycle	
External Accreditor(s) (if applicable)			
External Accreditor 1:	N/A		
Collaborative Provision			
Collaborative partner	Collaboration type	Agreement effective date	Agreement expiry date
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Specification Details	
Programme Lead	Colin Bicknell, Erik Mayer
Student cohorts covered by specification	2024-2025
Date of introduction of programme	October 2013.
Date of programme specification/revision	October 2024

### Programme Overview

This part-time programme is designed for people working in the health sector such as Government officials, clinicians and employees of health insurance companies, consulting companies and healthcare industries. It is designed to improve the quality of health policy making (encompassing the holistic dimensions of health including physical, mental and social care) both within the UK and internationally.

As health systems across the world struggle with the escalating costs of healthcare linked to an ageing population and more expensive treatments, health policy making needs to adapt and improve. There is a clear need for more evidence-based, comparative and reflective policy making in healthcare and this programme aims to provide it.

You will have the option of studying for a PG Certificate (A3G2B encompasses modules 1 – 4), a PG Diploma or an MSc at outset.

You will be registered for the award you intend to exit with in the first instance. If for any reason you wish to leave the programme at either the Certificate or Diploma level, that will remain an option for you.

After successful completion of one of the certificates, PG Cert students who want to progress further can opt to take either PG Diploma or the MSc.

Students who opt for the MSc at this stage will complete 4 taught modules (from the alternative PG Certificate) and the 12-month independent research project concurrently, or choose to complete the independent research project during Year 3. If you have successfully completed the PG Diploma you may also return to complete the independent research project within two years, and study this over 12 months annually in October. It may be possible for projects to be carried out partly or wholly at an external organisation and requests will be considered on a case by case basis.

The programme starts with an induction in October with formal teaching commencing according to the timetable that will be made available on Blackboard and shared by the programme team within the induction resources.

### Learning Outcomes

On attaining the Certificate (Policy Theory, Economics and Public Health A3G2B) you will be able to:

- Design literature searches, evaluate the findings and critically appraise literature
- Present in written and oral format, health system performance assessment in terms of health outcomes, responsiveness, equity, financial protection, and efficiency.
- Use the principles of micro-, macro- and behavioural economics to predict and explain the effect of health policy
- Employ persuasive skills to influence policy development and inform policy leaders
- Evaluate the financial sustainability challenges facing developed healthcare systems and assess some of the potential policy solutions
- Analyse significant contemporary public health challenges and controversies in the UK

On attaining the Diploma (consisting of the 8 modules within the Certificate (Policy Theory, Economics and Public Health) you will be able to:

- Design literature searches, evaluate the findings and critically appraise literature
- Present in written and oral format, health system performance assessment in terms of health outcomes, responsiveness, equity, financial protection, and efficiency.

- Use the principles of micro-, macro- and behavioural economics to predict and explain the effect of health policy
- Employ persuasive skills to influence policy development and inform policy leaders
- Evaluate the financial sustainability challenges facing developed healthcare systems and assess some of the potential policy solutions
- Analyse significant contemporary public health challenges and controversies in the UK
- Apply different theoretical models of innovation and evaluate the reasons why some innovations succeed while others fail and how health policy makers can support and foster innovation.
- Evaluate the merits and disadvantages of major forms of healthcare provider organisations
- Evaluate specific proposed improvements in healthcare delivery on the patient safety and quality agenda of healthcare systems and what leadership is required

On attaining the MSc (In addition to the learning outcomes of the diploma) you will also be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical awareness of current problems, relevant approaches and best practices relative to a dissertation topic and key study themes.
- Plan, justify and evaluate an evidence-based research methodology approach to address the dissertation topic
- Select, synthesise and critically analyse evidence, data sets, information and arguments from a diversity of sources, including publications informed by recent research developments
- Address and consider the importance of ethical matters in research
- Illustrate originality in the application of knowledge relative to the dissertation topic by proposing new hypotheses and generating recommendations for actions.
- Convey clear ideas through well-supported arguments, and communicate conclusions effectively to both specialist and non-specialist audiences
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The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/education/our-graduates/>

#### Entry Requirements

Academic Requirement	Normally we require you to hold a 2:1 UK Bachelor's Degree with Honours in a healthcare related subject, or management/policy related subject and/or a medical degree or equivalent (or a comparable qualification recognised by the College).
Non-academic Requirements	Normally, we require you to have undertaken one year's practical experience in the health sector
English Language Requirement	<a href="#">Higher requirement</a> We require you to complete IELTS score of 7.0 overall (minimum 6.5 in all elements).
Admissions Test/Interview	If you do not meet the academic requirements above but have substantial relevant industry experience you may be admitted following completion of a 'Special Qualifying Exam' (SQE)

The programme's competency standards documents are available from the department.

#### Learning & Teaching Approach

## Learning and Teaching Delivery Methods

The course will employ an online learning approach with a mix of asynchronous and synchronous learning and assessment activities. Each module will have a unique blend of teaching and learning activities, depending on the content.

### Recorded presentations

This is one of several methods of delivering learning and teaching to communicate the theoretical basis of each module and relevant research available. Our presenters are from Imperial and from other national and international universities and schools. This style of learning and teaching is also used by key note speakers to deliver practical, real-life examples of policy design and implementation in practice, so that you are able to relate key theoretical concepts to real-life examples.

### Practical exercises

To embed learning of key concepts we will work with you through practical exercises. For example, in module 2 practical economic exercises will be used to ensure a sound understanding of the theory of economics which is further explored in later assessments.

### Online and group exercises and presentations and Team-based learning

Learning within teams is a useful method of teaching and where useful, we employ methods to problem solve within teams, practically applying the theory learnt within a module. For example, during module 4 we have designed a set of team-based learning problem solving exercises to understand critical analysis of research in public health and the biases and problems associated with studies in this area.

### Overall Workload

Your overall workload consists of weekly online learning sessions and independent learning. While your actual time spent working through content may vary according to the optional modules you choose to study, the following gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the programme. At Imperial, each ECTS credit taken equates to an expected total study time of 25 hours. Therefore, the expected total study time is 187.5 hours per 7.5-ECTS module, for a total of 750 hours for the PGCert, 1500 hours for the PGDip and 2250 hours for the MSc.

We expect that you will spend 15-20% of the time engaging with online content, while the remainder will be comprised of independent study and completion of assignments.

## Assessment Strategy

### Assessment Methods

The programme will utilise a diverse set of assessment methods, including the following:

- Written critical analysis of academic papers
- Practical working examples from economics
- Group presentations
- Oral presentations communicating health policy
- Preparation of briefing papers for ministers
- Mock interviews
- Reflective assessment

Module 1 (Health Systems and Policy) will be assessed with a structured critical evaluation of a health systems academic paper and/or policy guideline. The assessment tests the evaluation of health policy and the understanding of how health system performance can be assessed in terms of health outcomes, responsiveness, equity, financial protection or efficiency by asking you to critique international comparison data between health systems and health policies.

Module 2 (Health Economics and Behavioural Science) will be assessed with a two-part evaluation consisting of a structured problem in which you will be asked to design an economic analysis of a health policy, and a data analysis of health economic data, aligned with the key learning objectives.

Module 3 (Financing Healthcare) will be assessed with a two-part evaluation. A group podcast will be created in small teaching groups on the financial sustainability challenges facing developed healthcare systems and potential policy solutions. An individually written report will evaluate the benefits and disadvantages of a particular method of reimbursing providers and the incentives this creates.

Module 4 (Health and Society) will be assessed with an explainer video describing different kinds of evidence available to assess a given health challenge and by the preparation of a structured group report. Both assessments will test the analysis of a contemporary public health challenge and ensure you are able to compare different types of research evidence, and to critique the uses and abuses of health statistics relating to this public health challenge.

Module 5 (Innovation in Healthcare) will be assessed with a structured report on a chosen innovation. This will comprise a detailed structured analysis of an innovation linked to key principles and all stated learning outcomes in the module. The assignment will test understanding of the process by which an initial idea translates into a marketable innovation, ensure you can explain reasons why this innovation may succeed or fail, consolidate knowledge on the theoretical models of innovation and ultimately show that you can critically appraise the strengths and weaknesses of the new healthcare innovation.

Module 6a (the first of two elective options, Measuring and Improving Performance in Healthcare) will be assessed with a written report to health policy leaders that describes a strategy to design an assessment of performance of a service and how this may be used to improve the service related to your workplace, describing the theoretical evidence underpinning this strategy.

Module 6b (the second of two elective options, Communication and Health Policy) will be assessed with an oral communication/speech to promote a chosen health policy and a written report to health policy leaders that describes a strategy for communication of a policy related to your workplace/interest, describing the theoretical evidence underpinning this strategy. The report should include evaluation of standard communication strategies, including journalism, as well as alternative methods such as social media.

Module 7 (Health Service Delivery) will be assessed with a written policy implementation briefing for a proposed new healthcare delivery model (Chosen according to relevance at time of assessment e.g. online outpatient clinics for secondary care) that will assess the real-world successful application of policy into practice using theoretical knowledge of key factors for successful healthcare delivery. We will offer you the option to choose between three possible titles/questions for the assessment, aligned with different learning outcomes.

Module 8 (Leadership) will be assessed with a reflective written assignment that asks you to critically evaluate your own leadership skills drawing from your experience and module learning during the programme. The final assignment will comprise a series of set question titles to choose that form the basis of, and guide a critical reflective essay. The essay will address chosen core concepts and skills imparted on the module including reflection, self-evaluation synthesis & development.

To obtain the MSc, you will be required to submit a dissertation on your choice of research project, relevant to health and social care policy and practice..

#### Academic Feedback Policy

You will be provided with feedback from each coursework assessment throughout the programme. This feedback will allow you to evaluate your progress throughout the programme. Personal tutors will be able to assist you in this area.

You will receive indicative grades for taught component assignments within 10 working days for short (or coursework) assignments and 20 working days for essay assignments from the assignment deadline.

There are a number of case studies and group work exercises throughout the programme, which are not formally assessed, but which will allow you to receive feedback from group leaders and your peers.

If you are undertaking the MSc, the research project will be assessed at different stages with the academic supervisors providing input into methodologies and interpretation of results.

Dissertation workshops allow you to present your dissertation at different stages and receive feedback, as well one-to-one support available where you will be able to book time to discuss any aspects of your dissertation project.

Imperial's Policy on Academic Feedback and guidance on issuing provisional marks to students is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

#### Re-sit Policy

A failed piece of coursework can be resubmitted on one further occasion. The resubmission deadline is to be agreed with the relevant module leader and Programme Director. If the MSc research project is failed, you may resubmit on one further occasion in the following academic year, with a deadline to be agreed with your project supervisor and the Programme Director. Re-sitting/re-submitting assessments will be capped at the pass mark, according to College policy: [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

#### Mitigating Circumstances Policy

You may be eligible to apply for mitigation if you suffer from serious and unforeseen circumstances during the course of your studies that have adversely affected your ability to complete an assessment task and/or performance in a piece of assessment.

The College Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/exams-and-assessment/)

#### Additional Programme Costs

This section should outline any additional costs relevant to this programme which are not included in students' tuition fees.

Description	Mandatory/Optional	Approximate cost
N/A	N/A	N/A

Programme Structure1					
Year 1 – FHEQ Level 7 You will study all core modules.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group*	Term	Credits
SURG70009	1. Health Systems and Policy	Compulsory		Autumn	7.5
SURG70017	2. Health Economics and Behavioural Science	Compulsory		Autumn - Spring	7.5
SURG70018	3. Financing Healthcare	Compulsory		Spring	7.5
SURG70019	4. Health and Society	Compulsory		Spring - Summer	7.5
Credit Total					30
Year 2 - FHEQ Level 7 You will study all core modules and must choose one elective from Group A.					
Code	Module Title	Core/ Compulsory/ Elective	Group*	Term	Credits
SURG70012	5. Innovation in Healthcare	Compulsory		Autumn	7.5
SURG70020	6a. Measuring and Improving Performance in Healthcare	Elective	A	Summer	7.5
SURG70021	6b. Communication and Health Policy	Elective	A	Autumn - Spring	7.5
SURG70022	7. Health Service Delivery	Compulsory		Spring - Summer	7.5
SURG70015	8. Leadership	Compulsory		Spring - Summer	7.5
SURG70056	9. Dissertation	Core for MSc		Autumn-Summer or Year 3	30
Credit Total					60

\* 'Group' refers to module grouping (e.g. a group of electives from which one/two module(s) must be chosen).

1Core modules are those which serve a fundamental role within the curriculum, and for which achievement of the credits for that module is essential for the achievement of the target award. Core modules must therefore be taken and passed in order to achieve that named award. Compulsory modules are those which are designated as necessary to be taken as part of the programme syllabus. Compulsory modules can be compensated. Elective modules are those which are in the same subject area as the field of study and are offered to students in order to offer an element of choice in the curriculum and from which students are able to select. Elective modules can be compensated.

## Progression and Classification

### **Award and Classification for Postgraduate Students**

#### **Award of a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert)**

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate certificate you must have a minimum of 30 credits at Level 7.

#### **Award of a Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip)**

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate diploma you must have passed modules to the value of no fewer than 60 credits at Level 7.

- and no more than 10 credits as a Compensated Pass

#### **Award of a Masters Degree**

To qualify for the award of a postgraduate degree you must have:

- accumulated credit to the value of no fewer than 90 credits at level 7
- and no more than 15 credits as a Compensated Pass;
- met any specific requirements for an award as outlined in the approved programme specification for that award.
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#### **Classification of Postgraduate Taught Awards**

The College sets the class of Degree that may be awarded as follows:

- Distinction: 70.00% or above
- Merit: 60.00% or above but less than 70.00%.
- Pass: 50.00% or above but less than 60.00%.

For a Masters, your classification will be determined through the Programme Overall Weighted Average and the designated dissertation or final major project module meeting the threshold for the relevant classification band.

Your degree algorithm provides an appropriate and reliable summary of your performance against the programme learning outcomes. It reflects the design, delivery, and structure of your programme without unduly over-emphasising particular aspects.

## Programme Specific Regulations

N/A



## Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available from the department.

The Module Handbook is available from the department.

Imperial's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at:  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/apply/postgraduate-taught/entry-requirements/)

Imperial's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at:  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance)

Imperial's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at:  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations)

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[www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/)

Imperial College London is regulated by the Office for Students (OfS)  
[www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/](http://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/)

This document provides a definitive record of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that you may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This programme specification is primarily intended as a reference point for prospective and current students, academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement, for its assessment by internal and external examiners, and in subsequent monitoring and review.