

Programme Specification

MSc Dietetics (full-time)

PFTZDIETETHM

For students entering in 2027/28

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MSc Dietetics (full-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	To be BDA accredited HCPC regulated (Sept 2025)
Programme Start Dates	
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	BSc & PgDip/MSc Dietetics (pre-registration)

Programme information and content

The MSc Dietetics programme (pre-registration) aims to provide you with the knowledge and skills, professional behaviours and competencies to pursue a career as a registered Dietitian. You will be equipped to deliver evidence-based dietetic care, and innovative public health nutrition initiatives, across a wide range of population groups and working environments. The MSc Dietetics programme prepares graduates to work with patients and service users within clinical settings such the National Health Service and other providers, across the public, private and third sectors, and within industry, research and academia. Graduates are trained to use dietary manipulation and food to treat disease and optimise health, both at individual level as well as at population level in health promotion and in public health nutrition.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc Dietetics (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Demonstrate applicable knowledge and understanding of Dietetics and related subjects in the context of improving and sustaining health as well as treating disease at individual, group and population levels.
2	Critically assess factors that influence food choice and food behaviour utilising transferable skills that underpin dietetic practice to influence stakeholders on issues surrounding diet, health, prevention and treatment of disease.
3	Utilise a range of techniques and technologies to communicate information to a variety of audiences, by demonstrating effective communication, presentational and inter-personal skills.

4	Demonstrate knowledge and practical skills in food science, microbiology, human physiology and biochemistry in the context of food preparation and in relation to safety, nutritional attributes of food and public health nutrition..
5	Integrate a range of diverse evidence-based information, recognising and applying relevant theories, concepts or principles and critically reflect and debate the relationship between theory and practice.
6	Develop personal reflection skills, critical decision-making skills, negotiating and influencing skills to build and sustain professional relationships as an independent practitioner and as a member of a team, in various dietetic practice settings.
7	Demonstrate the ability to study in an independent manner and reflect on the need to take responsibility for their own continuing professional development.
8	Meet the criteria for the HCPC Standards of Proficiency in order to be eligible to apply for registration as a Dietitian.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information			
The programme comprises 240 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory modules as shown below.			
Compulsory modules			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
FBMACL	Advanced Clinical Dietetics	20	M
FBMAPN	Applied Nutrition	20	M
FBMCLD	Clinical Dietetics	20	M
FBMFNT	Nutrition Fundamentals	20	M
FBMFSA	Food Composition and Safety	20	M
FBMIPC	Inclusive Practice and Person-Centered Care	20	M
FBMLSN	Leadership and Sustainable Nutrition	20	M
FBMPLB	Practice-based Learning B	0	M
FBMPLC	Practice-based learning C	0	M
FBMPUC	Public Health Nutrition and Consumer Food Choice	20	M
FBMRES	Research Project in Dietetics	60	M
FBMTEP	Dietetic Theory and Practice	20	M
Part-time or flexible modular arrangements			
The programme is not offered on a part-time or flexible modular arrangement basis.			

Placement opportunities

You will have significant mandatory placement time built into your programme which must be completed to enable you to graduate. These fall within both years of the programme and will require you to travel to the placement site. You must complete a minimum of 1,000 practice placement hours across the course to meet the requirements set by the British Dietetic Association (BDA) and ensure that you have sufficient opportunity to achieve the required practice competencies to become a registered dietitian.

As part of ensuring the safety of students, patients and the public, you will be required to undergo police (Disclosure & Barring Service) and health checks.

Study abroad opportunities

There are no Study Abroad opportunities within this programme.

Optional modules

There are no optional modules in this programme.

Teaching and learning delivery

You will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures, workshops, seminars and tutorials, problem-based activities, practical sessions and simulations in laboratory and clinical suite settings.

Placements across various settings, including clinical and non-clinical sites, are embedded within the programme and are compulsory for the MSc Dietetics award.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

Programme subject to accreditation by the British Dietetic Association (BDA) and regulation by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

To ensure the safety of students, patients and the public, students undertaking the programme will be required to have satisfactory police (Disclosure and Barring Service - DBS) and occupational health clearance. Both DBS and occupational health checks must be completed as part of the enrolment process and be maintained throughout the programme as

an annual update and declaration. The DBS check may require renewal during the programme.

You will be unable to attend experiential learning visits without satisfactory completion of DBS and health checks. Students are required to inform the Department of Food & Nutritional Sciences of any change in circumstances that may affect their ability, or suitability, to continue their studies; this includes circumstances relating to health and conduct.

Students are also expected to maintain behaviours associated with a healthcare professional and must abide by university regulations, the School of Chemistry Food & Pharmacy Fitness to Practise policy and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Proficiency for Dietitians and HCPC Standards of Conduct, Ethics and Performance. Deviation from these standards may lead to the instigation of University Academic Misconduct and/or Fitness to Practise processes.

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a variety of formative and summative competency-based assessments including reports, written exams, poster presentations, practical skills assessments, and a dissertation following a research project (or a systematic review). In line with BDA accreditation requirements, each module must be passed at 50% with a mark of at least 45% in each assessment.

Practice based learning elements of the course, are assessed using the BDA common assessment tool (BDA CAT), and need be passed for HCPC and BDA accreditation purposes.

Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Year 1

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve:

- i. a module mark of at least 50% in all Year 1 taught modules (FBMFNT, FBMTEP, FBMCLD, FBMPUC, FBMAPN and FBMFSA)
- ii. a mark of at least 45% in every assessment of each Part 1 module (FBMFNT, FBMTEP, FBMCLD, FBMPUC, FBMAPN and FBMFSA)

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction
60 - 69% Merit
50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard
0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Master's Degree

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 240 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%
- (iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition, for all classifications for the MSc Dietetics, students must achieve:

- i. a module mark of at least 50% in every module (and a pass for the pass/fail modules FBMPLB and FBMPLC)
- ii. A mark of at least 45% in every assessment (and a pass for pass/fail assessments)

Students who do not meet the programme-specific requirements for the MSc Dietetics described above, but meet the threshold requirements for the award of a Masters, Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate, may be eligible for an exit award (MSc/PGDip/PGCert in Applied Nutrition). Please note that these exit awards do not provide eligibility to register with the HCPC or to practice as a Dietitian.

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 240 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits

AND

Where the dissertation is included in the conditions for the award of a Master's degree, a mark of at least 60% in the dissertation

AND

No marks below 40%.

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 240 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits

AND

No marks below 40%

For Postgraduate Diploma

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Nutrition:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits
- (ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits
- (iii) no credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Nutrition:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

- (i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits
- (ii) No credits with a mark below 40%.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs. For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £50 to £150 a year. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs and others online through the BDA e.g. PENG guide. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per A4 black and white page. Costs may be, on average, £150 per year.

Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions. There may be costs associated with travel and accommodation for practice-based learning for providers that are located geographically further away.

As part of ensuring the safety of students, patients and the public, you will be required to undergo police (Disclosure & Barring Service) and health checks are part of your enrolment (cost £49.50). You will be advised to sign up for the DBS update service at a cost of £16 per year to ensure that your DBS status is updated throughout your time as a student.

The occupational health check is currently carried out free of charge with further costs incurred depending on whether occupational health referral and vaccinations are required.

Costs are indicative and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

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28 July 2026

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