

Thames Valley University



BSc/BSc (Hons)

Nutritional Medicine

Programme Specification

Starting

October, February and June

Mode

Levels 4 and 5 are designed for part-time, supported distance learning. Level 6 comprises distance learning, in-class teaching, practical workshops and in-clinic supervision. Students studying to BSc level are required to attend one long weekend (2 days) and one 5-day in-class workshop. Students wishing to obtain a BSc (Hons) must attend two additional weekend in-class workshops (3 days and 2 days respectively).

Duration

Each of levels 4 and 5 must be completed within a maximum period of two calendar years. You are, however, encouraged to progress at a quicker pace if appropriate. Each student receives their own timetable for submission of assessments, but may submit assessments prior to the deadlines given.

Level 6, BSc and BSc (Hons) requires an additional year in each case.

Location

Ealing Campus

St Mary's Road, Ealing, London W5 5RF

Slough Campus

(facilitated level 6 study)

Wellington Street, Slough, Berkshire
SL1 1YG

Entry Criteria

Applicants will be required to demonstrate their ability to work at academic Level 4. Those who do not hold traditional university entrance qualifications will be required to show how their life/professional/work experiences can demonstrate their ability to work at Level 4. A telephone or in-person interview may be required.

Programme summary

This supported distance learning programme provides the opportunity for full academic progression from Level 4 through to Level 6 in Nutritional Medicine, offered by the Plaskett Nutritional Medicine College (PNMC) at Thames Valley University (TVU). The programme builds a sound knowledge base in the theory and practice of nutritional medicine, underpinned by the concomitant development of basic medical sciences.

The student engages in formative learning in cellular biology, chemistry and physiology, as well as the advanced study of named diseases (pathology), as it relates to the field of practice. Students develop their practitioner skills through clinical practice, monitored and supervised by experienced nutritional therapists.

This programme is attractive to both complete newcomers to healthcare and to individuals who have already trained in other complementary or conventional healthcare areas.

Programme outline

The programme of study consists of supported distance learning study modules, which comprise 120 credits at each level.

Level 4 builds the essential skills, needed for an understanding of nutritional medicine. It marries the study of the philosophies of naturopathic medicine with the study of relevant medical sciences, including cell biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physiology and toxicology.

Level 5 develops skills in naturopathic/nutritional medicine diagnosis, treatment and clinical strategies in order to inform the provision of appropriate and effective patient care. Study of pharmacology and pathophysiology will allow you to understand the treatment of named diseases from both a naturopathic and conventional perspective.

Level 6 (BSc) will enable you to explore the naturopathic, nutritional approach to cancer and provide practical experience of diagnosis, interpretation and development of a nutritional programme, through a series of consultations in clinical situations. It addresses practice management within ethical and regulatory frameworks. Level 6 (BSc (Hons)) will enable you to critically appraise and evaluate the nature of available evidence in support of the practice of nutritional medicine, including both paper-based and electronic resources. You will be supported in developing a proposal to investigate an aspect of nutritional medicine leading to completion of your own research project (dissertation).

Teaching methods

Levels 4 and 5 utilise written study text supplied by the University with audio CDs. You also have access to video lecture material from the termly meetings and tutorials. Level 6 consists mainly of facilitated in-class teaching, monitored and supervised clinical practice, and tutor-supported independent study.

Learning materials

You will be provided with a range of distance learning materials. These include module study guides, which will indicate essential texts, journals, and website addresses. You will also be provided with study texts (folders) and 'side books', some of which have supporting audio CDs. The folders deliver the core learning of each module, and contain learning material, references, appendices and ongoing checkpoint activities (designed for self assessment of progress). The side books are introduced as essential supplements at appropriate stages in the programme, and address the essential underpinning sciences. Lecture notes and student workbooks will be provided to support the facilitated in-class learning in Level 6.

Assessment

At Levels 4 and 5, modules are assessed by both formative and summative assessments.

Learning materials

You will be provided with a module study guide at the start of the programme which will indicate essential texts, journals, and website addresses. Lecture notes and handouts will be available from the programme team.

There are two assessments for this programme.

- For the formative assessment, you will present to the class a critical evaluation of an example of integrated complementary medicine practice in a specific healthcare arena.
- For the summative assessment, you will submit a 3,000-word essay

Student support

The module leaders will provide appropriate support. The Learning Skills Development Scheme (LSDS) will also support you in preparing for assessment.

Career opportunities

Successful completion of this programme provides a Certificate of Personal and Professional Development (CPPD). Both complementary medicine practitioners and non-practitioners will benefit from this programme by developing leadership and change management skills to enable change to occur in the workplace. The programme enhances the skills of complementary medicine practitioners who will be able to explore ways of adapting their skills and techniques to specialist areas.

This module is also one of six modules that lead to the BSc (Hons) Complementary Approaches to Health, and may be appropriate for suitably qualified professionals who wish to progress to an honours degree.



Course enquiries

Tel 020 8280 5408 or 020 8231 5421

To request a prospectus

0800 036 8888

e-mail learning.advice@tvu.ac.uk

www.tvu.ac.uk

Further information

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