

**AECC**  
**University College**  
*Transforming lives  
through Health Sciences*

# MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) Course Specification

**Version 1.0**

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### Record of Modifications

Description of Modification	Date approved	Cohort(s) to which modification applies
Reference to GCC and Privy Council approval added	N/A	September 2020 and thereafter

Title of course: MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Courses, major changes to courses and modifications to courses are approved following consideration through the University College's Course Approval and Review processes or Course and Unit Modification procedure, as appropriate. It is, however, expected that courses change over time, for example because of changes to professional accreditation requirements, in response to feedback from academic staff and students and through annual review processes. Any such changes will be discussed with and communicated to students in an appropriate and timely manner.

### Basic Course Information

Awarding Institution	AECC University College
Final award, title and credits	MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) 180 credits (90 ECTS) level 7
Interim exit awards, titles and credits	MSc Human Sciences (excluding Directed Clinical Encounters and/or Clinical Placement units) 180 credits (90 ECTS) level 7 PGDip Human Sciences 120 Credits (60 ECTS) level 7 PGCert Human Sciences 60 Credits (30 ECTS) level 7
FHEQ level of final award	7
Mode of study	Full-time
Accreditation details	GCC approval/Privy Council Recognition (confirmed 18 June 2020) The MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) degree will seek accreditation by European Council on Chiropractic Education
Standard length of course	2 years
Minimum and maximum periods of study	Minimum 2 years Maximum 3 years
Language of delivery	English
Place of delivery	AECC University College
UCAS code (where applicable)	N/A
HeCOS Code(s)	100241
Date Framework /Course initially validated	February 2020
Date of first intake	September 2020
Version number of this Framework/Course Specification	V 1.0
Date this version approved/intake to which this applies	For September 2020 intake
Author	Mike Kondracki

## Course Overview

### 1. Admissions regulations and entry requirements

The regulations for this Course are the University College's Standard Admission Regulations which may be found from the [Latest Policies](#) webpage. These regulations include the general entry requirements and specific requirements regarding English language.

Applicants would normally be expected to have obtained a first or second class (2:1 or 2:2) BSc (Hons) degree in a relevant health science-based subject. Examples of relevant subjects include (but are not limited to) medicine, nursing, occupational health, osteopathy, physiotherapy, psychology, sports therapy, exercise science, physiology, anatomy or biochemistry. Other, relevant, degrees will be considered on an individual basis.

Applicants who have not completed a vocational health science degree involving clinical sciences education or clinical experience will be required to undertake a preparatory course at the University College in the summer before enrolment. For these applicants, their offer will only be made unconditional when the preparatory course is complete. The preparatory course will also be offered to applicants who have been away from full time education for more than five years but is not compulsory and will not affect their offer. The decision as to whether the preparatory course is required will be made on an application by application basis based on your previous degree and experience.

Applicants who have completed a level 7 qualification may be eligible to apply for aspects of their former education to be recognised towards this degree under the AECC University College Recognition of Prior Learning Policy which can be found on the [Latest Policies](#) webpage.

### 2. Aims of the course

The MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) course aims to prepare you to join the chiropractic profession by being eligible to register with an appropriate Professional, Statutory, Regulatory Body (PSRB) either in the UK or overseas. To do this the course will utilise the skills you have already acquired from previous education and develop these further to enable you to act as a safe and competent independent clinician with a thorough knowledge of human science as well as well-developed diagnostic and therapeutic skills. The course will develop you to be evidence based and patient centred clinicians with appropriate communication and people skills. In addition, you will develop an understanding of the scientific method and have experience of designing, undertaking, analysing and presenting primary research in the context of modern healthcare. The course will engender lifelong learning and continuing professional development with a view to you achieving the highest professional standards of clinical care.

Throughout the course you will develop chiropractic clinical skills and other skills through workshops and supervised interactions with patients during placement. The course also aims to develop a holistic view of healthcare so that you able to advise patients on a variety of public health related matters.

Subject to General Chiropractic Council (GCC) accreditation, those who successfully complete the MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) will be eligible to apply for GCC registration and practice in the UK (GCC & Privy Council approval pending). Graduates wishing to work in other countries are advised to check the requirements for their country. Only the qualification MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) will be recognised by PSRBs for professional registration.

### 3. Intended Learning Outcomes

#### Subject Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- A1 The basis and principles of chiropractic in a contemporary context.
- A2 The place of evidence-informed practice in contemporary health care.
- A3 The range of conditions that present to chiropractors as independent primary contact practitioners, the nature and impact of their physical, psychological and social aspects.
- A4 Selected drug actions appropriate to the management or co-management of musculoskeletal conditions and patients who present to chiropractors.
- A5 The context and nature of chiropractic as a regulated profession in the UK, and the duties of chiropractors as registered primary healthcare professionals.
- A6 The legal, moral and ethical responsibilities involved in protecting and promoting the health of individual patients, their dependents and the public- including vulnerable groups.
- A7 The different methods of research, data collection & analysis available to clinical researchers, related ethical and governance issues and the ways in which the outcomes of research are transferred to practice.

#### Intellectual Skills

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to:

- B1 Identify their own learning needs, plan their own learning and development and evaluate its effectiveness, required for continuing professional development.
- B2 Critically appraise relevant studies as reported in the chiropractic, medical and scientific literature and appropriately apply findings from the literature to answer questions raised by specific clinical problems.
- B3 Formulate a plan for the appropriate assessment, treatment and management of patients, according to established principles and best evidence, in partnership with the patient and other health professionals as appropriate.
- B4 Make sound clinical judgments in the absence of complete data, assess and recognise the severity of a clinical presentation and the need for immediate emergency care and appraise and recommend appropriate strategies for a range of ethical dilemmas that might affect chiropractors.
- B5 Acquire, assess and integrate new knowledge, demonstrating originality in the application of knowledge.
- B6 Learn to adapt to changing circumstances and demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems to ensure that patients receive the highest level of professional care.
- B7 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge with critical evaluation and insight of emerging contemporaneous knowledge.
- B8 Undertake data collection, analysis & presentation in a way contiguous with the wider scientific community.

#### Practical Skills

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to:

- C1 Competently and confidently take and record a patient's medical history using appropriate methods to draw out the necessary information.
- C2 Perform and interpret a range of diagnostic procedures, appropriate to the conditions that commonly present to chiropractors as well as those that may mimic musculoskeletal complaints, and measure and record the findings.

### 3. Intended Learning Outcomes

- C3 Perform a wide range of therapeutic psychomotor and condition management skills, selecting and applying each of them to meet the needs of individual patients, utilising the best available evidence and/or patient preferences, and managing patients in a manner that is in consonance with ethical professional practice.
- C4 Communicate competently and confidently with patients, their relatives or other carers and colleagues from the medical and other professions and keep accurate, attributable, legible and complete clinical records, which are representative of the interaction with the patient.
- C5 Use tools such as clinical audit and adverse incident reporting as a means of quality improvement in their practice.
- C6 Provide basic first aid and life support including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and/or directing other team members to carry out resuscitation.

#### Transferable skills

Having successfully completed this course students will be able to:

- D1 Communicate clearly, sensitively and effectively with patients and others, by listening, sharing and responding, regardless of individual differences and provide explanation, advice, reassurance and support.
- D2 Manage time, prioritise tasks, exercise initiative and work autonomously when necessary and appropriate.
- D3 Make effective use of computers and other information systems, including storing and retrieving information and access these sources to use the information in relation to patient care, health promotion, giving advice and information to patients and for research and education.
- D4 Understand the importance of lifelong and independent learning required for continuing professional development, including the demonstration of intellectual progression with a professional development portfolio containing reflections, achievements and learning needs.
- D5 Function effectively as a mentor and teacher including contributing to the appraisal, assessment and review of colleagues and giving effective, constructive feedback to junior colleagues.
- D6 Understand and respect the roles and expertise of other healthcare professionals in the context of working and learning in a multi-disciplinary approach, seeking their advice when necessary.
- D7 Work with colleagues, and not in isolation from them, in ways that best serve the interests of patients, passing on information and handing over care, demonstrating flexibility, adaptability and a problem-solving approach.
- D8 Continually and systematically reflect on practice and, whenever necessary, translate that reflection into action, using improvement techniques and audit appropriately, especially in complex and unpredictable situations.
- D9 Recognise and work within the limits of their own personal and professional knowledge, skills and experience and seek help from colleagues and others when necessary.
- D10 Effectively apply research methods to design, carry out and write-up primary scientific research.

### Course Structure

#### 4. Outline of course content

This course is designed over two calendar years with four semesters of study and approximately 80 weeks of contact.

Compulsory units at level 7 include:

- Clinical Reasoning

#### 4. Outline of course content

- Clinical Skills
- Directed Clinical Encounters
- Clinical Placement
- Dissertation
- Research Methods in Health Sciences
- Professional & Ethical Practice

Optional units at level 7 include:

- Marketing & Small Business Management
- Research Informed Practice

The MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) course is designed to meet the standards required for accreditation with the GCC and European Council on Chiropractic Education (ECCE). This is an intensive course of study in which self-directed learning is necessary to complement your time spent in class. The course will focus on your development of the key competencies required for safe and effective clinical practice which will be built upon the knowledge you have acquired through previous study.

Students will be exposed to normal and abnormal states of health, diagnosis and management through case-based learning, whilst clinical skills will be developed and refined through practical workshops. Students will come to view patients through the biopsychosocial model utilising evidence-based methods of care developing as reflective and critical independent practitioners. Students will develop key skills in research planning, conduct and interpretation, clinical audit and business management.

Key to your development on this course is the time you spend working with patients. From the start of the MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) you will be required to work in the AECC University College clinical environments, initially as an observer and over time taking on more responsibility. Exposure to the clinical environment will also aid your development of ethical decision making and professional practice.

Students who successfully complete the MSc Chiropractic (graduate Entry), including all 0 credit units will be eligible to apply for registration with the General Chiropractic Council.

#### 5. Placements, work-based learning or other special features of the course

Throughout the first year of the course you will engage in directed clinical encounters. This means you will observe other students and clinicians in the clinical environment and begin to apply knowledge and skills learnt in the classroom to patients in the clinical setting. Then from the start of the second year you will take on the role of a chiropractic intern within the Clinical Placement unit in the AECC University College clinic and manage your own patients under the supervision of qualified chiropractors. This compulsory clinical placement lasts for 52 weeks (with allocated leave periods) during which time you are expected to complete the assessment of 40 new patients, the completion of 350 clinical encounters (such as treatment sessions or exercise supervision) and at least 2 community outreach events. Further information about the clinical placement is available in the placement handbook. Completion of the Directed Clinical Encounters and Clinical Placement units are mandatory to exit with the qualification of MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) and be eligible to apply for registration with the GCC.

Inter professional collaboration is encouraged and students will be encouraged to spend time in other clinical settings, in an observational capacity, alongside colleagues from the chiropractic and allied health professions in order to help contextualise the role of chiropractors within the wider community. AECC University College will provide a number of these inter professional opportunities and will support students to initiate their own contacts.

## 6. Course structure, levels, units credit and award

The level of study, units and credits required for the course and for final and exit awards are set out in the **course diagram** provided as [Appendix 1](#).

The **learning outcomes mapping document** at [Appendix 2](#) shows the relationship between ILOs for units and the overarching ILOs of the course.

A course delivery diagram is provided in [Appendix 3](#) outlining when units are delivered over the duration of the course.

## Learning, Teaching and Assessment

### 7. Learning and teaching strategies and methods

From the late 1990's, there has been a consistent trend in medical education, and in the education of allied professions, to rely on competencies or outcomes to inform curriculum development. This means that students will need to meet certain standards of clinical competency and demonstrate their competence as well as their academic knowledge to be eligible to graduate and apply to join the professional register for chiropractic in the UK.

To facilitate this learning the School of Chiropractic utilises a number of educational methods to ensure students fulfil the requirements of the course and progress to the workplace as safe, competent and confident chiropractors. Central to your education will be the need for self-directed learning and reflective practice where you will be expected to identify areas of weakness in your own knowledge base and spend time outside of classes to address these. You will be instructed using methods such as problem and case-based learning, critical self-appraisal and Evidence Based Medicine within groups and as independent learners. Academic staff will guide your learning, give feedback on the development of your skills and facilitate a community of practice where you will learn together and from peers, senior colleagues, academic and clinical staff.

### 8. Assessment strategies and methods

The assessments used in the MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) course reflect the development of scientific and clinical knowledge as well as research and clinical skills. A variety of formative and summative assessments will be employed throughout your studies to help guide your development and self-reflection as well as ensuring you have met the standards required for clinical practice. Written assessments focus on your acquisition of knowledge and clinical experience whilst practical assessments focus on your development of clinical skills.

The assessment methods utilised on the course include:

- Written examinations
- Portfolio
- Coursework
- Practical skills assessments including:
  - Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)
  - Objective structured long examination record (OSLER)
  - Direct observation of procedural skill (DOP)
  - Assessment of clinical competence (ACC)

Feedback will be given to aid your development throughout the course. Formative feedback is given regularly and may take the form of oral comments in practical skills classes to allow you to immediately reflect on and refine the skill being learnt. Further feedback is provided through audience feedback software in class, verbal feedback in group based learning and written feedback in the clinical setting.

## 8. Assessment strategies and methods

Summative feedback is provided for all students on coursework and practical assessments. Feedback on end of semester written assessments will be provided automatically for all unsuccessful candidates and for successful candidates upon request.

## 9. Learning hours

AECC University College courses are composed of units of study, which are assigned a credit value indicating the amount of learning undertaken. 20 credits is the equivalent of 200 student study hours, including lectures, seminars, assessment and independent study. 20 University credits are equivalent to 10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits.

In addition to this the MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) employs 0 credit units for Directed Clinical Encounters and Clinical Placement. These units are where you will apply the theoretical knowledge and practical skills acquired through study with patients in the clinical environment. Whilst these units do not carry a credit weighting it is still a requirement for successful completion of the course and the award of the MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) degree that you pass these units. The time spent either in the learning or clinical environment associated with each unit is expected to be 300 hours for Directed Clinical Encounters (this unit allows extra hours for attendance across a variety of classes within the MChiro course, to address any identified personal learning needs) and 800 hours for Clinical Placement.

## 10. Staff delivering the course

Students will be taught by AECC University College academic staff and qualified professional practitioners with relevant expertise.

## 11. Progression and assessment regulations

The regulations for this course are the University College's Standard Assessment Regulations which may be found from the [Latest Policies webpage](#). Please refer to section 25.

## 12. Additional costs

Additional costs are mandatory or optional costs which students will need to meet in order to fully participate in and complete their course. Students will need to budget for these costs separately as they are not included in the overall Tuition Fee they are charged. Information about additional costs applying to students on this course can be found in the document **Important information to take into account when choosing your course** available from the [Latest Policies webpage](#).

[Indicative anticipated additional costs](#) include:

- Purchase of a diagnostic kit (approximate cost £300 - £550 depending on the kit option which is chosen). These are not required to be purchased before joining the course.
- Purchase of clinic jacket (approximate cost £30) (usually a minimum of two is advised). These are not required to be purchased before joining the course.
- There are no photocopying or printing credits provided apart from in the clinic if copying or printing for patient records is required.
- Should a student fail any units and be offered an opportunity to repeat a unit or units there will be a fee payable as set out below (fees quoted at 2018-19 prices):
  - Home / EU students: £1,540 per unit (20 credits)
  - Overseas students / self-funded students: £2,350 per unit (20 credits)
- UK-domiciled applicants are required to undergo an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (once a student has applied the University College will guide them through the process). Applicants must meet the costs of this check (£49 in 2019). Non-UK domiciled applicants are required to provide a satisfactory National Police check. Applicants must meet the costs of this check, which will vary from country to country.

### 13. Methods for evaluating the quality of learning and teaching

Students have the opportunity to engage in the quality assurance and enhancement of their courses in a number of ways, which may include:

- Completing student surveys within and at the completion of the academic year to give feedback on individual units and on the course as a whole
- Taking part in focus groups as arranged
- Seeking nomination as a Student Union representative OR engaging with these elected student representatives
- Serving as a student representative on Evaluation panels for course approval/review
- Taking part in course approval or professional body meetings by joining a group of students to meet with the panel
- Taking part in meetings with the external examiner(s) for the course (such meetings may take place virtually where courses are part-time)

The ways in which the quality of the University College's courses are monitored and assured checked, both inside and outside the institution, are:

- Annual monitoring of units and courses
- Periodic Course review, at least every six years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- Oversight by Academic Standards and Quality Committee (which includes student representation), reporting to Academic Board
- Professional body accreditation and annual reports to these bodies [
- External Quality Assurance Reviews and annual monitoring

### 14. Inclusivity statement

AECC University College is committed to being an institution where students and staff from all backgrounds can flourish. AECC University College recognises the importance of equality of opportunity and promoting diversity, in accordance with our Dignity Diversity and Equality Policy. We are committed to a working and learning environment that is free from physical, verbal and non-verbal harassment and bullying of individuals on any grounds, and where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, within a positive and satisfying learning and working environment.

AECC University College seeks to ensure that all students admitted to our courses have the opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. The interests of students with protected characteristics will be taken into consideration and reasonable adjustments will be made provided that these do not compromise academic or professional standards as expressed through the learning outcomes.

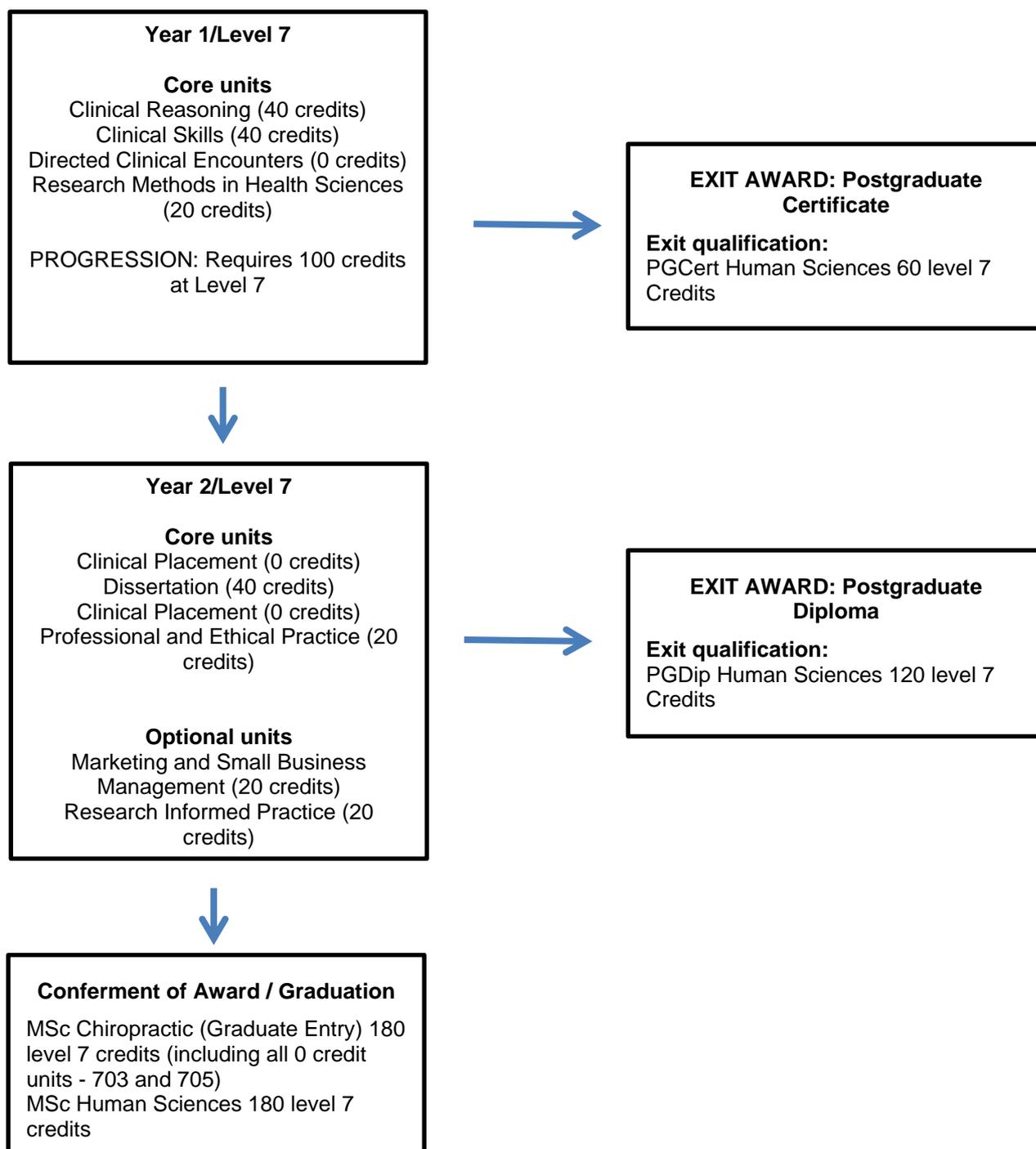
### 15. Reference points including QAA Benchmark statements

- UK Quality Code for Higher Education: The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (October 2014)
- QAA Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree (September 2015).
- General Chiropractic Council (GCC) Education Standards (September 2017)
- European Council on Chiropractic Education' (ECCE) Accreditation Procedures and Standards in First Qualification Chiropractic Education and Training

## **16. Regulatory & policy framework**

The course conforms fully with the University College's Academic Regulations and Policies for Taught Courses.

## Appendix 1: Course Diagram MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry)



## Appendix 2: Learning outcomes mapping document template

This table shows where a learning outcome referenced in the course specification may be demonstrated by successful completion of a unit.

Unit Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10	
Clinical Reasoning		X	X	X					X	X	X					X	X	X				X					X					
Clinical Skills	X		X			X		X		X	X		X	X			X	X	X	X		X			X		X		X			
Directed Clinical Encounters								X	X	X	X					X	X	X	X			X	X		X		X	X	X	X		
Research Methods in Clinical Sciences		X				X	X		X			X		X	X			X						X							X	
Clinical Placement		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dissertation							X			X		X		X	X					X	X		X								X	
Professional & Ethical Practice	X				X	X												X	X			X		X			X					

### Appendix 3: Indicative MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) Delivery Plan

Year One			
	Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer
	Clinical Reasoning		Chiropractic Placement
	Clinical Skills		
		Research Methods in Health Sciences	
	Directed Clinical Encounters		
Year Two			
	Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer
	Dissertation		
	Professional and Ethical Practice		
	Marketing and Small Business Management		
	Research Informed Practice		
	Chiropractic Placement		
	Core unit		
	Optional unit		

## Appendix 4: Course summary

### Course title: MSc Chiropractic (Graduate-Entry)

Unit details			Core/ Option	Pre/ co requisite units	No of credits (level in brackets)	Assessment Element Weightings (%)*						Estimated learning hours		
Number	Title	Version no.				Exam 1	Exam 2	Cwk 1	Cwk 2	Prac 1	Prac 2	scheduled contact	Directed non- contact	self- directed
CHIGE 701	Clinical Reasoning		Core		40	P/F				P/F		96	104	200
CHIGE 702	Clinical Skills		Core		40			100		P/F		144	80	76
CHIGE 703	Directed Clinical Encounters		Core		0			P/F		P/F		96	80	120
CHIGE 704	Research Methods in Clinical Sciences		Core		20			100				36	72	92
CHIGE 705	Clinical Placement		Core		0	P/F		P/F		P/F		130	70	600
CHIGE 706	Dissertation		Core		40			100				12	50	300
403	Professional & Ethical Practice		Core		20	60		40				25	25	130
402	Marketing and Small Business Management		Option		20			100				20	40	100
404	Research Informed Practice		Option		20			60	40			20	40	100
<b>Progression requirements:</b> Requires 100 credits at Level 7 and successful completion of ( <i>Clinic Entrance Qualifying Examination</i> )														
<b>Exit qualifications:</b> MSc Chiropractic (Graduate Entry) 180 credits; MSc Human Sciences (excluding 705 and 707) 180 credits; PGDip Human Sciences 120 Credits; PGCert Human Sciences 60 Credits														

**\*This must be consistent with information provided in each unit specification**

**For classifying assessment elements please use the following categorisations:** **Exam** – written exam. **Coursework** - Written assignment, including essay, Report, Dissertation, Portfolio, Project. **Practical** - Oral assessment and presentation, Practical skills assessment. The total must add up to 100%. Please add additional columns if required

**Scheduled Contact hours** can include any elements listed below but it must be possible to show an audit trail to demonstrate that this is a scheduled activity (for example, session should be on a student or faculty timetable): Lecture, Seminar, Tutorial, Project supervision, Demonstration, Practical classes, Supervised time in studio/workshop, Fieldwork, External visits Total must add up to 200 hours for a 20 credit unit