



## **Important information to consider when choosing your course**

### **MSc Dietetics (pre-registration)**

When students are considering applying for the MSc Dietetics (pre-registration) course they should be aware of the following:

#### **Recruitment Process**

*Helping your application succeed*

##### *Experience*

Experience of interacting with members of the public from a range of backgrounds in different settings is essential when applying to the course. It is important to be able to understand and explain how your experiences relate to the activities and qualities which are required of dietitians. The NHS values are key to the selection process. This is to ensure we recruit the right students with the right values and to ensure the delivery of excellent patient care. All aspects of the interview are aligned with the core values of the NHS constitution.

These NHS values are:

- Working together for patients
- Respect and dignity
- Commitment to quality of care
- Compassion
- Improving lives
- Everyone counts

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/about/our-values/nhs-constitutional-values-hub-0>

For further information on the standards required of students in the allied health professions please take a look at the Health and Care professions code of conduct and ethics.

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-conduct-performance-and-ethics/>

There are many ways you can gain experience - this might be as part of a programme of study or in a paid or voluntary capacity and doesn't always need to be within a care setting. Interacting with people with different life experiences will help you develop a deeper level of understanding of the diversity of the population who access health and social care. In your personal statement please reflect upon your learning from any of these experiences demonstrating an understanding of the dietetic profession and a genuine, reasoned

commitment to study.

Health education England offer range of on-line opportunities to enhance your understanding of careers in healthcare: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

### *Interviews*

If you are shortlisted, we will invite you to an interview day and you should bring a passport or photo driving license with you. We will carry out interviews remotely in partnership with service users to help inform the selection process and the final offers made. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions

### *Professional requirements*

Before enrolling you must fully declare on the forms provided during the admissions process:

- Unfiltered criminal convictions, cautions, reprimands or warnings. For further information on unfiltered offences please see the Disclosure and Barring Service website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service>
- Involvement in disciplinary proceedings during paid or voluntary employment or education establishments
- Involvement with safeguarding proceedings, social services or related organisations
- Enrolment on a health or social work professional course at another University

### **In Addition:**

#### **Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service Criminal Record Check**

- You must undertake an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) criminal record check once you have accepted the offer of a place on the course and prior to enrolment week.
- If you have lived outside of the UK for more than six consecutive months in the last five years you must provide an overseas criminal record check.
- Where your DBS Enhanced Disclosure certificate contains any recorded information that you must present this to the Admissions Manager.

### **Timetable & absence**

The programme is designed to be 45 weeks long in each of the two academic years.

Consequently, the course does not run to standard undergraduate term/semester dates.

Holiday periods and dedicated independent study periods are built in throughout the year.

For the MSc Dietetics (pre-registration) course the pass mark is 50%. Further information is available via the [policies for students](#) section on the virtual learning environment. Any absence required for an extended period should be discussed with the Course Leader

### *Unit referral*

Should a student fail any assessments and be offered an opportunity to repeat a unit or units there will be a fee payable as set out below (fees quoted at 2022-23 prices): \*

Home students: £1,540 per unit (20 credits)

EU/Overseas students: £2,500 per unit (20 credits)

\* If a student is only sitting elements of unit due to exceptional personal circumstances, accepted by the Assessment Board, this is not considered a Repeat Unit and fees do not apply. This may impact maintenance loans from the Student Loan Company and students are advised to contact the Student Finance team on [studentfinance@aecc.ac.uk](mailto:studentfinance@aecc.ac.uk) for further information.

### *Qualification & graduation*

On successful completion of the course students have the option to attend the graduation ceremony. Students choosing to attend must meet the cost of hiring academic dress for the ceremony; wearing of academic dress at the ceremony is compulsory. Academic dress is provided by an external company (in 2022 the hire cost was £38). There are no other charges to the graduate for the graduation ceremony. However, additional tickets for family members and friends are chargeable per head, you will be advised of costs prior to graduation.

You will be provided with transcripts for each year of study along with a diploma supplement and degree certificate upon completion of your course of study. If you require a replacement of any of these documents, there will be a fee payable.

### *Accommodation*

Students are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements while enrolled at the University College. The Student Services team can offer advice and assistance in finding private rented accommodation in the area.

It is recommended that students purchase a tablet or computer/laptop for their personal use, as this will enhance their learning by giving them immediate access to our Virtual Learning

Environment (VLE).

It is recommended students have a good quality Broadband internet connection when studying at home.

### **Practical & clinical placement**

Students will be expected to dress smartly and adhere to the clinic dress code when observing or working with patients in the onsite clinics. The dress code for offsite placements must be observed and in all placement settings students will be expected to maintain high standards of personal hygiene.

Students are expected to attend a minimum of 80% of all practical skills classes. We take registers of attendance at these classes and collate the results regularly

During practical classes students will be expected to practice physical examination and therapy skills using other students in their year group as subjects, and to act as a subject for other students. These are mixed gender groups. You will be required to have physical contact with other students in your cohort.

If you are unable to work with individuals of a different gender for religious or other reasons, please contact the course leader to discuss how reasonable adjustments may be made to the learning environment

Students must complete any mandatory training as a requirement before going on placement.

Practice Placements will incur costs and students need to plan for this in their annual budget. Typically, these costs are for travel and, if necessary, accommodation to access placement. The amount of money involved will depend on the site of the placement, distance from home, and the type and length of placement. Students may claim placement travel expenses, and costs towards any additional accommodation that may be required in order to access placements. You are required to successfully complete 1000 hours of practice placement. Over the two years of the programme you will complete several assessed practice placements. You will need to budget for the additional costs of placement which may include travel and / or accommodation costs.

Currently, the NHS provides some reimbursement of additional placement costs to eligible students through the learning support fund. More information about this can be found at: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/learning-support-fund/about-learning-support-fund>

## **Health & good character**

We expect students on this professionally-based course to maintain professional standards of behaviour at all times, and to act in accordance with the Health and Care Professions Council [Standards of conduct, performance and ethics](#)

### *Occupational Health*

All applicants are invited to an Occupational Health Check, this is to ensure that you are suited to a career in health. If you have any concerns about your medical suitability, you are advised to discuss this with your GP. The link to the questionnaire from NHS Dorset Healthcare will be sent out from us and this forms the basis of the health screening, so it is vital that all questions are answered as fully and honestly as possible.

We invite students to complete an annual questionnaire about their health; if any issues are identified students may not be able to act as subjects in practical classes.

### *Immunisations*

#### VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS for all NHS Courses

(Radiography, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech & Language Therapy, Podiatry and Dietetics)

It is strongly advised that applicants get/start the vaccination requirements as soon as possible once they intend to undertake an NHS course. If you do not have paper evidence of the vaccinations required to provide to our occupational health provider, **then you will need to contact your GP and obtain this information.** This may incur a charge.

If you need vaccinations you should contact your GP as soon as possible in the first instance. They may undertake them free of charge or there might be an associated cost.

**Please note:** you may be able to get vaccinations completed more affordably via the GP or local pharmacies, travel clinics or private clinics than the costs which will be applied via our Occupational Health provider.

| Requirements   | Key Information  |
|--|--|
| Tuberculosis (TB)  | Tuberculosis (TB) documentary evidence of BCG vaccination. History of BCG vaccination (scar evident)<br>Documentary evidence of Heaf/Mantoux test within last 5 years Chest X ray result if relevant |
| Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)   | Documentary evidence of 2 doses of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) triple vaccine or Measles IgG blood test. Rubella Antibody blood test  |
| <b>Hepatitis B (must be the occupational 3 vaccine not the travel 2 vaccine)</b> | Documentation of vaccination history including dates of vaccination, Hep B sAb blood test following vaccination. Possibly Hep B core Ab blood test   |
| Chickenpox (varicella zoster virus)  | Positive history of disease in UK or in northern hemisphere VZV IgG blood test + or – vaccination (depending).   |
| Meningitis, Pertussis (whooping cough), Tetanus, Diphtheria & Polio              | Evidence that all childhood immunisations are up to date.  |

## COVID-19

We **strongly advise** that all students are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations. This vaccination **may not be mandatory but** it might, if you have not had it, impact the type of practice learning opportunities you can access or experience. This is to ensure the protection of vulnerable patients.

## Hepatitis B

Three doses are required. The second injection is given four weeks after the first and the third injection needs to follow five months later. **It is critical** that you commence this process prior to your arrival in order not to delay placements. Hep B vaccines are also given at sexual health clinics.

**Dorset HealthCare are our current provider for Occupational Health Requirements. Their charges are detailed below. Please note these charges have to be paid by the student.**

|  |        |  |
|--|--------|--|
| Online Screening Questionnaires (Applicants holding a conditional/unconditional offer) | £22.00 | 1st Fee paid by all  |
| Screening Interviews: Exposure Prone Applicants 'EPA'                                  | £90.00 | This fee covers a phone call with a clinical nurse if anything has been declared or ticked on the initial screening questionnaire (overseas students from exposure prone countries). |

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| Screening Interviews: Other - Non 'EPA' | £90.00 | This covers a phone call with a clinical nurse if anything is declared or ticked on the initial screening questionnaire. |
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If vaccinations are required on arrival at AECC the following fees are charged by Dorset HealthCare . All fees are paid by the student.

| Vaccination Requirements for NHS courses   | Cost                               |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Rubella (Blood Test) *   | £60.00                             |
| Measles (Blood Test) *   | £60.00                             |
| Varicella / Chicken Pox (Bloodtest) *  | £61.50                             |
| Tuberculosis ( <i>Mantoux, was heaf</i> ) (Bloodtest) !  | £49.00                             |
| Rubella / Measles ( <i>MMR</i> ) (Vaccine)+  | £58.00                             |
| Varicella / Chicken Pox (Vaccine)+   | £117.00 (2 appointments)           |
| Tuberculosis ( <i>BCG</i> ) (Vaccine) !  | £51.00                             |
| Hepatitis B (Vaccine) x 3 vaccines (1 month apart)   | £51.00 per vaccine = £153 in total |
| Hepatitis B ( <i>antibody</i> ) (Blood Test) (8 weeks post 3 <sup>rd</sup> vaccination)                        | £61.50                             |
| If the HepB blood test show the immunity level to be too low then a further vaccination will required @ £51.00 |                                    |
| Hepatitis B (vaccine) 12-month booster (12 months post 1 <sup>st</sup> vaccine)                                | £51.00                             |

\*These blood tests are only required if evidence is not provided with your OH pre-clearance form.

+ These two vaccines (MMR and Chickenpox) are given if the blood test shows no immunity, that is why it is important to obtain evidence from your GP for childhood immunisations.

! Tuberculosis (BCG) vaccinations, if there is no evidence of the vaccine provided or no visible BCG scar then the normal appointment charges are Mantoux Test £49 and BCG vaccination (48 hours post Mantoux test) £51 = £100

Standard HepB course = Hep B x 3 vaccines, 1 x Hep B Blood Test and 1 x Hep B 12 month booster = £265.50

**IMPORTANT – IF AN APPOINTMENT IS MISSED OR NOT CANCELLED MORE THAN 24 HOURS BEFORE IT IS DUE, DORSET HEALTHCARE WILL CHARGE YOU £51.00 FOR EVERY MISSED APPOINTMENT.**

#### *Disability support*

If you are a disabled person or have a long-term health condition, you are advised to read the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) booklet: Health, disability and becoming a health and care professional

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/resources/guidance/health-disability-and-becoming-a-health-and-care-professional/>

We strongly recommend that you tell us about any long-term health conditions, learning difficulty or disability you may have. This is so we can assess whether we can deliver the course in such a way that you can meet the HCPC standards of proficiency and take part without disadvantage both in University and on placement.

#### *Criminal records*

Students are required to declare any changes in their criminal record as soon as they occur, i.e. if they have been cautioned, reprimanded, warned, charged or convicted in relation to any criminal activity. Failure to disclose such information will result in an investigation under the institution's [Fitness to Practice Policy and Procedure](#).

UK-domiciled applicants are required to undergo an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Further information will be sent to those who accept our offer. Applicants must meet the costs of this check (£44 in 2022).

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.

#### **Additional information**

- Teaching materials are made available in electronic format on the Virtual Learning Environment. If students wish to have a printed copy they may print these materials, but at their own cost.
- Core texts are available in the library but there are limited numbers and most



students buy some, but not necessarily all, text books.

- We are unable to offer any storage facilities for personal belongings of students except for a limited number of lockers. Students can rent a locker from the AECC Students' Union (ASU) on payment of a single fee of £10.
- There may be other costs for activities that will enhance students' time here but are not directly related to their programme. For example, there is an annual fee (currently £70) to join our gym (gym membership is a requirement to join some ASU/University College sports societies). Some ASU-organised social events and activities through ASU Societies will be at an additional cost.
- The following items of uniform will be provided by the University College: x1 polo shirt, x1 tunic top, x1 pair of trousers and x1 fleece all with AECC University logo and student title. A name badge will also be provided with the University Logo.
- You will also need to provide 1 pair of flat black shoes with a nonslip rubber sole. If you wish to wear a head covering such as a hijab it must be black and will need to be provided by yourself. You may wish to purchase additional items of uniform and you will need to replace any lost or damaged items from the University's official supplier. Approximate costs of these are: £12 for either tops or trousers.

We recommend that students join the British Dietetic Association as a student member. The cost is currently free for the first year of study and £39 for subsequent years. Please see: <https://www.bda.uk.com/membership/membership-categories/students.html>