



# Programme Specification

Where appropriate outcome statements have been referenced to the appropriate Benchmarking Statement (BS)

1	Awarding Institution	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
2	Teaching Institution	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
3	Professional body accreditation	No
4	Final Award	MRes
	Subsidiary exit awards	PgCert in Research
5	Programme Title	Master of Research
6	UCAS code (or other coding system if relevant)	
7		
9	Date of validation/review	-----

## 10. Educational Aims of the programme

The overall aim of the Programme is to contribute to meeting external demand for graduates who are well-equipped to undertake high-quality research that is relevant to users, industry and society. This multi-disciplinary programme contributes to the development of research capacity and capability by providing a broad, foundational research training for researchers across a wide range of disciplines and professions, including (but not limited to) those who seek to continue on to doctoral studies, or those looking to develop careers in academic research.

The educational aims of the programme are:

- ‡ to provide a broad foundational research training for researchers across a wide range of disciplines and backgrounds,
- ‡ to produce Masters graduates who have acquired and demonstrated the skills required to carry out all tasks and elements required in the course of the research process, and
- ‡ to produce graduates who can continue to pursue research or continue on to doctoral studies or develop careers within research.

## 11. Benchmark statements/professional and statutory body requirements covered by the programme

These aims are aligned with

- x Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (2012). SCQF level Descriptors [online] Available UK Quality Code

, Advice and Guidance: Research degrees. Gloucester: The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. [www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code)

- x Careers Research and Advisory Centre (2010). Researcher Development Framework [online] Available from <http://www.vitae.ac.uk/rdf>

## 12. Learning Outcomes of the Programme

These may be divided in the following categories:

- ‡ Knowledge and understanding (KU)
- ‡ Intellectual (thinking) skills (I)
- ‡ Practical skills (P)
- ‡ Transferable skills (TS)

### a. Post-graduate certificate in research

By the end of the programme, the student will be able to

- x Critically appraise and synthesise the current literature in order to develop research questions in the student's area of academic or professional interest (KU, I)
- x Synthesise and integrate their knowledge of research methods and research applications to address research questions in the student's area of academic or professional interest (KU, I)
- x Have an understanding of issues of ethics and ethicality in research and have been exposed to the issues relating to the ethics of undertaking research in sensitive areas (KU, P, TS)
- x Demonstrate a critical understanding of the factors that should be taken into consideration during the planning, conduct and dissemination phases of a research study (KU, I, T, P)
- x Understand the importance of targeted communication to researchers at all levels, and demonstrate an ability to achieve appropriate communication and engagement to a non-technical audience. (KU, I, P, T)





It is recognised that there may be suitable candidates who do not hold a formal degree/honours degree level qualification but who can demonstrate substantive professional experience. The programme team welcome applications from such candidates providing they are able to demonstrate:

‡ ( Y L G H Q F H R k E s i e n c e S u b D o p p o r t i n g CPD activity which maps against the SCQF level descriptors for level 10;

‡ \$ V W D W H P H Q W R I Z K D W W K H D S S O L F D Q W K D V O H D U Q W I U has been at the equivalent of SCQF level 10;

Evidence may be obtained either through interview or in a written supporting statement.

Students without a first degree with extensive professional experience may be considered for admission if their experience is considered equivalent to that of a recent graduate holding a first degree.

Applicants who hold a lower second class honours degree or equivalent in a relevant subject may be considered if they can demonstrate performance at a 2.1 level or better in an independent research project of at least SCQF level 10.

Applicants of any standard will be rejected if QMU does not have the necessary expertise to supervise a project in their chosen subject at SCQF level 11.

Students may register for:

- a) for the Master of Research programme, OR
- b) for the Postgraduate Certificate in Research, OR
- c) The Postgraduate Diploma in Research, OR
- d) as an Associate student. Associate students receive a transcript on successful completion of

