



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

HEALTH SERVICES  
MANAGEMENT CENTRE



# STUDYING WITH HSMC

MSc in Health Policy  
and Management





## ABOUT HSMC



**A course at HSMC bridges the traditional divide between academic study and the worlds of policy and practice.**

The Health Services Management Centre (HSMC) is one of the UK's leading centres for research, teaching, professional development and consultancy to health and social care agencies.

For more than 40 years, the Centre's mission has been to strengthen leadership and management in health care, and to promote improved health and wellbeing.

HSMC has pioneered innovative approaches to personal and professional education. We deliver multi-award-winning national leadership programmes that have made a real difference to the working lives of staff and have improved patient care and experience across all healthcare settings.

HSMC is underpinned by a number of distinct principles developed by academic, policy and practice partners:

- Recognition of the interdependence between applied research, teaching, evaluation and policy analysis
- Emphasis on providing research-based analysis, development and teaching
- A focus on developing sustainable national and international collaborations and networks to benefit policy makers, managers, staff, patients and service users

## OUR COURSES

HSMC teaching programmes offer a variety of options to support and develop a range of learning needs:

**Masters** (180 credits) incorporates taught modules with an additional piece of independent research in the form of a dissertation.

**Postgraduate Certificate** (60 credits) or **Postgraduate Diploma** (120 credits) are earned with 'taught' modules of 20 credits each.

These translate into our following programme pathways:

- MSc Health Care Policy and Management
- MSc in Health Care Policy and Management specialising in Managing Quality and Service Improvement



A Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma can be awarded within any of these options. Students can study full-time (one year) or part-time (over two years). Often students select the part time option while they are working in health services or a related field.



# AN INSIGHT INTO OUR MODULES AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

## ■ Health Services Management (HSM):

Drawing on theory, research and comparative analysis of international health systems, HSMC provides a module for understanding and achieving the 'building blocks' of high-quality care: well-trained and motivated staff, efficient use of resources, a culture of improvement and an ability to integrate care.

## ■ People, Patients and Communities:

HSMC provides a module that examines a range of concepts, debates, approaches and challenges in public and service-user involvement. The module builds on the experience of participants to provide illustrative examples of relationships between providers and users of services.

## ■ Health Policy:

This module from HSMC looks to make sense of current health and care challenges by drawing on ideas, theories and frameworks from the tradition of public policy. We encourage participants to connect theory and practice in understanding the role and influence of different actors, interests, organisations and institutions within the health policy process.



## ■ Healthcare Quality: Measuring and Assuring

This module introduces quantitative and qualitative approaches to measuring and evaluating quality. A variety of tools to monitor and analyse quality are covered including run charts, control charts and performance indicators.

## ■ Healthcare Quality: Innovation and Improvement

This module analyses the adoption and spread of innovation across healthcare systems. The module also looks to analyse different perspectives, tools and techniques for how quality and safety in healthcare can be improved. This includes quality improvement methods such as process mapping and Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles as well as alternative perspectives related to social movements and communities of practice.

## ■ Strategic Planning and Decision Making:

HSMC provides a module that examines the socio-economic, political and policy context of strategic planning and decision-making in healthcare. Different perspectives are covered in relation to assessing need and demand for services; setting priorities; ensuring quality, and involving the public in planning, commissioning and purchasing activities. Participants will be introduced to key national and international research on the impact of strategic planning and decision making, including consideration of lessons from other sectors.

## ■ Organisational Development:

This module explores change within health and social care organisations by drawing on organisational development as a field of study and practice. It asks participants to undertake analysis of a real organisation in order to deepen their understanding of how to put theory into practice and consider the relative merits of different organisational interventions.

# WHAT DOES HSMC EXPECT OF ITS STUDENTS?

Courses are delivered over two, three, or five-day 'blocks', which you will be required to attend in full.

AN MSC IS DEMANDING AND WILL REQUIRE INDEPENDENT STUDY IN ADDITION TO THE TIME SPENT IN CLASS.

HSMC ASSESSES PERFORMANCE THROUGH THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF WRITTEN TASKS AND ASSIGNMENTS. BE PREPARED TO WRITE!



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Successful students are able to demonstrate originality, critical thinking and the ability to connect theory and perspectives to 'case study' health and social care examples.

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## OUR POSTGRADUATE TEACHING HISTORY

HSMC was selected (with The University of Manchester) to deliver academic content for the prestigious NHS Leadership Academy Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Nye Bevan programmes.

The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson programme includes participants on the NHS Management Trainee Scheme (MTS). This continues HSMC's involvement in this and its forerunner programmes, the Graduate Management Training Scheme and the Administrative Training Scheme. In 2014–15, the MTS was voted the UK's most popular graduate training scheme by over 27,000 students in *the Guardian's* UK 300 annual survey, the largest student-voted award in the world.

Other eminent programmes developed and delivered by the Centre include the 21st Century Public Servant Leadership Programme for Aspiring Directors of Public Health and the first accredited national Social Care Leadership Development Programme commissioned by the Social Care Institute for Excellence.



## OUR CITY

Birmingham is an exciting destination with a long cultural and intellectual heritage. Choose Birmingham for a warm welcome in one of the most diverse cities in the UK.

As England's second city, Birmingham is a thriving, vibrant place to live. Multicultural, commercial and contemporary, it also boasts a rich history and heritage.

When you study here, you'll find it's not just the perfect base for your work – it's also the perfect place to begin your career and set down the foundations for a successful future.

Easily accessible from and to the rest of the UK, Birmingham is just two hours from London by train, and Birmingham Airport is around half an hour away from the city centre.



## OUR CAMPUS

The University campus offers a peaceful and tranquil haven, yet is right on the doorstep of the bustling city. So whether you're looking for some quiet downtime to study or fancy a big night out, you're never far from where you want to be.

Striking architecture and 250 acres of parkland make for the stunning setting of our campus, which also boasts a whole range of amenities. You'll find bars, shops, a travel agent, an opticians, and a major bank as well as an art gallery, museum and concert hall all on site. Plus, there is the added benefit of a full-time security team.

In the past year, we have opened a new student hub in our Aston Webb Building, a brand new hall of residence, Chamberlain, in the Vale Village and an Institute of Translational Medicine, to ensure pioneering research is transformed into medicines and treatments for patients.



**THE UNIVERSITY IS INVESTING  
£300 MILLION OVER FIVE  
YEARS IN NEW FACILITIES FOR  
STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS.**



# HOW DO I APPLY?

Please email us at:

[hsmc-teaching@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:hsmc-teaching@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

Find out more information about HSMC at:

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/hsmc](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/hsmc)

Also find us at:

@\_HSMCentre

## Find out about funding

Read information about scholarships, fees and funding at:

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/funding](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/funding)



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

Edgbaston, Birmingham,  
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