PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1 Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2 Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3 Final Award	Master of Science Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate
4 Programme Title	See item 5
5 UCAS/Programme Code	This programme can result in 8 possible exit awards depending on the modules selected for study: Postgraduate Certificate in Cancer Studies (60 credits) **3071P** Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology (120 credits) **3459P** Postgraduate Diploma in Palliative Care (120 credits) **3460P** Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry (120 Credits) **3461P** MSc in Oncology (180 credits) **5211P** MSc in Palliative Care (180 credits) **5212P** MSc in Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry (180 Credits) **5213P** CPD in Oncology and Palliative Care **6041P**
6 Programme Accreditation	N/A
7 QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	N/A
8 FHEQ Level	Masters (7)
9 Date written/revised	October 2014

10 Programme Aims

The aim of the programme is to facilitate the development of practitioners within different fields of oncology/palliative care who are prepared to offer clinical leadership, clinical excellence, and cultivate interdisciplinary collaboration in the delivery of evidence based oncology/palliative care. The programme also aims to introduce the basis of research in oncology/palliative care and to prepare participants for further active research within their own discipline.

11 Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

Knowledge and Understanding
On completing the programme students will be able to: A1 Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of cancer, its effects, its management and the relief of symptoms associated with treatment and disease progression. A2 Demonstrate an understanding of the current developments in cancer/palliative care/pharmaceutical industry A3 Demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical basis of cancer research. (Specific to MSc level)

Teaching and Learning Methods
A1 and A2 are addressed via online tutorials and directed reading while formative MCQs and discussion activities allow students to consolidate their knowledge. A3 is addressed via case studies of relevant research, and formative feedback which allows the student to develop their research proposal and dissertation project.

Assessment Strategy
A1 is assessed both formatively and summatively thoughout all modules. MCQ test and essays are used throughout the modules to assess students' knowledge of cancer management and the relief of symptoms associated with treatment and disease progression. All written assessments and essays require students to show evidence of horizon scanning and knowledge of current research in the relevant field. (A2) A3 is assessed via the research proposal and dissertation project.

Intellectual Skills
On completing the programme, students will be able to: B1 Draw upon relevant theories and evidence to constructively challenge existing practices. B2 Demonstrate skills relevant to Practice Development via reflective practice and utilisation of research findings. B3 Plan, conduct and report a programme of original research.(Specific to MSc Level)

Teaching and Learning Methods
Online discussion activities require students to reflect on their current practice and consider how relevant theories could be applied (B1 and B2) B3 is addressed via a series of formative activities and individual feedback which guides them to produce their own research proposal.

Assessment Strategy
B1 and B2 are assessed via written assessments which require students to critically appraise evidence, devise patient management plans and produce their own guidelines and practice development proposal for clinical scenarios. B3 is assessed via the development of a research proposal in ONC8003.

Practical Skills

On completing the programme students will be able to:

C1 Contribute to the development and evaluation of local cancer/palliative care services.
C2 use e-learning technology such as virtual learning environments effectively

Teaching and Learning Methods

C1 is developed via directed reading, online tutorials. Activities incorporated in the tutorials include case studies which require students to contribute to online discussions and critically appraising existing practices
C2 is addressed initially by an induction module and then throughout the programme through the method of delivery and by moderation of interactive activities by module leaders.

Assessment Strategy

C1 is assessed via a range of written assessments which require students to critically appraise evidence, devise patient management plans and produce their own guidelines for clinical scenarios.

C2 is assessed formatively throughout the course by moderation of collaborative activities and summatively through a participation mark (where appropriate).

Transferable/Key Skills

On completing the programme students will be able to:

D1 Competently and sensitively disseminate new knowledge acquired to colleagues, patients and families

D2 Assume responsibility for facilitating practice development within their respective discipline and workplace. (Specific to PGT Diploma/MSc level)

D3 Actively promote seamless interagency and multi-professional care.(Specific to Diploma/MSc Level)

D4 communicate effectively in writing

D5 use library and other information sources skilfully and appropriately

D6 plan, organise and prioritise work activities in order to meet deadlines

D7 work independently

D8 use e-learning skills to interact appropriately in on-line environments

Teaching and Learning Methods

D1-D3 are developed throughout the programme via directed reading, online tutorials and collaborative activities. Activities require reflection on current practice and discussion of practice development.

The course is designed in a way that requires students to address D4- D8 throughout its duration. These skills are developed through the requirement to carry out and produce written assignments in all modules and the dissertation. Formative feedback is given regularly throughout the modules by regular interaction with module leaders.

Assessment Strategy

D1 is summatively assessed via PowerPoint presentations which should be aimed at a group of peers and formatively via discussion activities where best practice is shared within the cohort. D2-D3 are assessed throughout the course via written assessments which require students to reflect on their own practice and consider issues in a multidisciplinary context.
D4- D8 These skills are formatively assessed through the written assignments and dissertation. D5 and D7 are not summatively assessed independently, although they are indirectly assessed through the successful production of written assignments and the dissertation. D8 is assessed formatively throughout the course by moderation of collaborative activities and summatively via a participation mark (where appropriate)

12   Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features

Basic structure of the programme

This programme is a part time, on-line programme which has three pathways: Oncology, Palliative Care and Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry
A candidate shall be admitted as a part-time student and shall pursue a programme of part-time study comprising modules to a value of 180 credits, studied to a maximum of 5 years.

The three MSc pathways of Oncology, Palliative Care or Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry comprise of 180 credits. Alternatively students can work towards a Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology, Palliative Care or Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry (120 credits) or a Postgraduate Certificate in Cancer Studies (60 credits).

A master's candidate shall study taught modules to a value of 120 credits and a dissertation project to a value of 60 credits.

A student may exit the programme prior to the award of the MSc, with either a Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology, a Postgraduate Diploma in Palliative Care or a Postgraduate Diploma in Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry having gained 120 credits. Students may exit the Postgraduate Diploma or MSc programme with a Postgraduate Certificate in Cancer Studies having gained 60 credits.

Each module is worth 10 credits except ONC8011, ONC8018, ONC8019 and ONC8022 which have 20 credits. Full details of all modules are provided in the Degree Programme Handbook and module outline forms. Students are allowed to undertake up to 40 credits of modules per semester.

The dissertation module, which is required to complete the MSc programme can only be commenced on completion of 120 credits of the taught programme. It can be started in either semester and is worth 60 credits.

Code	Credits	Descriptive title
ONC8002	10	Cancer Pathology
ONC8003	10	Research Methods (1)
ONC8004	10	Developments in Diagnostic Imaging in Oncology
ONC8005	10	Palliative Care Themes and Perspectives
ONC8006	10	Management of Cancer - Psychosocial Issues
ONC8007	10	Research Methods (2) Statistics
ONC8008	10	Ethical Dimensions of Cancer/Palliative Care
ONC8010	10	Handling loss, grief and bereavement
ONC8011	20	Cancer Drugs & Technologies :Product Pathway, Provider &
ONC8012	10	Managing Pain
ONC8013	10	Quality Improvement
ONC8014	60	Dissertation
ONC8016	10	Contemporary Issues in Palliative Care Practice
ONC8017	10	Multiprofessional Management of Cancer Part 1
ONC8018	20	Multiprofessional Management of Cancer Part 2

ONC8019	20	Cancer Pharmacology
ONC8021	10	Health Economics (E-learning)
ONC8022	20	Cancer Cell, Molecular Biology and Genetics

All modules are offered subject to the constraints of the timetable and any restrictions on the number of students who may be taught on that module. Not all modules will be offered each year. Students module choices will be approved by the Degree Programme Director

All modules are delivered on-line using the web-based Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Blackboard. Blackboard (VLE) uses web-based resources, assessment tools, discussion boards and the e-mail support from module leaders. In addition, administrative, technical and library support is provided.

All taught modules are available for study as standalone CPD, these allow a student to pick and choose single modules to study which are relevant to their line of work. The programme is modular so the student can choose which modules are most relevant to their circumstances. To study modules as accredited CPD students must register on the standalone programme code 6041P.

Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)

This programme was the first web-based MSc programme in Oncology and Palliative Care to be offered. The Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry strand offers a qualification tailored to the needs of pharmaceutical industry professionals. This is in contrast to the broad based Oncology and Palliative Care strands which offer a solid foundation to any professional wishing to peruse a career in Oncology and Palliative Care.

All modules are delivered entirely online allowing students to study at any time and from anywhere. Material and supporting reading can be accessed across devices including PCs, tablets and other mobile devices and the flexibility of part-time allows students to fit their studies around their professional commitments. Online networking with professionals across multiple disciplines provides the opportunity to discuss activities with an awareness of multiprofessional perspectives. Students are studying from around the globe giving a variety of different viewpoints and experiences, enriching online discussions.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version home page)

http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/programme/

13   Criteria for admission

Entry RequirementsA candidate will be accepted to study a programme in Oncology and Palliative Care at the discretion of the Degree Programme Director and in line with the following entry requirements:

- An undergraduate degree in a relevant health-related subject e.g. BSc Radiotherapy, BSc Nursing, MB BS/MB ChB, BSc Cancer Care/BSc Palliative Care
- Pharmacists who have a post basic diploma in clinical pharmacy or those who wish to specialise in oncology/palliative care pharmacy
- Trainee doctors of all grades pursuing a career in oncology or palliative care . Consideration may also be given to Specialty Doctors, Non-Consultant Career Grade Doctors or equivalents on a minimum of two years' rotation or attachment to an Oncology Department or specialist Palliative Care Unit
- Working in the healthcare profession or allied field

Students who do not meet the above criteria but have relevant work experience can be considered on an individual basis at the Degree Programme Director's discretion.

Admissions policy/selection tools
Applications are made by completing the standard online application form. . Applications are considered by the appropriate selector and students who do not meet the above entry requirements may be contacted for an informal interview via telephone or email.

Non-standard Entry Requirements
For postgraduate taught programmes, applications for Accreditation for Prior Certificated Learning (APL) and Prior Experiential Learning (APeL) will be considered on an individual basis, and on student request, by the Degree Programme Director(s). For the full APL policy please see:

Additional Requirements
- Students are required to select a workplace mentor and obtain their consent on a mentor declaration form. The roles and responsibilities of the mentor are outlined in a document that is sent to applicants.
- Reliable access to a computer, internet connection and printer, are requirements for this programme.

Level of English Language capability

If English is not the candidate's first language, then the candidate must meet **one** of the following criteria:
- IELTS 7.0 with at least 7.0 in writing and reading and at least 6.5 in speaking and listening;
- Have been educated in an English-speaking country that is included in the list of countries that are exempt from the University's English Language Assessment;
- Provide other evidence of a high level of competence in English, for example successful completion of A- levels or an undergraduate programme taught in English

14	Support for Student Learning

The Student Services portal provides links to key services and other information and is available at: *http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/*

Induction
During the first week of the first semester students attend an induction programme. New students will be given a general introduction to University life and the University's principle support services and general information about the School and their programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. New and continuing students will be given detailed programme information and the timetable of lectures/practicals/labs/ tutorials/etc. The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students.

Study skills support
Students will learn a range of Personal Transferable Skills, including Study Skills, as outlined in the Programme Specification. Some of this material, e.g. time management is covered in the appropriate Induction Programme. Students are explicitly tutored on their approach to both group and individual projects.

Numeracy support is available through Maths Aid and help with academic writing is available from the Writing Development Centre (further information is available from the Robinson Library).

Academic and Pastoral support
Each undergraduate and taught postgraduate student will be assigned a personal tutor.*
A personal tutor is one part of a wider network of advice and guidance available to students to support their personal and general academic development. The module leader acts as the first point of contact for subject-specific academic advice. Thereafter the Degree Programme Director or Head of School may be consulted. Issues relating to the programme may be raised at the Student-Staff Committee, and/or at the Board of Studies. Within the academic unit, students may also receive additional academic and pastoral advice from a range of other student-facing staff including degree programme directors, dissertation/project supervisors, and administrative support staff.
*Arrangements may vary for students taking special types of provision.

The University also offers a wide range of institutional services and support upon which students can call, such as the Writing Development Centre, Careers Service and Student Wellbeing Service. This includes one-to-one counselling and guidance or group sessions / workshops on a range of topics, such as emotional issues e.g. stress and anxiety, student finance and budgeting, disability matters etc. There is specialist support available for students with dyslexia and mental health issues. Furthermore, the Student Union operates a Student Advice Centre, which can provide advocacy and support to students on a range of topics including housing, debt, legal issues etc.

Support for students with disabilities
The University's Disability Support team provides help and advice for disabled students at the University - and those thinking of coming to Newcastle. It provides individuals with: advice about the University's facilities, services and the accessibility of campus; details about the technical support available; guidance in study skills and advice on financial support arrangements; a resources room with equipment and software to assist students in their studies.

Learning resources
The University's main learning resources are provided by the Robinson and Walton Libraries (for books, journals, online resources), and Information Systems and Services, which supports campus-wide computing facilities.

All new students whose first language is not English are required to take an English Language Proficiency Test. This is administered by INTO Newcastle University Centre on behalf of Newcastle University. Where appropriate, in-sessional language training can be provided. The INTO Newcastle University Centre houses a range of resources which may be particularly appropriate for those interested in an Erasmus exchange.

15	Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Module reviews
All modules are subject to review by questionnaires which are considered by the Board of Studies. Changes to, or the introduction of new, modules are considered at the Board of Studies and/or the School Teaching and Learning Committee. Student opinion is sought at the Student-Staff Committee and/or the Board of Studies. New modules and major changes to existing modules are subject to approval by the Faculty Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee.

Programme reviews
The Board of Studies conducts an Annual Monitoring and Review of the degree programme and reports to Faculty Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee. The FLTSEC takes an overview of all programmes within the Faculty and reports any Faculty or institutional issues to the Faculty Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee.

External Examiner reports
External Examiner reports are considered by the Board of Studies. The Board responds to these reports through Faculty Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee. External Examiner reports are shared with institutional student representatives, through the Student-Staff Committee.

Student evaluations
All modules, and the degree programme, are subject to review by student questionnaires. Informal student evaluation is also obtained at the Student-Staff Committee, and the Board of Studies. The results from student surveys are considered as part of the Annual Monitoring and Review of the programme and any arising actions are captured at programme and School / institutional level and reported to the appropriate body.

Mechanisms for gaining student feedback
Feedback is channelled via the Student-Staff Committee and the Board of Studies.

Faculty and University Review Mechanisms
Every six years degree programmes in each subject area undergo periodic review. This involves both the detailed consideration of a range of documentation, and a review visit by a review team (normally one day in duration) which includes an external subject specialist and a student representative. Following the review a report is produced, which forms the basis for a decision by University Learning, Teaching and Student Experience Committee on whether the programmes reviewed should be re-approved for a further six year period.

Accreditation reports

Additional mechanisms

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16   Regulation of assessment

Pass mark
The pass mark is 50%

Students who fail a module at first attempt will be expected to resit at either resit week or at the next available occasion of examination

Course requirements
Progression is subject to the University's Masters Degree Progress Regulations, Taught and Research and Examination Conventions for Taught Masters Degrees. There are reassessment opportunities, with certain restrictions. Limited compensation up to 40 credits of the taught element and down to a mark of 40% is possible for candidates who commenced their programme in 2013/14 or earlier. For students starting their programme in 2014/15 or later, no compensation is possible.

Students are only entitled to attempt 120 credits of taught modules; so the highest qualification students who fail a module can achieve is the Postgraduate Certificate in Cancer Studies.

The University employs a common marking scheme, which is specified in the Taught Postgraduate Examination Conventions, namely:

Summary description applicable to Postgraduate Masters, Diploma and Certificate programmes

<50   Fail
50-59   Pass
60-69   Pass with Merit
70 or above Pass with Distinction

Each module work has a predefined marking grid in line with these conventions that is used to inform consistent and robust assessment and provide feedback to the students.

Role of the External Examiner
An External Examiner, a distinguished member of the subject community, is appointed by the University following recommendation from the Board of Studies. The External Examiner is expected to:
   i. See and approve assessment papers
   ii. Moderate examination and coursework marking
   iii. Attend the Board of Examiners
   iv. Report to the University on the standards of the programme

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/

The School Brochure: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/marketing/services/print/publications/ordering/

Degree Programme and University Regulations: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/

The Degree Programme Handbook:

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Module	MSc Oncology	MSc Palliative Care	MSc Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry	Intended Learning Outcomes			
				A	B	C	D
ONC8002: Cancer Pathology				1, 2		2	5 6 7 8
ONC8003: Research Methods 1	Compulsory**	Compulsory**	Compulsory**	3	1 2 3	1 2	1 5 6 7 8
ONC8004: Developments in Diagnostic Imaging	Compulsory			1 2	1 2	1 2	5 6 7 8
ONC8005*: Palliative Care Themes and Perspectives		Compulsory		1,2	1 2	1 2	1 5 6 7 8
ONC8006: Management of Cancer-Psychosocial				1,2	1 2	1 2	1 5 6 7 8
ONC8007: Research Methods 2-Statistics			Compulsory	3	2	1 2	1 5 6 7 8
ONC8008: Ethical Dimensions of Cancer/Palliative Care				1	1	2	5 6 7 8
ONC8010: Handling Loss, Grief and Bereavement		Compulsory		12	2	1 2	1 5 6 7 8
ONC8012: Managing Pain		Compulsory		1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2 3 5 6 7 8
ONC8011: Cancer Drugs and Technologies: Product Pathway, Provider & Patient			Compulsory	2		1 2	1 3 5 6 7 8

Module							
ONC8013: Quality Improvement				2	1 2	1 2	1 2 3 5 6 7 8
ONC8014: Dissertation	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	1 2, 3	1 2 3	1 2	1 5 6 7 8
ONC8016: Contemporary Issues in Palliative Care Practice		Compulsory		1 2 3	1 2	1 2	5 6 7 8
ONC8017: Multiprofessional Management of Cancer Part 1	Compulsory		Compulsory	1 2	1 2	1 2	1 2 3 5 6 7 8
ONC8018: Multiprofessional Management of Cancer Part 2	Compulsory			1 2	1 2	1 2	2 3 5 6 7 8
ONC8019: Cancer Pharmacology			Compulsory	1 2	1	2	1 5 6 7 8
ONC8021: Health Economics			Highly Recommended and advisable*		1 2	1 2	5 6 7 8
ONC8022: Cancer Cell, Molecular Biology and Genetics				1 2	1	2	1 5 6 7 8

Students studying MSc Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry must study or be competent by virtue of previous studies in the subject matter of ONC8007 and are strongly advised to take ONC8021

**ONC8003 is optional for the Certificate and Diploma awards but prerequisite of the Master's dissertation ONC8014 and therefore compulsory for the MSc award*

Postgraduate Certificate in Cancer Studies: any modules apart from ONC8014 can be studied to total 60 credits.

Postgraduate Diploma Oncology: student must take the same modules as the **MSc Oncology** above minus ONC8014.

Postgraduate Diploma Palliative Care: student must take the same modules as the **MSc Palliative Care** above minus ONC8014.

Postgraduate Diploma Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry**:** student must take the same modules as **the MSc Oncology for the Pharmaceutical Industry** above minus ONC8014.