

# MSc / PG Dip / PgCert Leadership and Management in Public Services

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q1. What is the structure of the programme?**

**A:** The MSc is divided into three stages. In the first stage (i.e. first academic year), students complete four core modules (each bearing 15 credits). Two modules are taught in Semester A, while two more modules are taught in Semester B. Teaching takes place in the form of three Friday/Saturday blocs in each semester. On average students attend Friday/Saturday teaching once a month starting from October. Semester B teaching normally begins in February and might end in April or May. On completion of the first stage, students are entitled to PG Certificate in Leadership and Management in Public Services.

Stage 2 teaching is delivered in almost same manner, except that in this stage students can choose optional modules offered by the Business School, Faculty of Health or School of Education. However running of any module is dependent on sufficient number of students opting for that module in Stage 2. On completion of the second stage, students are entitled to PG Diploma in Leadership and Management in Public Services.

Stage 3 is the research project of 60 credits worth and on completion of this stage students are entitled to MSc in Leadership and Management in Public Services.

### **Q2. Are there any core modules that I must attend? Can I get credit for my earlier qualifications?**

**A:** The core modules are 1) *The Public Service Context*, 2) *Delivering Public Services*; 3) *Leading and Managing Strategically* and 4) *Performance Measurement and Accountability*

After Stage 1 completion, the Stage 2 modules are optional but sufficient number of students should agree before any particular module runs in Stage 2.

If a student has already done some Master's level modules where the learning outcomes match with the learning outcomes of MSc LMPS, it is possible to accredit prior learning. However, this is done on case to case basis.

**Q3. Do I get any additional qualifications or benefits?**

**A:** The MSc LMPS is an endorsed programme by ILM (Institute of Leadership and Management) and all the students on MSc LMPS have free access to all the learning resources available on the ILM website.

LMPS programme can result in additional rewards for those who are registered Social Workers as they can get the GSCC Awards. At the Postgraduate Diploma level they meet the requirements for the GSCC Higher Specialist Award and at MSc level they meet the GSCC Advanced Award. In order to claim these awards they are required to complete four modules offered by the Faculty of Health and Human Sciences at Stage 2 of the programme.

**Q4. What is the cost of the programme?**

**A:** For the year 2010-11 the course fee for each 15 credit worth module is £410. You pay for the number of modules you attend each semester. If you attend all the modules you pay 4 x £410 for the full academic year.

**Q5. Can I pay for the full programme at the time of registration?**

**A:** Normally, at the time of registration you are required to pay for the number of modules you study during one academic year. However, you may be allowed to pay for the full programme i.e. 180 credits modules provided you provide a written undertaking that in case fees change in next stages, you will pay the differential amount.

**Q6. I am sponsored by my organisation. How would the payment be made for the course?**

**A:** At the time of registration, you will be required to produce your passport to ascertain your fee status and sponsorship letter from your organisation. The University will then invoice your organisation for the modules you had registered for.

**Q7. I do not have university degree but am interested in this programme. What are the possibilities?**

**A:** The entry qualification for this programme is 2.1 Honours degree. However if you have good experiential knowledge of public services delivery and have done some in-house training courses you might be allowed to join the programme on case-by-case basis. Please email Programme Tutor Dr Haider Shah ([s.h.a.shah@herts.ac.uk](mailto:s.h.a.shah@herts.ac.uk)) to discuss your situation.

**Q8. What if I wish to complete the programme in one year?**

**A:** Currently the programme is offered only on part time basis, therefore 2-3 years are required for completing the MSc. However if there are sufficient number of aspirants from an organisation the programme can be tailored to their specific needs e.g. undertaking the programme like a regular one year MSc, or needs based modules or on-site delivery. The pricing and delivery mode will have to be then negotiated.

**Q9. When can I join the programme?**

**A:** The programme is run on stand-alone modules basis. Though it is advisable to join the programme in Semester A, you can join any modules in either semester. You should fill in the online or paper application well in advance if you wish to join the programme. After submitting your application it is recommended that you should let the programme tutor know so that your registration is facilitated.

**Q10. How are the modules assessed?**

**A:** Most of the modules are assessed on the basis of coursework assignments which are provided by the module leaders of the courses offered on this programme. The coursework assignments would require postgraduate level reading and writing and you must budget adequate time for completing these assignments while planning for the programme.

**Q11. Is parking facility available on campus?**

**A:** Post-graduate students are allowed parking on campus. But for that you will be required to obtain the parking permit by visiting the student centre at the time of registration. The parking permit will only allow you entry into the university parking area. If you have not paid the annual parking fee then you will have to pay the daily parking fee.