

Management and Leadership in Health and Social Care

2026-27

UK Top 30

The Complete University Guide 2025: 21st

The Mail University Guide 2025: =29th

World Class Research and Sustainability

Times Higher REF2021 Analysis: UK Top 20 for
research quality and 13th in the UK for quality of
research outputs.

QS World University Rankings for Sustainability 2024:
=14th for Health and Wellbeing



Teaching Excellence
Framework Silver Award



Ofsted Good Provider -
January 2024

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Introduction

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Course Director



The MSc Management and Leadership in Health & Social Care is a multi-professional programme developing evidence-informed management and leadership capabilities to inform and enhance health and social care. The MSc programme is suitable for those with both clinical and non-clinical health and social care backgrounds, whether working as a health or social care professional or in another health and care role, enabling you to develop your own and your team's performance and well-being, evaluate and improve health and social care policy and practice and enhance service outcomes.

The content of the programme is informed by the NHS Leadership Academy (2026) Healthcare Leadership Model and by internal and external stakeholder engagement. The programme is underpinned by analysis and evaluation of the health and social care context, consideration of stakeholder perspectives and the development of personal management and leadership capability to inform the design and delivery of effective health and care services. You will apply your enhanced knowledge, understanding and skills in your own final-year project.

Key Attributes of the Programme

The programme has been developed for a multiprofessional audience working across a diverse regional, national and international context within health and social care. The course team consists of experienced and passionate academics, managers and leaders in health and social care.

The importance of patients and the public, both as the ultimate beneficiaries of inclusive, well-designed and robustly governed health and social care services, but also as respected and valued stakeholders and collaborators within organisational and service management and improvement is threaded through the teaching and learning activities and resources of the programme.

The MSc Management and Leadership in Health and Social Care forms a critical opportunity to share research-related management and leadership expertise, integrity and insight of amongst the academic community to support the development of the next generation of regional, national and international leaders and improvers in health and care.

Why choose UEA?

The course is designed to be taken part-time and will be available fully online, enabling those based within the UK and internationally to study at a distance. Flexible access to a portfolio of modules allows you to complete single modules as standalone CPD, which you can subsequently import (up to 80 credits within 5 years) into the programme, or enrol directly to undertake the full Master's.

Flexible Study Options

Our fully online and blended learning study options provide you with the ability to:

- Study while working – fit your education around your professional and personal commitments.
- Learn from anywhere – access high quality teaching and resources remotely, removing geographical barriers to academic progression.
- Flexible learning formats – offering a balance of independent study and interactive learning.

Multi-Professional Community of Practice

At UEA, you will not study in isolation – you will be part of a thriving learning community of Advanced Practitioners from a variety of healthcare backgrounds. We foster a strong sense of belonging through collaborative learning, ensuring you feel connected and supported throughout your studies.

Through interactive learning, discussion forums, and live group sessions, you will:

- Engage with a diverse range of perspectives from professionals across healthcare disciplines, including nursing, midwifery, pharmacy, paramedicine, and allied health professions.
- Develop peer networks that extend beyond your studies, supporting your professional development and career growth.
- Learn within a collaborative environment, sharing experiences with clinicians, educators, and researchers while exploring multiple clinical, research, and service user perspectives.

This multi-professional approach enhances your interdisciplinary skills, helping you work more effectively across teams and settings in modern healthcare.

Career-Enhancing and Leadership Focused

The knowledge, skills, values and behaviours developed as a result of completing the course can enhance career progression and diversify scope across a range of roles within health and care. Whichever the chosen route, you will play a vital role in contributing to knowledge generation and improvement of health and social care.

Those successfully completing the extended project module 'doctoral project proposal' will have the opportunity to exit with the MSc as planned or to import the level 7 credits they have completed into the Professional Doctorate in Transforming Health and Social Care, providing an accelerated route to doctorate and the opportunity to complete the study proposed over a further three years (part time) at level 8.

Career and development opportunities that this course may lead to include:

- Eligibility for further study options (master's or doctoral degrees) across the Health and Social Care sectors.
- Eligibility for clinical academic jobs, e.g. working in research groups in universities or as a clinical academic.
- Clinical leadership roles, including those requiring recognition and approval by professional and regulatory bodies.
- Lead roles (Director of Nursing, Programme Director).

Dedicated Learner Support Services

At UEA, we are committed to supporting your success. Our learners benefit from:

- Dedicated advisers.
- Comprehensive wellbeing and study support services.
- Specialist guidance for those returning to education after time in practice.

Programme Pathway: Your Route to MSc Management and Leadership

To achieve your master's degree, you will generally complete 180 credits over a period of three years, consisting of:

- Three core modules (20-credits each) (compulsory for all learners)
- Three compulsory modules (20-credits each)
- A final 60 credits from a work-based extended project with recommendations for policy, practice or research.

How your MSc is Structured

	MSc Management and Leadership in Health and Social Care		
Year 1	Foundations of Health Research	Using Evidence to Lead and Advance Practice	Policy Innovation and Evaluation
Year 2	Leading Projects in Health and Care	Managing Yourself and Leading Others	Principles of Management in Health and Social Care
Year 3	Work-based Extended project with recommendations for policy, practice or research (60c)		

Year	Study Focus	Credits
1	Core modules and compulsory module	60
2	Core module and Compulsory modules	60
3	Work-based Extended Project	60
Total	MSc Management and Leadership	180

Core Modules

Compulsory for all learners on MSc Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care and MSc Research and Quality Improvement in Health and Care

These modules form the foundation of management and leadership practice, ensuring you develop expertise within health research, using evidence and leading projects.

Foundations of Health Research (20 credits) – Develop your knowledge and understanding of research within the context of health and care; this module will prepare you to engage in and apply research to real-world health and care challenges.

Using Evidence to Lead and Advance Practice (20 credits) – Develop the skills to find, understand, appraise and apply research evidence to enhance clinical practice and decision making.

Leading Projects in Health and Care (20 credits) – Understand core principles of project management alongside key ethical theories, governance frameworks, and regulatory requirements shaping research in the UK and internationally.

Compulsory Modules

Compulsory for all learners on MSc Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care

Policy Innovation and Evaluation (20 credits) - Considering the political, social, technical, economic, organisational, and professional contexts in which health and social care is delivered, this module will develop your understanding of healthcare policy and encourage you to examine how practitioners can draw upon their expert power and negotiation skills to influence a culture of creativity and innovation that drives advances in practice.

Managing Yourself and Leading Others (20 credits) – Through critical analysis and appraisal of leadership and management theory and subsequent critical reflection and self-assessment of your own practice, this module enables you to evaluate your own leadership skills and how this influences, and is influenced by, the context in which you practise.

Principles of Management in Health & Social Care (20 credits) - This module provides essential knowledge and insight into the principles and practice of service and people management, providing an ideal opportunity for aspiring, new and existing service managers to evaluate and strengthen your management capabilities.

Work-based Extended Project (60 credits) – This module has been explicitly designed to enable you, as a health and social care professional, to plan, design, and conduct a small-scale work-based evidence review that develops your knowledge and capability in research and improvement methodology and methods within health and social care settings. The evidence review will enable you to gather preliminary service and/or organisational data to support a more substantial practice-based project proposal suitable to support a funding application or for completion as a Professional Doctorate.

Note: UEA reserves the right to make changes to the programme structure, module availability, or policies due to academic, regulatory, or operational requirements.

- Module Availability – Optional modules run subject to viability and learner demand.
- Communication of Changes – Any updates will be communicated to learners via their UEA email and course notifications.

Module	Credits	Delivery	Term Start	Duration (Weeks)
Core modules				
Foundations of Health Research	20	Online, 6x two-weekly blocks	1	12
Using Evidence to Lead and Advance Practice	20	Online, 6x two-weekly blocks	2	12
Policy Innovation and Evaluation	20	Online, 6x two-weekly blocks	3	12
Leading Projects in Health and Care	20	Online, 6x two-weekly blocks	1	12
Managing Yourself and Leading Others	20	Online, 6x two-weekly blocks	2	12
Principles of Management in Health and Social Care	20	Online, 6x two-weekly blocks	3	12
Work-based Extended Project	60	Online	1	Year



Programme Learning Outcomes

By the end of the programme, you will be able to:

1. Systematically apply critical analysis, evaluation and appraisal of a wide range of evidence sources relevant to health and social care, exercising critical awareness of current issues and context and professional judgement to deal with complex issues and make sound decisions to advance safe, effective, and equitable care.
2. Apply research capability to the analysis of real-world health and social care challenges and appreciate the multilayered contexts that influence and must be accounted for in how practice-related enquiry is approached and managed.
3. Interrogate and evaluate policies at organisational, system, and national levels, including critical appraisal of policy innovation and implementation strategies that reflect ethical, legal, political and economic considerations.
4. Demonstrate advanced self-direction, reflective practice, and emotional intelligence to lead ethically and inclusively, critically applying leadership, organisational behaviour and change theories to motivate and develop others across a wide range of health and social care settings.
5. Critically apply management concepts, evidence and business intelligence to assess and interpret organisational challenges and evaluate options for operational process improvement, balancing performance, value, and safety.
6. Design, lead and evaluate complex work-based projects contributing to organisational learning and sustainable change and demonstrating capability to ensure appropriate ethics and governance, manage risk, facilitate change and provide effective quality assurance.

Additional Programme Information

Effort Hours: Understanding Study Commitment

Every 20-credit module at Level 7 requires approximately 200 effort hours to complete successfully. These effort hours include:

- Synchronous learning – Live sessions such as tutorials, webinars, and face-to-face study days.
- Asynchronous learning – Curated online content available at any time.
- Clinical supervision (if applicable) – Where modules involve direct patient care, workplace-based assessment or practice-based project work.
- Assessment preparation – Time spent on formative activities and summative assessments.

Most modules run over 12 weeks, with up to six weeks of additional time for assessment preparation, depending on the module and assessment activity. Employers may allocate study time, but learners should be prepared to study in their own time as well.



Entry Requirements

To apply for the MSc Management and Leadership in Health & Social Care at UEA, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be currently working in an appropriate management or leadership role within a health or social care setting.
- Demonstrate motivation and ability to study at Master's level, evidenced by achievement of any of the below, within the past five years. *
 - A bachelor's degree (2:2 or above) ideally in a health-related subject
 - Level 6 module achieved at 55% or above (or two modules if no bachelor's degree)
 - Level 7 module achieved 50% or above

If English is not your first language or if your degree was not taught in English, you will need to provide evidence of IELTS 7.0 (minimum 6.5 in all components) or an equivalent qualification.

*If you cannot demonstrate academic ability as outlined above, please contact admissions@uea.ac.uk who will put you in touch with a member of the course team to discuss your options.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) – Reduce Your Study Load

The MSc Management and Leadership in Health & Social Care at UEA allows you to import up to 80 credits from previous Master's-level study through a Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process. This means you could significantly shorten your study time while still achieving your full MSc qualification.

To be eligible for RPL:

- The study must have been completed within the last five years.
- Credits must have been achieved at Level 7 (Master's level).
- The credits must not have been used towards a previous academic qualification (for example another MSc degree).
- The learning outcomes of the modules being imported must align with the module learning outcomes that they are replacing. A copy of these can be made available on request.

How to apply for RPL:

1. Identify eligible credits from previous study.
2. Following enrolment onto the programme, submit an RPL application form along with evidence (e.g., academic transcripts, module descriptors).
3. Your application will be assessed by the RPL panel to ensure alignment with MSc Management and Leadership in Health and Social Care module learning outcomes.
4. If approved, credits will be applied to optional modules (up to 80 credits), reducing the number of modules you need to complete.

If you would like to discuss your eligibility for RPL before applying, join one of our drop-in sessions or contact our admissions team.

Ready to Advance your Career?

- Speak to our CPD or admissions team about career pathways and funding support.
- Join a drop-in session to learn how this MSc can support your career goals.
- See the "How to Apply" section to get started.

Email: hsc.apprenticeships@uea.ac.uk

[Upcoming Drop-in Sessions](#)



Fees and Funding

Investing in your professional development is an important decision, and we are committed to helping you explore the funding options available to support your studies.

Tuition Fees

Fees are reviewed annually, and the latest information on course costs can be found on our website: <https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding>

Fees for the full course for the academic year 2026-27 are £11,200. For 2026/27 our 20-credit module fee is £1,245

For self-funding applicants our postgraduate funding schemes include the 10% Alumni Tuition Fee Discount Scheme. Please see our [10% Alumni Tuition Fee Discount Scheme](#) for further details.

Funding Options

Many learners receive funding through:

Employer Sponsorship – NHS Trusts, private healthcare providers, or other organisations may offer full or partial funding for modules as part of workforce development.

Learner Finance Loans – Some learners may be eligible for postgraduate learner loans to support tuition fees and living costs.

Self-Funding – Learners who wish to self-fund their studies can opt to pay per module or per academic year. Flexible payment plans may be available. We encourage you to approach your employer for funding in the first instance. For further guidance on funding options, including payment plans, contact the UEA Finance Office or visit: [UEA Postgraduate finance, fees and funding for UK learners](#).

Other Study Options

If this pathway does not fully align with your learning needs, UEA offers alternative routes into Management and Leadership, and other areas of healthcare practice including:

Standalone CPD Modules – 20 and 40 credit modules at Level 7 that can contribute towards future MSc qualifications, allowing you to focus on specific areas of interest or required competencies.

MSc Advanced Professional Practice – An NHS England accredited part-time programme, generally completed over three years. This direct-entry programme comprises the same compulsory modules as the MSc ACP excluding the End Point Assessment meaning that apprentices can select up to 80-credits of optional modules

MSc Advancing Healthcare Practice – A flexible, entirely online MSc part-time and full-time programme, allowing maximum flexibility in your learning. This course is underpinned by the four pillars of Advanced Practice but does not include practice-based core modules and so can be undertaken by professionals in roles that do not involve direct clinical care. A combination of 80 compulsory module credits and 100 optional module credits will allow you to tailor your studies to your personal development needs and areas of interest.





MSc Advanced Clinical Practice Degree Apprenticeship (ACPDA) – An NHS England accredited part-time programme, generally completed over three years and funded through your organisation's Apprenticeship Levy. This programme comprises the same compulsory modules as the MSc APP with an additional 20-credit compulsory End-Point Assessment module, meaning that learners can select 60 optional modules credits.

PGCert Specialist Practice – 60-credit programmes of part-time study completed over nine months. Pathways currently available include Adult Critical Care, Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine, Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory Practice, Independent Prescribing.

MSc Research and Quality Improvement in Health and Care – An MSc programme designed for practitioners aiming to develop knowledge, skills, confidence and independence in conducting research and applying research-related capability to enhance services and improve patient's outcomes and experiences

For further information on our CPD modules please visit our website <https://www.uea.ac.uk/health/healthuea-academy>.

How to Apply

Applications for the MSc Management and Leadership in Health and Social Care programme are submitted via the UEA online application form.

Application Process

- 1. Check Entry Requirements** – Ensure you meet the academic and professional criteria for the programme, including any additional requirements for restricted modules. See the Entry Requirements and RPL section for further details.
- 2. Prepare Supporting Documents** – You may need to submit:
 - A CV detailing your professional experience
 - A personal statement outlining your reasons for applying
 - Proof of professional registration (if applicable)
 - Evidence of funding or sponsorship (if required)
- 3. Submit Your Application** – Complete the online application via the UEA admissions portal. If you would like to discuss your individual circumstances prior to applying, we run regular drop-in sessions. Please contact us for further information and dates:

Email: fmh.cpd@uea.ac.uk