

**MSc Extreme Medicine
Frequently Asked Questions**

What are the entry requirements?

A minimum 2.2 Honours degree (or equivalent) in a healthcare related discipline will be required.

Individuals who don't meet the normal entry criteria but have relevant professional experience will also be welcomed on to this MSc programme. Qualifications and experience will be assessed on application. Informal enquires are welcome before the formal application stage and we can discuss which areas of the course may need particular attention or advise on pre-course study to maximise your learning engagement. Should you wish to discuss this please contact our Student Recruitment and Admissions Team at CMH_Admissions@exeter.ac.uk.

Who should I contact if I am not certain I meet the entry requirements?

We are very happy to advise further on an individual basis and it will depend on your existing qualifications and academic background and your healthcare experience to date. In previous years we have had participants with nursing, paramedic, midwifery and sports medicine qualifications take the course.

People wishing to consider taking the course who do not have a primary medical qualification (medicine, nursing, paramedic) are strongly advised to have completed a course to FREC level 4 in order that they have familiarity with pre-hospital medical assessment and care. Offers will only be made if prospective candidates can demonstrate they bring equivalent experience and knowledge. Completion of an FREC course does not guarantee an offer and it is only one piece of information used to assess an application.

If you are concerned about your qualifications being suitable for entry, you can contact the CMH Admissions Team at CMH_Admissions@exeter.ac.uk

I am working full time – how intensive is the learning?

The MSc course can be taken as a full-time course over 1 year or spread over 2 or 3 years of part time study. The contact teaching is concentrated in short, intensive residential blocks for each module.

Can I enrol on the Full-time course if I am working full-time in a clinical role?

The face to face component of the course is delivered in intensive residential modules, requiring quite a lot of time away. It would be extremely challenging to complete the course while working full time. The schedule will allow most people taking the full-time option to do some paid employment as a locum during the quieter periods of the course.

What is the difference between the Full & Part time courses?

The only difference between the 1 year course and the 2 and 3-year course is that the modules are all compressed into a single academic year. The net effect is that the residential and assessment schedule is more intensive. Deadlines for assignments typically extend to 6 weeks post module, but on the full-time course you may have already attended another module by then with a fresh assignment to consider. You will also need to be preparing your independent research project concurrently.

Do I have to come to Exeter regularly to study on the course?

The course is set up to use contact time as efficiently as possible in residential locations. Where possible we structure the contact time around high fidelity environments that are in a variety of UK and overseas locations. There is no compulsion to visit the Exeter campus although you are obviously very welcome!

Can I know the dates for the residential teaching in advance, to plan my rota and leave?

Dates for the modules are usually set 2-3 months before the start of the academic year and published on the website. There are occasions when we may need to change these due to unforeseen circumstances. It would be exceptional to cancel or reschedule a course at short notice.

What level of support does the University provide for the Independent Research Project (dissertation) module?

For the independent research project, you will have a dissertation supervisor as a mentor. There is provision for you to have up to 10 meetings (that can be remote eg. Skype) of 30 minutes over the course of the academic year to advise on your project and there are formative submissions during the year of your project pro forma, interim results and progress reports that allow your supervisor to be confident that you are on track.

I have looked at some Master's level courses which offer a Postgraduate Certificate rather than full MSc. Is there an equivalent for the Extreme Medicine course?

The full MSc is 180 academic credits. You can also register with the Master's programme to complete a Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma for completing 60 and 120 credits (equivalent to year 1 & 2 of the part time course). If you register for a full Master's course and your plans change you can choose to leave the programme with a Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma on acquiring the necessary credits.

How much is the tuition fee?

For up to date fees please go to

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/medicine/extrememedicinemsc/#fees>

Why do some modules show as having a price supplement?

A unique feature of this MSc programme is that much of the face-to-face teaching is done outside the classroom: using high fidelity locations both in the UK and overseas so that you are fully immersed in an authentic environment while learning. The cost of providing overseas modules varies considerably, and the price supplement for the most expensive modules reflects this variance.

Are there any other costs involved?

Students will be liable for all additional costs incurred when undertaking this programme. This will include:

Travel to the course venue

In the first year the residential courses are based in a variety of locations throughout the UK. In years 2 and 3 several of the courses are held overseas. The cost of travel to the course venue is the responsibility of the student.

Note: WEM provide clear information and a point of contact in the joining instructions each client receives when registering for one of our courses

Personal Insurance

UK courses:

British residents - As with any time spent away from home, we suggest that clients check their contents and/ or personal insurance to confirm whether their belongings will be covered for any incident which may occur away from their home address.

International residents – They will need to ensure that they have adequate insurance to cover their personal belongings and check with their home country to confirm their access to medical attention whilst in the UK.

Overseas courses:

British and International residents – All will require adequate travel insurance which covers them for medical expenses and personal belongings and allows for trekking at altitude* / winter activities* (as appropriate, depending on the course attending) and lists helicopter evacuation in the event of an emergency.

Note: Travel insurance which essentially covers the client for sitting on the beach is unlikely to provide adequate cover for these courses. Clients/ students may prefer to source their own insurance but if required, we can direct them to a good quality insurance provider we work with.

Kit and Protective Clothing

Each of the courses (both UK & each of our overseas courses) has a kit list which will be supplied to you, but as a list of essential items, the following items are suggested.

Note: These are *basic* items which any medic wanting to work in challenging environments will use again and again and be expected to own personally. It is likely you may choose to acquire additional kit or gadgets to enhance comfort and/or safety in these environments.

- Outdoor clothing – notably a waterproof jacket & trousers, hat, gloves, warm walking socks plus clothes allowing freedom of movement. The waterproof layers should be good quality, breathable and capable of withstanding sustained rainfall and low UK temperatures. Suggested brands are Rab, Montane, Mountain Equipment, Berghaus, North Face.
- Sturdy walking boots
- Upper body layering options: e.g. one long sleeved thermal top, thin fleece, thicker fleece if wanted and a duvet coat (optional)
- Minimum 40L Day pack. Most medics carry their own personal kit as well as significant supplementary medical equipment and there will be many circumstances where a 60L pack is more appropriate for travel.
- Water bottle / camelback
- Head Torch

- Compass
- Whistle
- Roll mat
- 3 Season sleeping bag
- Camping utensils - mug, bowl & spoon and a stove

The only module requiring very specialist equipment and clothing is the optional 'Polar medicine' module. This can be hired as an alternative to purchasing on request.

How do I apply to the course?

The online application is easily accessed from the website:

<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/medicine/extrememedicinemsc/>

Please note that if you receive an offer, you must *accept* the offer and return your completed occupational health form, then activate your registration online before your place on the course is confirmed.

Why is the MSc so expensive compared to other qualifications that sound similar?

The Extreme Medicine MSc is a unique offering; combining the academic rigour of a leading Russell Group University with World Extreme Medicine, who bring over 25 years of experience providing high-quality teaching in remote and austere medical environments. Classroom-based teaching has been scrapped in favour of an immersive learning experience in some of the most amazing locations around the globe. You'll be taught by the experts, from astronauts and aquanauts to humanitarian medics, special forces clinician and polar veterans. This MSc opens the door to a world of truly *extreme* medicine. You'll join a network of inspirational medics and adventurers leading the way across a huge array of specialities.