

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

### 1. COURSE DETAILS

<b>Qualification:</b>	Postgraduate Certificate
<b>Course Title:</b>	Musculoskeletal Ultrasound
<b>Awarding Body:</b>	University College of Osteopathy
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	Level 7
<b>UK Credits:</b>	60 credits
<b>ECTS Credits:</b>	30 credits
<b>Professional, Regulatory and Statutory Body (PSRB) Accreditation:</b>	This course is not currently accredited by a PSRB
<b>Mode of Study:</b>	Part-Time Distance Learning
<b>Length of Study:</b>	One year
<b>Location of Delivery:</b>	The University College of Osteopathy, London, UK
<b>Entry Month:</b>	September
<b>HECoS Code:</b>	N/A
<b>UCAS Code:</b>	N/A

### 2. COURSE SUMMARY

This unique, one year course is designed to provide a structured learning programme for working healthcare professionals in MSK medicine to gain the skills, knowledge and experience required to safely, and competently, perform and evaluate diagnostic ultrasound scans in musculoskeletal medicine. It will advance and develop your existing clinical skills to complement your clinical decision making and patient management and enable you to effectively integrate ultrasound scanning into your clinical practice, as well as critically review the latest MSK ultrasound research to inform your practice.

You will study musculoskeletal anatomy and learn to identify structures and common pathologies using ultrasound imaging, how to report the findings and be able to translate these into clinical management strategies. You will also study the strength and limitations of ultrasound imaging and other imaging modalities in relation to pathology. You will develop the skills and knowledge to learn safely, consistently, and competently perform and interpret ultrasound imaging and relate the findings to the clinical diagnosis and injury management. You will also learn to critically appraise and apply professional standards, guidelines and medico-legal considerations to inform and underpin your clinical practice.

You will undertake a one-year clinical placement working with an approved Clinical Supervisor for the duration of the course who will provide you with support and feedback as you acquire clinical and ultrasound skills, and to supervise the 100 assisted and 150 unassisted ultrasound scans you will be undertaking as part of this course.

Diagnostic ultrasound is a rapidly developing tool for the diagnosis of musculoskeletal disorders and has many advantages over other imaging modalities. There is an increasing demand for musculoskeletal ultrasound examinations and this trend is very likely to continue.

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

The successful completion of this Postgraduate qualification will add ultrasound skills to your clinical practice, a valuable key skill for advanced practitioners in all clinical settings and may lead to new career opportunities.

This course is delivered by full-time clinicians and lecturers who work in a variety of locations including the NHS, elite sports and the private sector in musculoskeletal clinics, radiology and sonography departments (<https://www.ultrasoundtraining.co.uk/faculty/>).

We also receive excellent support from the largest provider of ultrasound machines in the UK (GE Healthcare) who currently provide a range of ultrasound machines for the course, to represent the variations found in clinical practice.

### 3. COURSE AIMS

The aims of this course are to:

1. Provide students with the skills to safely and competently use diagnostic ultrasound within clinical practice whilst considering its limitations and the role of other imaging modalities.
2. Provide students with a systematic understanding of the physical properties and instrumentation of diagnostic ultrasound in relation to image acquisition and optimisation for diagnostic purposes.
3. Provide students with detailed anatomical knowledge of 'normal' anatomy within their intended scope of practice and the spectrum of change in musculoskeletal pathology.
4. Enable students to produce clear and accurate ultrasound scans and reports for the diagnosis of musculoskeletal conditions and facilitate decision making to optimise and influence patient management.
5. To work effectively with patients and the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) to ensure effective communication for decision making.
6. Enable students to explore the professional skills needed to become an advanced clinical practitioner using musculoskeletal ultrasound to complement current practice and decision making with an up to date, scientific, evidence-based approach including medico-legal considerations.
7. Offer students a structured learning experience within a clinical setting, allowing them to collaborate with a Clinical Supervisor and take charge of their self-directed learning.
8. Enable students to attain the level of competency required to practise musculoskeletal ultrasound imaging in their clinical setting through a standardised assessment strategy to meet professional practice guidelines and recommendations.

### 4. COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critically apply the key principles and physical properties of ultrasound in relation to the equipment and image generation to produce high quality ultrasound examinations.
2. Demonstrate critical knowledge and understanding of the safety of ultrasound and professional guidelines and issues and how they apply and relate to MSK ultrasound practice.
3. Critically demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of relevant anatomy, physiology and pathology associated with MSK ultrasound and its application within the context of clinical uncertainty.
4. Apply the skills necessary to perform high-quality ultrasound examination, safely, competently, consistently, and independently according to the evidence base.
5. Interpret, critically analyse and report upon the ultrasound findings to contribute to case management according to evidence base.

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

6. Critically analyse and reflect on the effectiveness of ultrasound imaging in clinical practice to develop and enhance patient management.

### 5. KEY FEATURES

- This PGCert MSKUS teaches the skills and knowledge to consistently and competently perform diagnostic ultrasound imaging within a clinical setting.
- This course provides a comprehensive learning programme covering all the essential elements of the theory and practice of musculoskeletal ultrasound. This includes physical properties, professional practice, scope of practice and medico-legal considerations.
- This course is a highly practical programme designed to optimise the practical learning experience of scanning under close supervision.
- Teaches a critical approach to the application of ultrasound imaging within a clinical setting and gives students a deeper understanding of its benefits and limitations in relation to other imaging modalities.
- Teaches how to critically relate theory to practise in the clinical and professional setting to contribute to patient diagnosis management.
- This course is delivered by full-time clinicians and lecturers who work in a variety of locations including the NHS, elite sports and the private sector in musculoskeletal clinics, radiology and sonography departments. You will also benefit from guest lecturers who have extensive knowledge and expertise in a wide range of areas. This faculty includes Sports Medicine Consultants, physiotherapists and sonographers.
- For the entire duration of the learning period, the course is complemented by a clinical placement where students work with the guidance of a Clinical Supervisor. This provides an opportunity for students to scan under close supervision which aligns seamlessly with the taught sessions. This clinical placement must involve a minimum of 14 hours supervised scanning per week as per CASE guidelines.
- Allows students to thoughtfully evaluate the current discourse and the underlying evidence, guiding their practice and enhancing those areas with insights from their clinical experiences.

### 6. EXTERNAL BENCHMARKING

#### ACADEMIC STANDARDS

This course has been benchmarked against the following external reference points to ensure that the course aligns to UK expectations for standards and quality:

- SEEC [Credit Level Descriptors \(2021\)](#).
- The Quality Assurance Agency's [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(FHEQ\) \(2014\)](#).
- The Quality Assurance Agency's [Master's Degree Characteristics Statement \(2020\)](#).
- The Quality Assurance Agency's [Higher Education Credit Framework for England \(2021\)](#).

#### PSRB STANDARDS

This course has been benchmarked against the following professional, statutory and regulatory body standards:

- CASE Validation and Accreditation handbook <http://www.case-uk.org/handbook/>

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

- SoR and BMUS (2022) “Guidelines for Professional Ultrasound Practice”  
<https://www.sor.org/learning-advice/professional-body-guidance-and-publications/documents-and-publications/policy-guidance-document-library/sor-and-bmus-guidelines-for-ultrasound-8th>
- Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine (FSEM) – MSK US Guidelines  
<https://www.fsem.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/FSEM-UK-MSK-US-Guidelines-May-2019.pdf>
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapist (CSP) Guidelines  
<https://www.csp.org.uk/publications/practice-guidance-physiotherapists-using-point-care-ultrasound-pocus-physiotherapy>
- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) - Standards of Proficiency Radiographers  
<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-proficiency/radiographers/>

### 7. COURSE ACCREDITATION

This course is not currently accredited by a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body.

### 8. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

#### STANDARD ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All students are required to agree to the UCO’s Student Terms & Conditions.

All students are required to be bound by, and comply with the [UCO’s Academic Quality Framework](#).

All students are required to be bound by, and comply with the [UCO’s Regulations, Policies & Procedures](#).

All students are required to be bound by, and comply with the Definitive Course Documentation which includes, the Course Information Form, Unit Information Forms and Course Handbooks.

The normal minimum entry requirements for entry onto this course are:

First Degree or Masters’ degree (or equivalent) in physiotherapy, osteopathy, chiropractic, radiography / sonography, medicine or other relevant healthcare profession.

An approved Clinical Supervisor, clinical placement and Independent Assessor.

#### ADDITIONAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Current registration with a Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body.

Possession of appropriate indemnity insurance.

A minimum of 3 years’ musculoskeletal experience.

Good MSK anatomical knowledge.

Be able to attend all course dates.

Completion of an Applicant Questionnaire to assess your professional background and that you meet the entry criteria (the questionnaire will be included in the application form).

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

EU and International participants are welcome to apply for the distance learning PGCert in MSK US.

For students with English as a second language, the above entry requirements are required to be met in addition to proficiency in spoken and written English at IELTS Level 7 (or equivalent).

### RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is the process used by the UCO to evaluate and recognise a learner's prior learning and enable them to join a course at an appropriate stage commensurate with their prior academic achievements.

Due to the professional nature of this course, there are no RPL opportunities available.

### WIDENING PARTICIPATION

The UCO is committed to a policy of inclusion and actively seeks to widen participation and increase opportunities for high-calibre students with aptitude and potential.

Students from under-represented groups (which include those with a seen or unseen disability, black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, those who have been in care, those who are carers and care for a friend or family member who could not cope without their support, mature students, and those from low higher education participation, household income and socioeconomic status) are all warmly welcomed and will be supported appropriately at the UCO to fulfil their potential.

We endorse the view that higher education should be accessible to all, regardless of background or financial status and are dedicated to providing prospective students from all backgrounds with advice and assistance to access our courses of study in addition to supporting you throughout your time at the UCO to ensure that you go on to have a fulfilling career.

Every application for this course is considered on its own merits in line with the UCO's [Admissions Policy & Procedure](#).

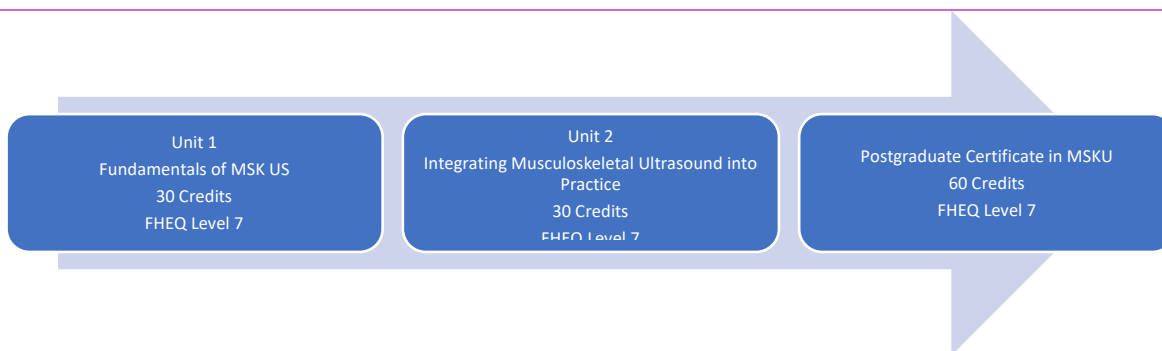
## 9. STRUCTURE & DELIVERY

### COURSE STRUCTURE

This PGCert MSKU course is studied over one year of distance learning during which you will study two compulsory Units which are studied sequentially. Each Unit is assigned a specific number of academic credits that reflects the estimated notional learning hours required for that Unit (where one credit typically represents 10 notional hours of learning) and is studied at a level appropriate for the award of the qualification. You will accumulate academic credits as you progress through the course in recognition of your achievement of unit learning outcomes at each level of study.

Each Unit of the PGCert MSKU course represents 30 credits studied at Level 7 so that you will achieve a total of 60 Level 7 credits upon successful completion of the course which aligns to a Postgraduate Certification qualification in accordance with the Quality Assurance Agency's Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ).

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound



The first Unit (Unit 1) comprises contact teaching days at UCO, taught in a three-day block, followed approximately two months later by a two-day block and a one-day exam. The aims of Unit 1 are:

1. Achieve a systematic understanding of the scientific principles and instrumentation of diagnostic musculoskeletal ultrasound in relation to image optimisation.
2. Critically reflect and understand the professional and medico-legal implications of musculoskeletal ultrasound imaging, including report writing, in an interprofessional context.
3. Explore the professional skills needed to become an advanced clinical practitioner using musculoskeletal ultrasound to complement your current practice with an up to date, scientific, evidence-based approach.
4. Develop competent advanced practical skills and detailed anatomical knowledge to safely and accurately produce ultrasound images of 'normal' anatomy.
5. Explore the concept of 'normal' anatomy and appreciate the spectrum of change and anatomical variation between individuals.

The second Unit (Unit 2) consists of two contact teaching days. The aims of Unit 2 are

1. Provide you with the confidence and skills to apply the knowledge and principles gained from Unit 1 into a clinical environment on real patients with a variety of musculoskeletal conditions.
2. Enable you to become a critical, evidence-based, reflective practitioner, to challenge and develop your practice with reference to the implementation of advanced diagnostic ultrasound skills, awareness of other imaging and interventions, and medico-legal considerations.
3. Enable you to confidently diagnose a variety of musculoskeletal pathologies relevant to your intended scope of practice, whilst applying in-depth knowledge of anatomy, advanced physical properties and the relevance of ultrasound findings.
4. Enable you to develop an in-depth analysis and interpretation of ultrasound scans and the complexities of pathology.
5. Ensure you act in the best interests of the individual service user at all times in line with the relevant professional standards and guidelines of the student's professional body i.e. Society of Radiographers (SoR) and British Medical Ultrasound Society (BMUS).
6. Enable you to be able to communicate relevant information effectively to the patient and wider team, both in written (ultrasound report) and verbal format. To ensure patient confidentiality and appropriate storage of images in line with current governance and legislation.

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

### COURSE DELIVERY

Unit 1 requires you to attend contact teaching days at UCO, taught in a 3-day block, followed approximately two months later by a 2-day block and a 1-day exam. Each study day runs from 09:00 to 17:00. The 5 teaching days provide 40 contact hours of teaching and will be complemented by independent, self-directed learning and utilisation of the resources and learning activities on the SMUG VLE. Unit 1 also requires you to attend a 1-day OSCE practical exam and physics MCQ from 09:00 to 17:00. You will also start your clinical placement within Unit 1.

Unit 2 requires you to attend 2 consecutive contact teaching days from 09:00 to 17:00. The 2 days provide 16 contact hours of teaching and will be complemented by independent, self-directed learning and utilisation of the resources and learning activities on the SMUG VLE. A key component of the learning and assessment strategy of Unit 2 is clinical skills development with a significant emphasis being placed on clinical placement. The students are required to engage with supervised practice to allow them experience in the clinical setting. Students must be exposed to a suitable caseload of a minimum of 14 hours per week under the close supervision of their Clinical Supervisor. Students must achieve a minimum of 250 supervised scans (150 assisted, 100 unassisted).

### 10. UNIT INFORMATION

The table below provides you with details about the Units you will study as part of this course. For this course, all Units are compulsory.

Year of Study	Unit Title	UK Credits	FHEQ Level	Unit Summary	Compulsory / Optional
<b>Year 1</b>	Unit 1: Fundamentals of Musculoskeletal Ultrasound.	30	7	<p>The Unit is taught as a 3-day block, followed approximately one month later by a 2-day block consisting of a range of lectures, practical demonstrations and workshops.</p> <p>The Unit will introduce you to the SMUG Course Team and the course in addition to covering the physics, scientific principles and technology underpinning MSK ultrasound. The teaching will focus on how to perform a scan safely (for both the patient and practitioner) and how to adjust the machine parameters and probe position to optimise the image. Consideration will be placed on professional and medico-legal issues relating to scope of practice, competency, ergonomics, report writing and storage of images.</p> <p>The Unit also covers scanning the key anatomical structures. A range of ultrasound machines to represent the variations found in clinical practice will be provided for the delegates to use with an emphasis on image optimisation. Emphasis will be placed</p>	Compulsory

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

				<p>on the visualisation of 'normal anatomy' on healthy adults. The advantages and disadvantages of ultrasound as an imaging modality for each anatomical area will also be discussed.</p> <p>You will also start your clinical placement.</p> <p>Your Summative assessments include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Multiple Choice Question (MCQ): MSK Ultrasound Physics</li> <li>2. Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE).</li> <li>3. Short Answer question (SAQ) Open Book Exam (Online Exam): Professional Practice in MSK Ultrasound.</li> </ol>	
<b>Year 1</b>	Unit 2: Integrating Musculoskeletal Ultrasound into Practice	30	7	<p>Unit 2 is taught as a 2-day block and will comprise of a range of lectures, practical demonstrations and workshops. This Unit also involves a work-based clinical placement.</p> <p>This Unit covers advanced scanning techniques and skills, encompassing topics such as intricate anatomy, pathology, tissue changes and their implications on patient management. This will require an advanced understanding of the application of the physical properties of ultrasound including dynamic ultrasound and the different imaging modalities such as Doppler imaging, for identification of pathology. You will also review the different imaging modalities available for the demonstration of different pathologies. A variety of ultrasound machines which represent the variations available in clinical practice will be provided for you to use within taught sessions.</p> <p>A work-based clinical placement commences at the start of the course during Unit 1 and continues into Unit 2. This placement forms an integral part of this Unit to further develop and assess your skills and knowledge and to focus on their clinical application. This experience will enhance your proficiency in recognising various pathologies, deepening your</p>	Compulsory



## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

				<p>understanding of their influence on treatment and management choices.</p> <p>Access to an appropriate Clinical Supervisor and Clinical Placement for the entirety of the course is the responsibility of the student. An approved clinical placement, Clinical Supervisor and Independent Assessor is a prerequisite to acceptance onto the course.</p> <p>You will be required to complete a Clinical Placement Logbook with a minimum of 250 supervised clinical scans during your clinical placement. All scans must be supervised with 100 assisted and 150 unassisted, in line with CASE requirements.</p> <p>Your Summative Assessments include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Clinical Placement Reflective Essay: A critical reflection on unassisted scans during the clinical placement.</li> <li>2. Final Clinical Summative Assessment with your Clinical Supervisor and Independent Assessor.</li> <li>3. Case Study Oral Presentation (online).</li> <li>4. Work-based Clinical Placement and the completion of the Clinical Placement Logbook.</li> </ol>	
--	--	--	--	---	--

## 11. TEACHING & LEARNING

### TEACHING & LEARNING ACTIVITIES

This course makes use of a wide variety of teaching and learning methods to acquire the knowledge and develop the practical skills and knowledge you need to successfully progress through the course and to achieve the qualification. Lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes and clinical experience are applied in a variety of ways, so that you gather, interpret, discuss and reflect on your learning. Learning will also be complimented by the SMUG VLE which will provide extensive resources to assist with your self-directed learning.

Unit 1 consists of 5 contact teaching days, taught in a 3-day block, followed approximately two months later by a 2-day block which combines on-line learning, lectures, and tutorials with practical, closely supervised skill training sessions. Group discussions and workshops will enhance and consolidate gained knowledge and develop critical analysis and understanding of the clinical application of ultrasound imaging. Formative assessment will be used throughout Unit 1 to provide you with feedback on your progress and learning needs. This will also help to prepare you for your Summative Assessments.

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

During practical workshops, you will typically work in groups of 2 or 3 to optimise your scanning experience. The practical sessions will provide you with close supervision and feedback with an appropriate tutor to student ratio.

Unit 2 builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in Unit 1 and consists of two contact teaching days where common pathologies will be identified. In addition, course delivery through a combination of on-line learning, lectures, presentations and workshops. Case studies and scenarios will be used to provide perspective on important topics, as well as specialist lectures to develop your advanced ultrasound skills in common pathology. Group discussions will further develop your critical analytical ability and reporting skills. Formative assessment will be used throughout Unit 2 to provide feedback to you on your progress and learning needs. This will also help you to prepare for your Summative Assessments.

You will also undertake a work-based clinical placement for the duration of the course where you will undertake self-directed learning and gain clinical experience under the guidance of a Clinical Supervisor. This will enhance your learning experience in your own clinical environment, leading to you becoming a competent, reflective clinician in the use of MSK ultrasound imaging.

### INDEPENDENT LEARNING

When not attending scheduled teaching sessions you are expected to continue learning independently through self-study which will typically involve:

- Undertaking your own research and reading around subject areas using textbooks, journals and online resources.
- Participating in and completing digital learning activities on the SMUG VLE.
- Collaborating with your peers and in group discussions.
- Practising practical skills with your peers.
- Practising practical skills with your Clinical Supervisor in your clinical environment.
- Producing a logbook of a minimum of 250 supervised scans (150 unassisted, 100 assisted)
- Preparing for and completing assessments and exams.

Your independent learning is supported by a range of excellent resources on the SMUG VLE

### OVERALL WORKLOAD

Your overall workload consists of class contact hours, independent distance learning, assessment activity, practice-based learning and work placements. Each Unit credit equates to 10 hours of study time and although your actual contact hours may vary between Units, the following information gives an indication of how much time you will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course:

**Year 1  
(Level 7)  
Per Week**

- An average of 1 - 1.5 Hours of Teaching, Learning & Assessment Activity
- An average of 10 Hours of Independent Study (online learning, research, self-directed studying and supervised and unsupervised scanning)
- An average of 14 Hours per week of supervised scanning.

### TEACHING STAFF

All tutors are clinicians (physiotherapists, osteopaths, sports physician) with a bachelor or Master's degree and a minimum of 10 years' clinical experience. They all have a special interest in musculoskeletal ultrasound and are

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

involved in teaching postgraduate courses. The breadth of experience allows the curriculum to benefit from recent research and multi-institute experience.

### LEARNING RESOURCES

To support you in your learning you will have access to a range of Learning Resources which include:

- Access to SMUG's VLE and a Personal Academic Tutor.
- Online resources including key articles, learning resources, videos, online presentations and quizzes.
- Comprehensive reading list for each Unit.

## 12. ASSESSMENT & FEEDBACK

### ASSESSMENT

Each Unit normally contains at least one 'practise' or 'Formative' assessment for which you will receive feedback from your Clinical Supervisor or Personal Academic Tutor, enabling you to monitor and review your understanding and progress. Grades of formative assessments do not count towards your final mark.

Both Unit 1 and Unit 2 also contain at least one 'formal' or 'Summative' assessment for which you will receive a grade which will count towards your final mark.

A range of Summative assessment methods are used to enable you to demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and competence and include coursework (where you are required to produce a written piece of work that you work on over a set period of time and submit for marking), written examinations (where you are required to answer a question paper under examination conditions) and practical examinations (where you are required to demonstrate your knowledge and skills to an assessor).

The Summative assessments for Unit 1 of this course include:

1. An Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) comprises various stations that focus on scanning standard anatomical structures pertinent to your targeted area of expertise. This exam evaluates your hands-on abilities and the application of insights concerning the physical properties of ultrasound and professional issues such as ergonomics and consent. The OSCE is a 50% pass mark which contributes (50%) to your final Unit 1 grade.
2. A Short Answer question (SAQ) Open Book Exam (Online Exam): Professional Practice in MSK Ultrasound, worth 30% of the Unit grade to assess professional practice and guidelines in MSK Ultrasound. The SAQ is a 50% pass mark which contributes to your final Unit 1 grade.
3. A Multiple-Choice Question (MCQ) Exam on MSK Ultrasound Physics (of 40 questions) worth 20% of the Unit grade. The MCQ has an 80% pass mark which contributes to your final Unit 1 grade.

The Summative assessments for Unit 2 of this course include:

1. A written Clinical Placement Reflective essay: A critical reflection on unassisted scans during the clinical placement. (3000 Words) worth 50% of the overall Unit 2 grade. The reflective essay is a 50% pass mark.
2. A work-based Clinical Placement and completion of the Clinical Placement Logbook - minimum of 250 supervised clinical scans (150 unassisted and 100 assisted). This is a 'Pass/Fail' assessment which must be passed.
3. A Case Study Oral Presentation (online) worth 50% of the overall Unit 2 grade. The oral presentation is a 50% pass mark.
4. A Final Clinical Summative Assessment completed by your Clinical Supervisor and Independent Assessor. This is a 'Pass/Fail' assessment which must be passed.

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

The approximate percentage of the course by each of these assessment methods is as follows:

**25% Coursework**

**25% Written Exams**

**50% Practical Exams**

### FEEDBACK

You will receive written feedback and a grade for all coursework and practical examinations.

For written examinations you will receive a grade with feedback available on request. Feedback is intended to help you learn and you are encouraged to discuss it with your Personal Academic Tutor.

We aim to provide you with feedback on Formative assessments within 30 working days of the hand-in date, and within 30 working days for Summative assessments.

### PROGRESSION & ACHIEVEMENT

Progression criteria are used by the UCO's Board of Examiners to determine whether you have achieved the required level and number of credits and any other requirements to be awarded the credits of each Unit and ultimately the course award.

The progression criteria for this course are:

1. You must achieve 60 Credits at FHEQ Level 7 to be awarded the PGCert MSKU.
2. You must complete the course within the maximum time limit of 3 years.
3. You must attempt all Summative Assessments within each Unit.
4. You must pass each Summative Assessment with the required pass mark as outlined in the relevant UIF's.
5. No assessment may be condoned or compensated.
6. You must achieve an overall Unit grade of 50% or above to pass the Unit and be awarded the appropriate number of credits for that Unit.
7. Failure to submit an assessment or attend an exam will result in a grade of 0% being awarded which equates to an automatic failure of that assessment and that Unit, even if the overall Unit grade is 50% or above.
8. Any assessment awarded a grade of 0% - 49% normally results in a resit of that assessment. All resit assessments are awarded a maximum (capped) pass grade however you will be provided with the grade that the work would have been awarded prior to being capped.
9. Any resit assessment awarded a grade of 0% - 49% normally results in a retake of that Unit in its entirety over the next academic year.
10. Only one resit attempt per assessment is normally permitted per year, and normally only within the resit assessment period scheduled at the beginning of the academic year.
11. You are not permitted to retake an assessment to improve your grade.
12. All grades are provisional until they are ratified by a Board of Examiners.
13. The Board of Examiners decision on progression and awards is final.

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

### DEGREE CLASSIFICATION

This course is classified to reflect your overall level of performance and attainment in relation to your:

- Knowledge and understanding.
- Cognitive skills.
- Practical skills.
- Transferable skills.
- Professional competencies (where relevant).
- Extended professional skills (ESP).

In recognition of your achievement, you may be awarded the PGCert MSKU with Merit or Distinction if you meet the following criteria:

- a) A Postgraduate Certificate with merit will be awarded provided that a credit-weighted average mark of 60% or above across all the Units is achieved.
- b) A Postgraduate Certificate with distinction will be awarded provided that a credit-weighted average mark of 70% or above across all the Units is achieved.

### EXIT AWARDS

There are no Exit Awards from this course.

## 13. FURTHER STUDY & EMPLOYABILITY

Musculoskeletal ultrasound is a fast-developing diagnostic tool which enhances clinical assessment, treatment and injury management.

The successful completion of the PGCert MSKU adds ultrasound skills to your clinical practice. It is a key skill in many advanced practitioner roles in the NHS, private practice and sports teams and is likely to present new career opportunities. This course will produce confident, independent and conscientious ultrasound practitioners.

## 14. STUDENT SUPPORT

### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The UCO recognises that students new or returning to study at higher education level can be challenging. You will need to take more responsibility for your own learning, be responsible for attending classes and completing assessments on time, and for participating in group and individual learning activities.

You will have full access to the Course Leader, Units Leaders and SMUG Course Tutors with whom you will be able to discuss your studies and academic progress within and outside of teaching sessions.

You will also be allocated a Personal Academic Tutor for the duration of the course who will meet with you on a regular basis to support and assist you throughout your studies. They will help you to evaluate your own learning, set learning goals and make action plans to achieve those goals.

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

### PASTORAL SUPPORT

The dedicated SMUG Course Team operates an Open-Door Policy that means you are welcome at any time to discuss issues that may be affecting your studies or wellbeing and are always willing to listen and support you through any difficulties.

If required, you may be referred to the UCO's Student Support Team which is committed to strengthening mental health, wellbeing and disability support within the UCO and provides a confidential and impartial service on a wide variety of issues which may directly or indirectly affect your studies including:

- Providing a welfare advisory service and to advise staff on related matters.
- Providing specialist advice, information and support about student finance and assisting students in sourcing other funding from external organisations such as educational charities.
- Providing specialist advice, information and support about students' physical and mental health and wellbeing, including personal issues related to family, relationships, identity, gender and sexuality.
- Providing advice and information about accommodation, living arrangements and travel.
- Advising on Higher Education student finance, bursaries, and loan schemes available within the UCO.
- Providing a confidential impartial service, where no information is disclosed without students' written consent.
- Referring students on to appropriate help within the UCO and the local community.

In many cases where personal circumstances have an impact on your studies, reasonable adjustments and individual learning plans can be made to enable you to continue studying and fulfil your potential.

The UCO's fully qualified Counsellor also provides a counselling service to help you if you feel overwhelmed or experience psychological or emotional difficulties throughout your studies. Appointments to use this confidential service are free and anonymous.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

SMUG is unable to offer students financial support.

### DISABILITY SUPPORT

SMUG welcomes students with a disability or specific learning difficulty and has enabled many such students to successfully complete the course and fulfil their potential.

If you have a disability or specific learning difficulty, you are recommended to disclose this on your application and health form and/or to inform us confidentially in writing. This will help us to provide you with advice and guidance about how we may be able to support you throughout the admissions process and throughout the course.

## 15. COURSE FEES, ADDITIONAL COSTS & VALUE FOR MONEY

### COURSE FEES

The course fee for the September 2024 entry on this course is as follows:

Home (UK) Student: £3,162 (inc. VAT)

EU and International Student: £3,162 (inc. VAT)

The SMUG Course Fee Policy below details essential information relating to tuition fees and fee payment which you are strongly recommended to read and understand.

## Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

### SMUG COURSE FEE POLICY

To secure your place, once you have been offered a place on the course, you are required within 7 working days to pay by one of the payment methods below.

1. Pay in full by debit/credit card or bank transfer.
2. For UK students: You must pay a non-refundable deposit of £862 by credit/debit card or bank transfer. The balance of £2,300 must be paid in full 8 weeks before the course commences.
3. For EU and international students: You must pay a non-refundable deposit of £862 by credit/debit card or bank transfer. The balance of £2,300 must be paid in full 8 weeks before the course commences.
4. For students who suspend their studies or who wish to attend a contact teaching day of a future cohort will incur an additional course fee of £395 per contact teaching day.

The Cancellation Policy is as follows:

Less than 28 days' notice = No refund

29 to 56 days' notice = 50% refund (less non-refundable deposit)

Over 57 days' notice = Full refund (less non-refundable deposit)

In exceptional circumstances please contact the SMUG Course Manager.

### ADDITIONAL COSTS

You should be aware that there may be other costs associated with your course in addition to the course fees. For this course these include:

- Textbooks: We provide your learning needs for this course, with presentations, reference papers and online learning material. However, if you wish to purchase your own textbooks the cost of this to you will be dependent on your preferred supplier.
- Computer/Laptop/Storage Devices: You will require access to a computer and the internet to access the online learning resources, participate in online discussions, email your tutors and colleagues and prepare and submit written assessments. If you wish to purchase your own laptop, storage device or use the internet at home the cost to you will depend on your chosen supplier.
- Clinic Equipment: GE Healthcare provides the MSK ultrasound scanners during the teaching days. You will require access to an ultrasound scanner for the entirety of your clinical placement.

### VALUE FOR MONEY

We recognise that you make a significant financial investment by studying with SMUG and the UCO and that you may be interested to know how your Tuition Fees are invested. We believe that sound investment of your Course Fees and careful management of our finances will ensure that you receive the best return by providing you with:

- A high-quality academic and student experience.
- An academic community that is diverse, inspiring and culturally vibrant, stimulating, healthy, safe and supportive.
- Knowledge and skills that will serve you over a lifetime.
- Enhanced employment prospects.

Course Information Form: Postgraduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

CIF MODIFICATION RECORD			
Level of Modification	Summary of Modification	Modification Approved by	Date of Modification Approval
Major	Increased number of Unit 1 contact teaching days (delivered as 4 consecutive teaching days) by 1 day with delivery split into two teaching blocks (3 consecutive days followed by a further 2 consecutive teaching days).	UCO Academic Council	March 2022
Major	Delivery mode from Part-Time to Distance-Learning as a more appropriate and transparent description of the delivery mode of this course.	UCO Academic Council	July 2022
Major	All sections revised to align to CASE accreditation standards.	UCO Academic Council	March 2024