

Programme Specification

Award and title: MSc Operating Department Practice (Pre-registration)

<i>School:</i>	Science, Technology and Health
<i>Subject area:</i>	Health
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme approved by:</i>	Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
<i>Programme endorsed by:</i>	College of Operating Department Practitioners (CODP)
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate Applied Health Sciences Postgraduate Diploma Applied Health Sciences MSc Applied Health Sciences
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	N/A
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	N/A
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	N/A
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	2 years full time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	No
<i>Excluding a year-long placement/professional experience, are there placement/field trip/work experience(s) totalling 20 days or more?</i>	No

Introduction and special features

Introduction

Welcome to the exciting world of Operating Department Practice (ODP) where every heartbeat, every breath, and every second count.

In this dynamic and transformative programme, you will nurture your passion for patient care within the high-pressure environment of the operating theatre. Here, you will discover the artistry and precision of ODP. Our Operating Department Practice programme at York St John University is an innovative postgraduate route into the field of perioperative practice, leading to professional registration with the Health and Care

Professions Council. This is an ideal route for graduates with a human sciences background looking to make the first steps into an exciting career at the frontline of modern healthcare.

Our programme is not just about acquiring expertise; it's about embracing a calling to be the unsung heroes behind the scenes, the steady hands that navigate the complexities of surgical procedures, and the compassionate souls that ensure every patient journey is one of safety, comfort, and dignity.

The role of the Operating Department Practitioner is unique and unlike any other Allied Health Professional. With specific training in the areas of anaesthetics, surgery and recovery, the ODP provides highly skilled assistance to medical staff and is a central role in the multidisciplinary perioperative team. There is an identified need for increasing numbers of ODPs in both private and public healthcare provision and on an international level.

As you immerse yourself in our comprehensive curriculum, you will not only gain a profound understanding of anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology but also cultivate essential teamwork, communication, and decision-making skills essential for success in the operating theatre. So, if you're ready to embrace the pulse-pounding excitement of the operating theatre and make a tangible impact on the lives of patients, then welcome to our unique Operating Department Practice programme.

Special features

Our programme is externally accredited by the professional body, the College of Operating Department Practice and approved by the Health and Care Profession Council (HCPC), meaning on successful completion of the programme you will be eligible to apply to register with the HCPC and use the protected title of Operating Department Practitioner.

There is a strong emphasis on employability throughout the programme, together with personal resilience and leadership skills to facilitate professional development in work-based environments. In all levels of study, you will interact with Operating Department Practitioners and other professionals from a range of careers and 'live briefs' to develop employability skills.

The programme includes an inter-professional agenda, and you will be encouraged to consider the role of different professions, alongside Operating Department Practitioners and how they are involved across a person-centred journey. This may take the form of multiprofessional simulation-based scenarios with other York St John University students, case scenarios, case discussion and visiting speakers from a variety of different clinical environments. By integrating interprofessional learning with critical problem-solving and leadership skills you will be encouraged to make a unique contribution to your new profession, right from the start of your new career. Developing a respect for providing a person-centred approach is weaved throughout the theoretical and practical components of the programme and there is a strong commitment to social justice, sustainability, and enhancing cultural intelligence by encouraging you to be aware of, and address, social and economic concerns inequalities in healthcare.

Admissions criteria

At York St John University we encourage applications from people with a variety of backgrounds and experience. As such, the admissions criteria can be complicated to navigate, and we encourage you to contact University staff to discuss your specific situation and what evidence you may need to provide.

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for postgraduate study.
In addition, you must have:

- An undergraduate Bachelor's degree (level 6) or equivalent, with a minimum upper second class. In addition, applications without a human biology; or behavioural science; or sports science; or health-related focus in their award must undertake additional education as specified below (or an equivalent).

Or

- A first or upper second-class BSc honours degree (or equivalent) in a human biology; or behavioural science; or sports science; or health-related profession plus experience of undergraduate level research skills and a project/dissertation.

Or

- A first or upper second-class undergraduate degree in any subject that contains experience of research skills and a project/dissertation. In addition, evidence of successful completion of the study of human biology and basic patient assessment skills at level 4 or above. Where the study of basic patient assessment skills is difficult to obtain, equivalent life support skills and first aid experience will be considered. This assessment will be made on the evidence you provide prior to an offer being made.

And

- Experience in a healthcare environment is essential due to the accelerated nature of the programme, and further work experience/shadowing in an operating department is desirable. However, an understanding of the Operating Department Practitioner role in healthcare is required along with insight into perioperative practice and current topics in health, which is to be demonstrated in a personal statement on application. Guidance on personal statements is available on the programme webpage.
- GCSE Maths and English at Grade C/4 or equivalent.
- Applicants presenting with a lower second-class degree in a relatable subject, or an undergraduate degree in any subject, may be considered if you are able to evidence significant academic or professional experience which is judged to be acceptable by York St John University. This assessment will be made on the evidence you provide prior to an offer being made.
- If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry based on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

If your first language is not English, you will need to take an IELTS test, or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorks.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>). You must be able to communicate in English to the standard equivalent to level 7 of the International English Language Testing System, with no element below 6.5.

Additional notes for admission to the programme:

Disclosure of criminal background:

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 does not apply and all cautions and convictions, including those which are spent, must be disclosed. This is in accordance with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975. If you are offered a place, you must undergo an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and will be required to complete a disclosure application form. All information will be treated in confidence and only considered when necessary.

Manual handling:

As a requirement for practice education, you will be trained in manual handling techniques before being allowed into practice at the beginning of the programme. If you are unable to successfully complete this short course, provided at the start of the programme and updated periodically throughout, you will be asked to attend a fitness to practice meeting where your ability to continue the programme will be determined.

Health assessment, declaration, and vaccinations:

You must be in good health and up to date with your routine immunisations (e.g., tetanus, diphtheria, polio, MMR, and hepatitis B). Additionally, we recommend that you consider a COVID-19 and seasonal flu vaccination if offered as perioperative practice is a critical care environment. If you are offered a place, you will be required to complete a questionnaire and must be prepared to undergo a medical examination. You will also be required to confirm your status in respect of several infectious diseases and immunisations and be prepared to have all required vaccinations. If your vaccinations are not up to date this may affect your ability to continue your course. If you have any concerns with regards to vaccinations, please raise this at the point of application.

Programme aims

The overall aim of the programme is to produce graduates who can excel within the context of Operating Department Practice and who have the knowledge, resilience and confidence to contribute to the development of the profession:

- To provide an inclusive, intellectually stimulating and aspirational programme of study in Operating Department Practice for all students from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds.
- To develop the student into a resilient, confident and professional Operating Department Practitioner within the context of perioperative practice, capable of adapting to the demands of contemporary healthcare settings.
- Understand the principles and subject knowledge of perioperative practice in relation to the role of the Operating Department Practitioner.
- To develop core discipline specific and research skills to be able to contribute to the discipline body of knowledge.
- Demonstrate adaptability to the changing needs of service users with appropriate knowledge and skill.
- To empower graduates to become critical, innovative leaders in perioperative practice.
- To foster self-awareness and curiosity as a basis for ongoing professional development
- To meet the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards of Proficiency for Operating Department Practitioners and the College of Operating Department Practitioners (CODP) curriculum.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 Demonstrate a systematic, comprehensive, and detailed understanding of human anatomy, pharmacology, disease, and trauma processes in the context of diagnostic and therapeutic surgical interventions.
- 7.2 Exercise a critical, theoretical understanding of all areas of anaesthetic, and post-anaesthetic care according to the HCPC Standards of Proficiency for Operating Department Practitioners, Standards of Conduct Performance and Ethics and the College of Operating Department Practice curriculum, demonstrating assessment, planning and implementation of all areas in practice.
- 7.3 Exercise a critical, theoretical understanding of all areas of scrub and circulating care according to the HCPC Standards of Proficiency for Operating Department Practitioners, Standards of Conduct Performance and Ethics and the College of Operating Department Practice curriculum, demonstrating assessment, planning and implementation of all areas in practice.
- 7.4 Critically explore and apply the principles of holistic and inclusive care of the perioperative patient and advocate for their legal and ethical wellbeing including that of colleagues, service users and of oneself, both in theory and practice according to the HCPC Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics.
- 7.5 Interpret information from a variety of sources to synthesise an appropriate clinical decision-making process in the care of the perioperative patient both in theory and practice.
- 7.6 Critically analyse evidence from a range of sources and appraise theoretical evidence-based perioperative practice within the structure of national healthcare provision and globally.
- 7.7 Critically appraise and apply the principles of research to synthesise an original piece of primary research, demonstrating innovation and service improvement in a meaningful contribution to the development of the profession.
- 7.8 Demonstrate critical and conceptual understanding of the principles of leadership, reflection, and communication skills in the perioperative environment to evaluate personal learning, develop competence and aid future professional development.

Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Year	Title	Credits	Module status	
						Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
ODP7001M	7	1, 2	1	Applied Pathophysiology	15	C	NC
ODP7002M	7	1, 2, 3	1	Preparation for Research	15	C	NC
ODP7003M	7	1, 2, 3	1	Introduction to Operating Department Practice	30	C	NC
ODP7004M	7	1, 2, 3	1	Principles of Perioperative Anaesthetic Care	30	C	NC
ODP7005P	7	1, 2, 3	1,2	Professional Practice Placement	0	C	NC
ODP7006M	7	1, 2, 3	2	Perioperative Pharmacology	15	C	NC
ODP7007M	7	1, 2	2	Contemporary Leadership and Innovation	15	C	NC
ODP7008M	7	1, 2, 3	2	Perioperative research	30	C	NC
ODP7009M	7	1, 2, 3	2	Surgical Care and the Principles of Surgical First Assisting	30	C	NC

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensable. A non-compensable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 50 and for Perioperative Pharmacology, a pass mark of 100% is required in Part 1 of the assessment) to progress.

Learning, teaching, and assessment

The programme has been designed to cultivate advanced knowledge, critical thinking, and practical skills in perioperative care. The learning and teaching strategy encompasses a dynamic blend of theoretical foundations, hands-on experiences and professional placements and development to prepare you for professional registration with the Health and Care Professions Council and beyond.

A combination of lectures will deliver the theoretical underpinnings of perioperative concepts in the contemporary context in areas of anaesthesia, surgical interventions, and complex patient care. Seminars will prompt your deeper learning through interactive discussions, debate, critical analysis, and collaborative problem-solving. Guest speakers from all areas of perioperative practice and research will enhance your understanding of real-world perspectives.

Hands-on immersive simulations are an exciting and integral part of this programme. You will engage in realistic perioperative scenarios, applying theoretical knowledge in safe, controlled environments that will encourage debate to foster deeper learning. You will see a progressive development in skill and dexterity over a range of simulation methods in a spiralled approach from low to high-fidelity to develop your decision-making and teamwork, developing your employability skills in perioperative practice.

The programme promotes a culture of inquiry and evidence-based practice. You will undertake a research project, aimed at demonstrating your contribution to the field of perioperative research through the culmination of an independent piece of research suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Research methods will build on your previous knowledge and understanding through the synthesis and analysis of an original piece of primary research.

Interprofessional collaboration is emphasised throughout the programme. You will be introduced to the concept in year one and in conjunction with the theoretical background to modern interprofessional health service provision, you will work with nursing and allied health students in simulation and clinical placements to develop your understanding of the importance of multidisciplinary working. Shared learning experiences will prepare you for complex multidisciplinary team working on clinical placements and equip you with the communication and team-working skills to thrive in the modern healthcare setting.

The incorporation of e-learning and technology will facilitate your deeper learning using online resources and planned perioperative technology simulation that is tailored to your accessibility needs and can accommodate a diverse range of learning styles.

A variety of authentic assessment methods such as written assignments, Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), exams and research will develop your academic, critical and research thinking skills via formative and summative methods. A practice assessment document (PAD) will evidence your development of knowledge and skill over the course of the programme, consisting of your simulated knowledge development and clinical placement skills competence. Formative assessment is crucial to learning and you will have the opportunity to practice clinical skills in the simulation suite, receive verbal and written feedback on written assignments, and in practice placement, feedback is central to your personal development which will be from clinical staff and university tutors.

Graduate employability is embedded across the programme, with professional skills development introduced in year one, and continued in year two with an employability week that will feature industry speakers, and guest lectures from advanced practice, CPD portfolio building, CV creation seminars, and interview techniques, that will give you confidence in starting your professional career.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations](#) for postgraduate awards apply to this programme. Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensable.

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of graduation:

You will be eligible for the award of MSc Operating Department Practice (pre-registration) when you have: -

- Passed all modules specified for the programme of study in the programme specification.
- Passed the Professional Practice Placement module, that spans year one and year two. Subsequent failure will result in enforced withdrawal of the student's enrolment on the programme. Opportunities to redeem may not be able to be made within the normal resit period and may delay your award.

Only graduating with the full award of MSc Operating Department Practice (Pre-Registration), will carry eligibility for you to apply for registration as an Operating Department Practitioner with the HCPC.

- Should you require further time to complete your clinical practice placement due to a failure in one or more areas of competence, a six-month period can be granted for resit, which would delay your graduation.
- You will be eligible for the award of the MSc Applied Health Sciences in the event of gaining 180 credits but failure to pass a placement component. This will not enable eligibility to apply for registration with the HCPC and consequently to practise as an Operating Department Practitioner.

- Additional interim (exit) awards are available with 120 credits for a Postgraduate Diploma Applied Health Sciences and 60 credits for a Postgraduate Certificate Applied Health Sciences. These will not enable eligibility to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and consequently to practise as an Operating Department Practitioner.
- Aegrotat awards - If a student is offered an aegrotat award as per University regulations, this does not confer eligibility to apply for admission to the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Register.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [The Health and Care Professions Council Standards for Education and Training](#)
- [The Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Proficiency for Operating Department Practitioners](#)
- [The College of Operating Department Practice Curriculum](#)
- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [The Inclusive Higher Education Framework](#)

Date written / revised:

Programme originally approved: