Introduction and Special Features

The School of Sport is proposing to offer a suite of post-graduate programmes around Child and Youth Studies. The proposed programmes are underpinned by the research conducted by members of The Unit for Child and Youth Studies. The Unit is a multi-disciplinary research unit which undertakes research pertaining to young people locally, nationally and internationally. The main remit of the unit is to undertake and disseminate research relating to the behaviour and wellbeing of children and young people. These post-graduate opportunities include:

- MA in Child and Youth Sport
- MSc in Child and Youth Wellbeing
- MSc in Child and Youth Sport and Exercise Science

The masters are for those students who wish to pursue a career working with children and young people and those already in related professions. Each award is also available as a Post-Graduate Certificate for those practitioners who want to engage in continuing professional development without committing to a full masters award.

The MA in Child and Youth Sport will draw on the academic disciplines of the social sciences to engage students with multi-disciplinary research on young people in sport asking critical questions about the role of physical activity and sport in young people’s lives. Students will study contemporary issues relating to National and International Child and Youth Sport Policy and Youth Welfare in Sport. Youth Sport continues to be a key agenda for government and international organisations. This alongside the increasing number of Sport for Development programmes has led to the formation of several international organisations that focus on the use of sport to meet key government agendas such as health, wellbeing, community welfare and empowering young people. On the masters students will also discuss key issues such as child welfare, violence in child and youth sport, overtraining and issues of exclusion and poverty considering how these factors impact on child and youth wellbeing in sport.
The programme draws on expertise and networks from the Unit for Child & Youth Studies, based at York St John University, which is a multi-disciplinary research unit which undertakes research pertaining to young people locally, nationally and internationally. Students will benefit from and be encouraged to attend the research seminar series offered by the Unit. The main remit of the unit is to undertake and disseminate research relating to the behaviour and wellbeing of children and young people. The Unit offers a range of postgraduate opportunities for individuals working with, or developing a career to work with, children and young people in a range of applied settings.

The programme is suitable for both those students who wish to pursue a career working with children and young people as well as those already in related professions. For students wishing to pursue a career the masters’ programmes will provide a solid grounding in key theoretical and research debates and will enable students to engage in work related learning developing employability skills and networks that are essential for career progression. For professionals already working with children and young people the masters will enable them to continue their professional development. In particular, the masters offer an opportunity to critically engage with the multidisciplinary nature of the field, enable professionals to apply new knowledge and evaluation skills to their professional environment and be part of an active and research environment, working with academics with expertise in the areas. The team has links with local child and youth based organisations and all students will be able to engage with professionals working in related fields.

**Admissions Criteria**

In addition to the University’s general entry criteria for postgraduate study, you must have:

- A first or 2(i) undergraduate honours degree. In cases where exceptional performance on the final year project, mitigating circumstances or relevant professional experience can be demonstrated, applicants may be considered who have a 2(ii).

- Applicants whose first language is not English should have IELTS at grade 6.5 or above (including a minimum of 5.5 in each component) or another YSJ approved English Language qualification.

- Acceptance onto the course will also be subject to DBS disclosure.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see [https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/](https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/)).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of Accredited Prior (Experiential) Learning (APL/APEL). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

**Programme Aims**

The overall aim of the programme is to develop graduates adept in using the evidence base to think critically and to systematically apply contemporary knowledge related to Child and Youth Sport. This programme will enable graduates to demonstrate a critical awareness of a range of complex multi-disciplinary applied and research scenarios associated with Child and Youth Sport and, where appropriate, inform knowledge and practice in the field. These aims will be achieved through demonstration of the Programme Outcomes which are distinguished into the required knowledge and understanding, research and intellectual skills, and professional development skills.
Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 7 / FHEQ L7

Students who gain the Post Graduate Certificate Child and Youth Sport will have demonstrated:

Knowledge and understanding of:
- A systematic understanding of knowledge related to Child and Youth Sport
- Current problems and/or new insights in Child and Youth Sport
- Multi-disciplinary theoretical approaches to deal with complex Child and Youth Sport issues systematically and creatively
- Ethical, moral, safety, sustainability and legal considerations associated with Child and Youth Sport including relevant legislation and professional codes of conduct

Research and intellectual skills to:
- Analyse, integrate and apply key theories and concepts at the forefront of knowledge in Child and Youth Sport
- Identify, organise and synthesise complex information related to Child and Youth Sport into a coherent reasoned argument

Professional development skills to:
- Critically reflect upon their own professional and academic practice and appreciate the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
- Effectively communicate with a range of specialist and non-specialist audiences, specifically including young people and other professionals

In addition students who gain the Post Graduate Diploma Child and Youth Sport will have demonstrated:

Knowledge and understanding of:
- Methodological approaches and established techniques of research and enquiry applied to create knowledge at the forefront of Child and Youth Sport

In addition students who gain the MA Child and Youth Sport will have demonstrated:

Research and intellectual skills to:
- Critically evaluate established and novel research methodologies utilised in Child and Youth research to create ethical and appropriate research questions
- Act autonomously in planning, conducting, reporting and evaluating an approved sustained piece of ethical research related to Child and Youth Sport

Professional development skills to:
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks
Programme Structure

Modules for the Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status of Module*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCY002</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Contextualising Child and Youth Wellbeing</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MID182</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCY001</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Child and Youth Welfare in Sport</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCY006</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Global Issues in Youth Sport Policy</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MID183</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*C: Compulsory, CP: Compulsory for progression to the next level, CA: Compulsory for award, O: option or E: elective.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

In order to achieve the programme aims each module provides a range of approaches to teaching, learning and assessment. These include standard lectures, group discussions, student led discussions, tutorials and workshops. Extensive use of the VLE will be employed involving online discussion forums, worksheets and quizzes and will draw upon the principles of the School’s Technology-Enhanced Learning framework.

Students will normally need to attend the University for direct timetabled contact one day each week. Alongside this direct contact students can expect to be required to participate in a range of supported open learning and independent study tasks that may require them to attend campus and utilise the virtual learning environment.

Students will be required to engage in the following assessment strategies: essays, critical analyses, poster presentations, group presentations, case studies, research proposals and an independent piece of research.

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.

Internal and External Reference Points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- University Mission Statement [see page two]
- Strategic Plan 2015-20 [see page four]
- QAA subject benchmark statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
Further information on the programme of study may be obtained from:

- Admissions entry profile (Admissions)
- Programme validation document (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Regulations (Registry – Academic Quality Support)
- Student programme handbook (school)
- Module handbooks (school)

Date written / revised:
2014 first entry to the programme

Mode of study amended by Registry QSC PASP 25/04/17, updated July 2017