PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Programme overview

The Hand Diploma will be delivered by distributed learning alongside a comprehensive series of courses both practical and lecture-based. The Diploma carries 120 credits at Higher Education Level where 1 credit equates to 10 hours of study / assessment.

Most participants will take one year to complete the Diploma from the time of registration and their internal assessments with the eighth course unit which includes the examination being sat following award of the credits for the other course units. The study course units can be sat in any convenient order but the examination course unit can only be sat at the end of the course.

It is intended that the course should be fairly flexible in terms of timing such that part-time study for all or part of the course is possible within the rules. The rules allow a maximum of five years from date of registration to complete the programme. In addition courses and conferences that you have attended previously and within 5 years of the registration date may be eligible for Accredited Prior Learning (APL) allowing exemption from up to 30 credits. It is possible to step off the course and step back on within a reasonable period of time although it is expected that the total time to complete the programme would not exceed 5 years. Individual circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. It is important that you discuss any changes to your status on the programme with your consultant supervisor and with the BSSH office Administrator at an early stage.

Programme Specification
General Description

Award	**Programme Title**	**Duration**	**Mode of study**
Postgraduate Diploma	Diploma in Hand Surgery	12 months full time study	Distributed learning
Postgraduate Diploma	Diploma in Hand Surgery	18 – 24 months of part time study	Distributed learning

School	Medical School
Faculty	Medical & Human Sciences
Awarding Institution	University of Manchester
Programme Accreditation	British Society for Surgery of the Hand
Relevant QAA benchmark(s)	N/A

Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to:

01.	Equip the surgeon with the specialist knowledge and range of skills necessary for the practice of hand surgery at the level of the newly appointed Consultant Hand Surgeon
02.	Link and integrate the acquisition of detailed specialist knowledge with the range of practical, technical and professional skills in a way that enhances the care of patients presenting with disorders of the hand
03.	Encourage detailed exploration of the evidence-base for hand surgery practice thus promoting a culture of innovation and scientific enquiry
04.	Provide a model for ongoing integrated learning with appropriate internal and external assessments; elements of which could subsequently be adapted for use in consultant revalidation by the General Medical Council (GMC)
05.	The Programme will effectively define the standard for the practising hand surgeon in the UK allowing the profession to define its own paradigm of specialist education
06.	Promote recognition of Hand Surgery as a postgraduate specialty
07.	Improve the standard of care for disorders of the hand in the United Kingdom

Intended learning outcomes of the Programme

A. Knowledge & Understanding	
Students will be able to:	
A1.	Demonstrate a comprehensive working knowledge of the *principles* of the theoretical and practical basis of hand surgery to include the relevant basic sciences
A2.	Demonstrate a more detailed knowledge of specific areas of hand surgical practice constituting the more common conditions; as designated in the syllabus
A3.	Develop an awareness of the clinical and scientific literature and evidence–base for the practice of hand surgery

Learning & Teaching Processes (to allow students to achieve intended learning outcomes)		**Assessment** (of intended learning outcomes)
Tutorials based at department level (A1-3)		Work place assessments • Knowledge base (A1, A3) • Case-based discussion (CbD) (A2)
Attendance at specialist clinics on a supernumary basis (A2)	→	Preparation of one lecture on designated topic (A1-3)
National courses affiliated to the BSSH (A1-3) • practical and skills-based courses • instructional (lecture-based) courses		Course unit 8 – overarching examination following course unit (A1-3)

B. Intellectual Skills	
Students will be able to:	
B1.	Demonstrate the ability to elicit, synthesise relevant information and plan patient care pathway
B2.	Critically evaluate scientific literature pertinent to the practise of hand surgery
B3.	Demonstrate capacity for higher order thinking and decision making
B4.	Write a review article suitable for publication on a topic of choice
B5.	Demonstrate communication and presentational skills supporting everyday professional practice

Learning & Teaching Processes		Assessment
Tutorials based at department level to include reflective learning sessions (B 1-5)		Work place assessment • Knowledge-based assessment (B1-4) • Case-based discussion (CbD) (B1-5) • Clinical evaluation exercise (CEX) (B1, 3)
Supervised outpatient case-assessment and discussion (B1, 3, 5)	→	Develop algorithms for certain complex management problems (B1,3)
National courses affiliated to the BSSH • instructional (lecture-based) courses (B1,2,4)		Course unit 8 – overarching examination following course unit (B1-4)

C. Practical Skills	
Students will be able to:	
C1.	Acquire competencies relevant to the discipline comprising the planning, counselling, and undertaking of procedures and including managing aftercare and potential complications
C2.	Acquire a range of operative skills appropriate to those expected of the newly-appointed consultant

Learning & Teaching Processes		Assessment
Supervised operative experience alongside the clinical supervisor and other consultant colleagues (C1,2)		Work place assessment • Direct observation of procedure (operation)(DOP) (C1,2)
Study of demonstration DVDs of named operative procedures as provided with course materials (C1, 2)	→	Prepare and submit operating videos of 'index' operations (C1,2)
National courses affiliated to the BSSH • practical and skills-based courses (C2) • instructional (lecture-based) courses (C1)		Course unit 8 – overarching examination following course unit (C1,2)

D. Transferable Skills and Personal Qualities	
Students will be able to:	
D1.	Demonstrate presentational skills facilitating communication with patients, colleagues and to larger audiences as appropriate
D2.	Demonstrate the ability to work with, organise and lead the team
D3.	Function as a competent physician practising according to Good Clinical Practice guidelines
D4.	Access literature databases and online journal facilities
D5.	Critically evaluate scientific and clinical literature
D6.	Be capable of designing an audit project
D7.	Be capable of designing a research paper

Learning & Teaching Processes		Assessment
Work place activity based on the Personal Development Plan and identifying individual projects of interest that will assist in developing the above skills (D1,2,3)		Work place assessment (D1-7) • Knowledge-based assessment • Case-based discussion (CbD) • Clinical evaluation exercise (CEX) • Direct observation of procedure (DOP)
Sessions with Consultant Supervisor to develop the personal portfolio along Good Clinical Practice guidelines (GMC) (D1,2,3,4,5,6,7)	→	RITA assessments for trainees or Annual appraisal for consultants (D1-3)
Participation in local, regional and national scientific meetings (D1,4,5,6, 7)		Submit review article suitable for publication on topic of choice (D5, 6, 7)

Structure of the Programme

Course unit No	Subject	External Courses (credit points)	Departmental Tutorials	Private Study / Clinical work	**Credit Points for course unit**
1	Basic sciences pertinent to the upper limb / Rehabilitation	2 (20 hrs)	1 (10 hrs)	12 (120 hrs)	**15**
2	Skin & soft tissues / Dupuytren's contracture	2 (20 hrs)	1 (10 hrs)	12 (120 hrs)	**15**
3	Fractures and joint injuries of the hand and wrist including wrist instability	2 (20 hrs)	1 (10 hrs)	12 (120 hrs)	**15**
4	Osteoarthritic and inflammatory disorders of the hand and wrist	2 (20 hrs)	1 (10 hrs)	12 (120 hrs)	**15**
5	Tendon disorders	2 (20 hrs)	1 (10 hrs)	12 (120 hrs)	**15**
6	The Child's Hand / Tumors / Vascular disorders	2 (20 hrs)	1 (10 hrs)	12 (120 hrs)	**15**
7	Nerve disorders	2 (20 hrs)	1 (10 hrs)	12 (120 hrs)	**15**
8	- Application of Practical Skills - Assessment by Examination			14 (140 hrs) 1 (10 hrs)	**15**
					120

Course Unit 1-7 may be taken in any order but Unit 8, which includes the over-arching assessment, can only be taken following completion of units 1-7. All units are compulsory
One credit equates to 10 hours of study

Student induction, support and development

Existing Trust-based induction programmes at commencement of clinical post.

Participating surgeons and consultant supervisors resource packs to be distributed at commencement of course.

System of Course unit Leaders / Advisors to back up the internally taught courses and support the consultant supervisors as issues and questions arise.

Further details are available in the *Operations Manual* and this *Programme Handbook*.

Curriculum map of Course units against intended learning outcomes of the Programme

Course Unit Title and Code (including dissertations and other programme components)			Knowledge & Understanding			Intellectual Skills					Practical Skills		Transferable Skills & Personal Qualities						
Code	**Course Unit title**	**C/O**	**A1**	**A2**	**A3**	**B1**	**B2**	**B3**	**B 4**	**B5**	**C1**	**C2**	**D1**	**D2**	**D3**	**D4**	**D5**	**D6**	**D7**
1	Basic sciences pertinent to the upper limb and rehabilitation *- prepare and give departmental lecture on rehabilitation topic*	C	DA	DA	DA	-	DA	-	-	- A	-	-	A	-	D	D	D	-	-
2	Skin & soft tissues / Dupuytren's contracture *- submit video demonstrating operation for Dupuytren's contracture*	C	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	-	DA	DA	DA A	D A	D A	D A	D A	D A	-	-
3	Fractures and joint injuries of the hand & wrist Wrist instability *- submit algorithm of clinical management problem pertinent to course unit*	C	DA DA	DA -	DA	DA DA -	DA DA A	DA DA A	- - -	DA DA -	DA	DA	D A	D A	D A	D A	D A	-	-
4	Osteoarthritic and inflammatory disorders of the hand and wrist *- design a research project*	C	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	-	DA	DA	DA	D A	D A	D A	D A	D A	-	A
5	Tendon disorders *-prepare review article on topic choice*	C	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	- A	DA	DA	DA	D A	D A	D A	D A	D A	-	-
6	The Child's Hand / Tumors / Vascular disorders *- design an audit project*	C	DA	-	-	DA	DA	DA	-	DA	DA	DA	D A	D A	D A	D A	D A	A	-
7	Nerve disorders *- prepare critique of papers from a scientific conference*	C	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	DA	-	DA	DA -	DA -	D A	D A	D A	D A	D A	-	-
8	Theory and practical skills assessment	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	A	A	-	A	-	-	-	A	-	-

Legend for cells:

D = intended learning outcomes of the programme are taught or developed within this course unit
A = intended learning outcomes of the programme are assessed in this course unit
C= compulsory course unit

Eligibility criteria

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions criteria of the University and of the School in the following ways:

- Candidate should be a practising surgeon with a qualification that is registered with the GMC

  and
- Candidate should have passed the Intercollegiate Specialty examination in either orthopaedic or plastic surgery (FRCS(Orth) or FRCS(Plast))

  and
- Candidate will be about to undertake, be undertaking or have undertaken 6 months in advanced hand surgery training in the United Kingdom (following successful completion of Intercollegiate Specialty examination in either orthopaedic or plastic surgery (FRCS(Orth) or FRCS(Plast))

Definition of required standard

The Hand Diploma programme aims to equip you with the skills expected of the specialist Hand Surgeon on their first day in independent practice.

The course is designed to encourage the development and application of higher order thinking in your practice of hand surgery. It is helpful to think of the elements of learning as fitting together in a hierarchical fashion:

Level 1: *Knowledge*
The ability to recall a range of facts and experiences both specific and generalised.
Level 2: *Understanding*
The ability to comprehend the meaning of acquired knowledge and to interpret, translate and extrapolate from this.
Level 3: *Application*
The ability to apply knowledge and comprehension in different situation and to infer conclusions from facts
Level 4: *Analysis*
The ability to identify key components and to dissect arguments
Level 5: *Synthesis*
The ability to combine elements and to produce coherent logical conclusions
Level 6: *Evaluation*
The ability to assess, justify, criticise and defend a hypothesis, theory or argument. This is placed at the top of the hierarchy as it requires elements of all the other levels to be carried out successfully.

At Diploma level most learning goes on at Levels 4-6 and in essence comes down to developing the following skills:
Critical appraisal – the ability to analyse complex theories and evaluate both the positive and negative aspects of the component parts

Evaluation - the ability to judge the worth of scientific literature in relation to the findings of critical appraisal
Reflection – the ability to reflect on your own clinical practice and to recognise strengths and weaknesses

These skills are an integral part of the stated learning outcomes for each individual course unit in the programme and are stated as search in the learning materials for each course unit.

You will find full details of what you are expected to achieve in the Programme Specification (Section 2.2) and in the details of individual Course units (Appendix 3) but in general terms you should be able to demonstrate:

- That you have built on your prior knowledge and experience for example from your previous undergraduate and clinical experience
- Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively and to make sound judgements in the absence of complete data
- Ability to communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- Ability to work as an independent, reflective practitioner

That you can work effectively in teams and individually