

# Herbal Medicine

**This programme is no longer recruiting.**

<b>Final award</b>	BSc (Hons)
<b>Intermediate awards available</b>	Cert HE, Dip HE in Applied Health Sciences
<b>UCAS code</b>	B342
<b>Details of professional body accreditation</b>	National Institute of Medical Herbalists
<b>Relevant QAA Benchmark statements</b>	EHPA Common Curriculum and National Professional Standards for Herbal Medicine; NIMH Code of Ethics and Code of Practice
<b>Date specification last up-dated</b>	June 2012

## Profile

### The summary - UCAS programme profile

#### **BANNER BOX:**

This programme of study which is fully accredited by The National Institute of Medical Herbalists will provide students with the professional training required to practice as Medical Herbalists. The programme is delivered in a blended mode with a combination of on campus delivery for the clinical training and home learning, with on-line support, for the majority of the academic component. This makes it an ideal choice for people with busy lives and other commitments who require the flexibility to study at times to suit their lifestyles.

#### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

- 240 UCAS tariff points or equivalent

including A2 level in human biology, biology or chemistry. Students should also have a minimum of grade C at GCSE, or equivalent, in English Language, Mathematics and at least 1 science subject. We also accept Access to Science, Advanced GNVQ in Science at merit grade, BTEC National Diploma in Science with a minimum of 6 units at merit grade or higher and specialised access courses such as 'Discovering Herbal Medicine'.

Applicants with overseas or alternative qualifications are considered on an individual basis.

Students may be admitted through Accreditation of Experiential learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certificated Learning (ACL) processes.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS 7.0 (or equivalent) is required. International qualifications will be checked for appropriate matriculation to UK Higher Education undergraduate programmes.

Before enrolment all applicants will be required to undergo a CRB check.

All applicants must have access to a computer with internet access (preferably broadband) and MS Office or Office compatible software.

## **ABOUT THE PROGRAMME**

### **What is Herbal Medicine?**

Medical Herbalism, one of the primary complementary approaches to medicine in the U.K., encompasses the use of plant extracts for treatment and prevention of disease within a complete holistic framework of healing. One of the basic principles of herbal medicine is that all constituents in the whole plant extract work collectively to achieve therapeutic efficacy. Treatment with herbs aims to facilitate healing by influencing or stimulating the body's own innate healing capacities in a manner that is safe and effective. Since they often work to support or influence balance in a particular body system, herbs can be considered to act as homeostatic agents.

The practice of herbal medicine is an ancient tradition. Herbal medicines have been used since earliest times to treat illnesses and restore good health, and today, herbalism still remains the most widely practised form of medicine worldwide. This programme of study prepares students to practice as Medical Herbalists and conforms to the standards and codes laid down by the National Institute of Medical Herbalists first established in 1864. Herbalism is both an art and a science. The modern medical herbalist is a highly-qualified practitioner, with knowledge not only of traditional remedies and practices, but also the latest discoveries of scientific research.

This is a programme of guided home-based study and on-campus learning. Clinical training however forms a large component of the programme and students develop and integrate their skills through clinical supervision in the UEL Centre for Complementary Medicine, the school's clinical training facility. With the exception of the clinical practice modules (approximately 25% of the programme) 85% of students study time will be used for independent home study. This leaves 15% of mandatory contact time used for lectures and seminars. For the clinical component you will be expected to complete 100 hours of clinical training at each of levels 1 and 2 and 300 hours at level 3. The programme can be studied in either full- or part-time mode and it is possible to transfer between the two. Some students for instance elect to move to part time mode at level 3 to spread the clinical training hours across two years.

Statutory regulation of the Herbal Medicine Profession is ongoing. Students will be encouraged to be proactive in following the consultations and debates relating to professional regulation and other relevant issues such as the Reform of Section 12(1) of the 1968 Medicines Act. In their final year students will be supported by the Royal Docks Business School at UEL who will provide prospective practitioners with the knowledge and help to set up and run a successful Herbal Practice.

## Herbal Medicine at UEL

The Herbal Medicine programme at UEL has been developed from the prestigious programme previously offered by The College of Phytotherapy. It is one of several programmes now being offered by UEL under the umbrella of Complementary Medicine. Whilst retaining the culture and identity of the individual professions one of the key recommendations for the future of CAM (Complementary and Alternative Medicine) is the promotion of interdisciplinary working. Our clinical training facility, 'The UEL Centre for Complementary Medicine', offers consultations in herbal medicine, Acupuncture and Swedish massage to the local community at highly subsidised fees. In recognition of the future need for integrated healthcare, we will be developing specialist clinics for the treatment of specific conditions which will encompass a range of therapeutic approaches giving students the satisfaction and experience of working with students from other complementary medicine programmes and with our colleagues from the NHS.

Herbal medicine is a key area of research in the School of Health and Bioscience offering students exciting research possibilities at all levels. Individual research interests at undergraduate level can be pursued through final year research projects. PhD opportunities are also available.

### Programme structure

This is a three year full time degree delivered by guided home-based study and on-campus learning. Students can however study at a slower pace if desired particularly since there is a large component of clinical training that requires attendance at UEL.

- **Level 1** is designed to introduce students to the concepts, history and philosophies of herbal medicine and identify its role in contemporary healthcare. Students learn basic anatomy and physiology, an essential requisite of any branch of medicine. Botany and phytomedicines provides an introduction to the plant sciences which along with biochemistry and phytochemistry provide a basis for the study of material medica, pharmacology and work in clinic. The introduction to herbal medicine provides background knowledge of the historical and current practice of herbal medicine and introduces the student to research via the evidence base associated with herbal medicine, providing an understanding of the different types of research and how to critically evaluate the evidence. This is combined with a useful study skills module to ensure students are prepared and equipped for academic study. Clinical practice at level 1 is mainly observation introducing the student to taking case histories, communication skills and the basic techniques/skills required for clinical diagnosis.
- **Level 2** continues the development of essential skills for clinical practice and the medical sciences. Herbal Materia Medica provides the basis for clinical practice 2, 3 and 4 and herbal therapeutics. Pharmacology provides an understanding of the commonly prescribed orthodox drugs and their actions/interactions essential for safe practice and also covers the phytopharmacology of the main groups of active plant constituents. In clinical practice 2 students will be reinforcing their academic knowledge in the application of their clinical skills for example, applying the differential diagnosis of symptoms and signs to physical examination. Integration of the different aspects of knowledge gained during level 2 will be gradually applied in clinical training at level 3.

- **Level 3** consolidates the competencies already achieved to produce a competent, safe practitioner. By clinical practice 4 students are expected to be able to take responsibility for a full herbal medicine consultation and treatment plan. At this level clinical practice modules are supplemented by Herbal Therapeutics which covers the complexities of herbal prescriptions and treatment plans together with a Nutrition module which provides prospective practitioners with important information relating to the use of nutritional supplements and nutraceuticals, nutritional assessment and the links between diet and health/disease. You will explore contemporary issues in terms of medical ethics and mandatory legal considerations applied to the practice of herbal medicine and have the opportunity to utilise the help offered by UEL's Royal Docks Business School to set up a practice. In the final year students will have the opportunity to pursue a chosen subject through an individual research project.

### **Learning environment**

- The main method of educational delivery within this scheme of directed home-based study is through the use of structured module study guides and the required text books. A variety of activities including directed reading, Web based discussions and practical tasks are linked to each topic within the module study guide to consolidate learning. Each module is supported by on-line material and activities delivered through our UELPlus platform which also provides access to discussion forums and on-line chat rooms.
- Thus since this programme of study operates largely on a remote, independent learning basis, students study at home and are expected to establish a regime of work which enable them to meet the requirements established in the coursework schedule. Linked to each module of study are seminars (two/three depending on the practical content of the module) which are held at UEL each semester.
- Clinical training which forms a large component of the programme (500 hours) takes place within the schools clinical training facility – the UEL Centre for Complementary Medicine. Linked to (but additional to) these hours are two compulsory taught sessions linked to each clinical training module.
- Clinical training provides the opportunity for students to interact with their peers, observe qualified herbal practitioners and experience (under supervision) working with patients.

### **Assessment**

Students are assessed in practical and theory. In most units 30-50% of the module mark is derived from coursework during the semester (this can take a variety of forms including essays, data analysis, oral presentations and laboratory work etc.) and 50-70% from unseen written theory examination at the end of the semester.

- Level 1 (Year1) modules introduce you to the standards and types of assessment used at UEL
- Your final Honours grade uses marks from Level 2 and Level 3 modules only. Your level 1 modules prepare you to optimise your performance.
- Clinical practice is assessed through continuous assessment, viva voce, case history portfolios, practical examinations including the Final Clinical Examination at level 3.

### **Work experience/placement opportunities**

- Clinical training is only available for students following the BSc Herbal Medicine programme.
- Your clinical practice hours can be booked on a flexible basis
- A minimum of 500 hours clinical hours must be completed in order to complete this programme. The majority of these hours must be completed in the UEL Centre for Complementary Medicine. This is to ensure continuity of both training and assessment. You may however, take up to 200 hours at other Herbal Medicine Training facilities approved by UEL/NIMH to enable you to receive a varied clinical training and make objective comparisons of practitioners different approaches to treatment. A list of approved clinics, with contact details, will be supplied to all students

### **Project work**

Project work is an essential component of an Honours degree programme and one that most students enjoy. Small projects and group work exercises are featured throughout the programme, culminating in an independent research project at level 3

### **Added value**

- National Institute of Medical Herbalists accredited programme
- Sound clinical as well as academic training
- Extensive personal and general support throughout the programme
- Effective careers advice/setting up a business and guidance available

### **IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?**

#### **If you are interested in...**

- Developing your knowledge and understanding of Herbal Medicine and complementary medicine.
- Learning to be a Medical Herbalist and gaining entry to a professional body and community of professional Medical Herbalists.
- Understanding how your skills as a Herbalist can be enhanced by study at degree level that covers a diverse range of subjects: anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, botany, pharmacognosy, nutrition and pharmacology.
- Learning clinical skills and their application to the practice of Herbal Medicine.
- Understanding how phytotherapy differentiates from common pharmaceutical remedies and the concept of holistic healthcare.
- Improving your scientific skills of logical argument and analysis.
- Working with patients, and as a Medical Herbalist helping them to improve their health.

#### **If you enjoy...**

- Reading about and already have an interest in Herbal Medicine and complementary medicine generally.
- Helping people with their problems and listening to them.
- TV programmes on medicine/complementary medicine.

- Reading or hearing about research and/ or medicine (do you already enjoy TV documentaries like Horizon or Discovery Health, radio discussion and science programmes, New Scientist articles and health page articles like HealthMail?)
- Expanding your knowledge on herbal remedies and how they work.
- The challenge of increasing not just your knowledge of facts but your understanding of how scientific evidence can be used effectively to improve herbal practice.
- Researching and experimenting with new healthcare products.
- Working in the lab carrying out scientific procedures and experiments with precision.
- Working in groups trying out and exchanging ideas and problem solving through discussion and debate.
- Being able to study quietly and individually on your own away from formal staff-led sessions.

### **If you want...**

- To develop your understanding of health and disease
- The chance to learn clinically relevant skills
- The chance to learn at your own pace
- The opportunity of still taking a degree in Herbal Medicine without having to live near an accredited University
- To be able to carry out your own final year individual research project.

### **Your future career**

The ultimate aim of the Single Honours degree scheme is to prepare students for a career in herbal medicine as professional independent Medical Herbalists. Upon successful completion of the scheme graduates will possess the requisite knowledge, skills and confidence to either set up their own, or join existing clinics.

Students from either the single or combined programmes will be able to pursue careers in teaching, research, the manufacturing and quality control of herbal products or work in related fields such as food and pharmaceuticals where the knowledge of herbal medicine is applicable.

### **How we support you**

The School of Health and Bioscience provides immediate contact with the University support systems.

- In your first year, you are allocated a Personal Tutor (a member of staff familiar with your degree). You will be able to contact your Tutor at regular intervals to discuss progress and life in general.
- Module leaders and the Programme Leader also give support on academic matters, and advice about other specialist help available through the University.
- As your first point of contact the Herbal Medicine programme has a dedicated administrator who will personally deal with any administrative enquiries and will direct any other enquiries to the relevant staff members.
- The school of Health and Bioscience has a Helpdesk where you can also obtain advice on how to get the right help.
- Clinical training sessions provide a forum for discussion not only with peers but students from other complementary medicine programmes. The clinic has a reception

desk which will deal with all bookings for clinical hours and a clinical supervisor who will deal with any enquiries related to your clinical studies.

- Your student handbook provides contact details for all staff involved in student support.
- Lecture and study guides, mark summaries, on-line enrolment and registration and much more are now available via UEL Direct/Plus online links.
- All students are provided with access to e-mail and a range of on-line support activities including computer training and literature searching.
- Throughout the programme you will find a number of scheduled activities arranged to support your studies like special induction days to ensure for example that you are familiar with the library services or use of UELPlus or more specialised aspects such as presentations from the NIMH, our professional accrediting body.

Support for students on a **University level** includes:

- Libraries and Learning Resource Centres
- Careers advice and information – Counselling and Advice for practical problems
- Student services
- Language tuition
- Dyslexia support
- Accommodation advice

### **Bonus factors**

- The new UEL Complementary Medicine clinic located in the Universities prestigious Clinical Education Centre.
- Central London only 20 minutes away by underground, and extensive transport links with all parts of London.
- Multiplex cinema, theatre, supermarkets, high street shops, restaurants, cafes and pubs a few minutes walk away in Stratford – a major site of new development in East London.
- You have the right to be members of the University of East London Students' Union and on request to access such facilities, services, and functions as the Union makes available.
- Stratford is at the centre of an area undergoing exciting development for the forthcoming Olympics.

## **Outcomes**

### **Programme aims and learning outcomes**

#### **What is this programme designed to achieve?**

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- acquire a sound understanding of the theory and practice of herbal medicine.
- critically evaluate the concepts, techniques and applications of herbal medicine with particular reference to the contribution it can make as a specialist healthcare discipline within the current healthcare framework.

- develop knowledge and skills in relation to herbal medicine.
- work with patients to improve and maintain their health.
- achieve a thorough understanding of the human body and its functioning in health and disease.
- develop responsibility for independent learning.

## **What will you learn?**

### **Knowledge and understanding**

- The programme aims to provide a solid knowledge-base in key areas of herbal medicine, including the medical sciences, botanical science and therapeutics and allied subjects such as pharmacy.
- Students will acquire an understanding of the clinical skills and techniques required to become a Medical Herbalist.
- Students will develop an understanding of the laboratory techniques and procedures used in the authentication and analysis of herbal medicines, which will allow the rapid acquisition of more skills later in their career.
- An appreciation of the impact of scientific research on society and the importance of developing appropriate scientific research into herbal medicine.

### **'Thinking' skills**

- The ability to comprehend, analyse and criticise published information on Herbal Medicine.
- Clinical diagnostic skills and the production of a differential diagnosis and appropriate treatment plans including a herbal prescription.
- The ability to formulate singularly working hypotheses and use integrated approaches to problem solving.
- The ability to reflect and think creatively.

### **Subject-Based Practical skills**

- The ability to communicate with patients and select and apply Herbal Medicine treatment relevant to their needs.
- The ability to critically evaluate research related to the practice of Herbal Medicine.
- The ability to design and carry out research in the field of Herbal Medicine.
- Appreciate and explore the unique relationship between patient and practitioner.
- Be familiar with herbal medicines, their identification, manufacture and application in practice.

### **Skills for life and work**

- The development of your own style of independent learning
- The ability to communicate ideas to others and to debate relevant scientific/medical and/or ethical issues
- IT skills
- Communication skills
- Team work
- Time management

# Structure

## The programme structure

### Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 0 - equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 1 - equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 2 - equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 - equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M - equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

### Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

### Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is three years when followed in full-time mode. Due to the large element of clinical practice however, it is expected that most students within all entrance groups (i.e. cohorts) will complete the Programme in four or more years. It is possible to move from a full-time mode of study to a part-time mode of study and vice-versa, to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period. In accordance with general university regulations for England and Wales the Scheme of Study must be completed within ten years of entry date.

### How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year begins in September and lasts for 12 months. Prior to the start of each academic year students must register for modules worth a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 120. These figures translate into a minimum of 400 hours and a maximum of 1,200 hours of study time in each academic year. Clinical training runs beyond the confines of semesters and it is the student's responsibility to plan ahead to ensure completion of the 500 hours required.

### What you will study when

The BSc in Herbal Medicine is a specialised award programme which means students must take a specified set of modules in order to complete the programme. The following list of modules is mandatory for students to graduate.

LEVEL	UEL Module Code	TITLE	SKILLS MODULES	CREDITS	STATUS SINGLE
1	BS1272	General Anatomy, Physiology and Histology		20	Core
1	BS1273	Botany and Phytomedicine		20	Core
1	BS1274	Study Skills for Herbalists	Y	20	Core
1	BS1271	Systemic Anatomy, Physiology and Embryology		20	Core
1	BS1270	Phytochemistry and Applied Biochemistry		20	Core
1	BS1275	Clinical Practice 1 and the Therapeutic Relationship		20	Core
2	BS2271	Pathology and Clinical Medicine 1		20	Core
2	BS2274	Clinical Diagnosis		20	Core
2	BS2273	Materia Medica		20	Core
2	BS2270	Infection, Immunity and Public Health		20	Core
2	BS2272	Pharmacology (including Herbal Pharmacology)		20	Core
2	BS2275	Clinical Practice 2 and Pharmacy		20	Core
3	BS3270	Pathology and Clinical Medicine 2		20	Core
3	BS3271	Herbal Therapeutics		20	Core
3	BS3273	Clinical Practice 3 and Differential Diagnosis		20	Core
3	BS3272	Nutrition for Phytotherapy		20	Core
3	BS3274	Clinical Practice 4 and Business Skills	Y	20	Core
3	BS3275	Research Project	Y	20	Core

### Requirements for gaining an award

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher and 120 credits at level two or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level one or higher.

## **Degree Classification**

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree, and has gained a minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 2 or level 3 on the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 3, the award classification is determined by calculating:

$$\frac{\text{The arithmetic mean of the best 100 credits at level 3}}{\times 2/3} + \frac{\text{The arithmetic mean of the next best 100 credits at levels 2 and/or 3}}{\times 1/3}$$

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

- 70% - 100% First Class Honours
- 60% - 69% Second Class Honours, First Division
- 50% - 59% Second Class Honours, Second Division
- 40% - 49% Third Class Honours
- 0% - 39% Not passed

## **Assessment**

### **Teaching, learning and assessment**

#### **Teaching and learning**

Since this is a programme of guided home-study and on-campus learning the main method of educational delivery within the scheme is through the use of structured module study guides, UELPlus based information, on-line activities and the required textbooks. Students study at home on an independent learning basis and are expected to establish a regime of work which will enable them to meet the requirements established in the coursework schedules. This is supplemented by

- lectures
- seminars
- tutorials
- workshops
- practicals
- clinical training

- reading
- internet and database searching
- attending external seminars e.g. NIMH; CPP

### **'Thinking' skills are developed through**

- Formative on-line exercises
- Clinical diagnostics and differential diagnosis
- Critical evaluation of the literature related to herbal medicine and allied scientific research
- Presentations and group discussions/debates
- Preparing for tutorials and seminars/workshops
- Completing coursework assignments (including data analysis, essays, presentations etc.)
- Independent reading
- Reflective practice
- Case history taking and treatment planning
- Clinical reasoning

### **Practical skills are developed through**

- Clinical training
- Fieldwork and laboratory/practical workshops
- Dispensing, formulation and production of herbal preparations

### **General skills are developed through**

- Managing time
- Presenting ideas and arguments in a structured way – written and oral communication
- Problem solving
- Team work
- Developing IT skills
- Clinical reasoning

### **Assessment**

#### **A wide variety of assessment methods are used including:**

- Written examinations
- Continuous clinical practice assessment
- Practical assessments including viva voce
- Portfolios
- Essays
- Data analysis
- Database searches
- Oral presentations (case studies)
- Oral presentations (use of Powerpoint)
- Library exercises
- MCQ tests
- Final year research project and dissertation

- Reviewing/evaluating/critiquing books, research articles/papers
- Final Clinical Examinations (following the guidelines stipulated by NIMH)

### **Knowledge and Thinking skills are assessed by**

- Evidence of reading and comprehension of the topics covered in the module being assessed. This will be particularly apparent in essay work, examinations and clinical assessments.
- Ability to describe, explain and discuss various aspects of the programme material in the context of group tutorials, seminars, presentations, viva voce and other pieces of coursework for the module.
- In the final year particularly, thinking skills will be assessed by the student's ability to integrate the knowledge presented separately in any module to develop clinical reasoning, hypotheses, comparisons and arguments as required to address the specific assessments in each module.
- Clinical application of diagnostic skills and herbal therapeutics.

### **Practical skills are assessed by**

- The ability to carry out practical work effectively, within the timeframe allocated.
- The ability to evaluate and reflect on work carried out in practice.
- The ability to complete assignments using appropriate resources.
- Evidence of logical planning and management of time in the preparation of materials for assessment.
- Demonstration of clinical/other skills related to the practice of Medical Herbalism.
- Demonstration of the professionalism required to be a Medical Herbalist.
- Adherence to codes of practice/rules and regulations of the UEL clinic.

### **Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by**

- The ability to work to strict deadlines.
- The ability to select and utilise appropriate problem solving skills.
- Demonstration of effective oral and written communication skills.
- Evidence of interpersonal skills such as teamwork or empathy with patients.
- Evidence of a critical yet constructive, evaluative approach in the presentation of written material.

## **Quality**

### **How we assure the quality of this programme**

#### **Before this programme started**

Before this programme started the University checked that:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;

- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

### **How we monitor the quality of this programme**

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, an annual Review and Enhancement Process Report, incorporating an action plan for enhancement is drawn up by the key teaching staff and the programme committee that is reviewed at School level.

Once every five years the University undertakes an in-depth review of the whole subject area. This is undertaken by a panel that includes at least three external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

### **The role of the programme committee**

There is a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee is a valuable forum for exchange of ideas, implementation of change and is responsible for the quality of the programme. It oversees preparation of the Annual Review and Enhancement Process report and proposes and approves changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the University's quality assurance procedures.

### **The role of external examiners**

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least two external examiners. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that individual students are treated equitably.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;

- Providing feedback to the University through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

### **Listening to the views of students**

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting each semester)
- Individual feedback to personal tutor, module leaders, clinical supervisor and programme leader

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- circulating the minutes of the programme committee and the annual review and enhancement process report
- verbal feedback to specific groups/ year representatives
- providing details on the programme site on UELPlus, by post and/or by e-mail.

### **Listening to the views of others**

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Feedback from former students
- Feedback from Professional bodies like the National Institute of Medical Herbalists and College of Practising Phytotherapists
- Feedback from subject specialists from other Institutions
- Feedback from approved training clinics and clinical training placements

## **Further Information**

### **Alternative locations for studying this programme**

<b>Location Which elements?</b>	<b>Taught by UEL staff</b>	<b>Taught by local staff</b>	<b>Method of Delivery</b>
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### **Where you can find further information**

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (<http://www.uel.ac.uk>)
- The student handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations and Policies <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>
- UEL Guide to Undergraduate Programmes
- The National Institute of Medical Herbalists ([www.nimh.org.uk](http://www.nimh.org.uk))

- European Herbal Practitioners Association(<http://www.ehpa.eu>)