Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE) in Health and Social Care

Section 1 – Introduction to your course
This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the University prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the University's academic regulations and policies can be found here. Further information on the University's Admissions Policy can be found here.   Your course – CertHE Health and Social Care- is delivered over one year of full-time study. The course provides structures in which you will be able to gain knowledge, understanding, and skills in the field of health and social care. Your course contains mandatory modules to introduce you to health studies and social care, including an understanding of skills, theories, and workplace issues in the sector. Your course aims to equip you with a range of competences relevant to the world beyond higher education (HE), provided through a placement (160 hours) that is included in the module SW1XXX Introduction to Social Care. This emphasis on employability skills prepares you to engage in lifelong learning, to consider ethics and values, and to contribute to the wider community. Your course at Royal Holloway, University of London, involves modules to the value of 120 credits. This course enables you to qualify as an Early Intervention Practitioner (HTQ). Please visit IfATE website for further information about Early Intervention Practitioner requirements. The following is a brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document: *Course* – May also be referred to as 'course programme' or simply 'programme', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies. *Module* – May also be referred to as 'course', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your course. Undergraduate courses at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of modules in multiples of 15 or 30 credits to the value of 120 credits per year.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	December 2024	**Location of study**	Egham Campus
Course award and title	CertHE Health and Social Care	**Level of study**	Undergraduate
Course code	3851	**UCAS code**	
Year of entry	2025/26		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College		
Department or school	Department of Law and Criminology	**Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course**	Department of Health Studies
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time	**Duration of the course**	1 year
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	**For queries on admissions:**	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery

Section 3 –Course Structure					
3.1 Mandatory module information **The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study**					
Year	**Module code**	**Module title**	**Credits**	**FHEQ level**	**Module status (Mandatory Condonable MC or Mandatory Non-Condonable MNC**
1	SW1050	Introduction to Social Care	30	4	MNC
1	SW1030	Perspectives on People in Society	30	4	MNC
1	HE1003	Introduction to Human Science	30	4	MNC
1	HE1002	Health Workforce	30	4	MNC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules. Mandatory modules fall into two categories: 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module to gain your award. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example: where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

3.2 Optional modules

N/A

Section 4 – Progress through the year
For further information on award requirements for your course, please refer to Royal Holloway's Academic Regulations.

Your progress throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because you do not meet award requirements) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

All CertHE Health and Social Care students are required to take and pass the non-credit bearing Moodle-based Academic Integrity module SS1001. The pass mark for the module assessment is stated in the on-line Academic Integrity Moodle module. Students may attempt the assessment as often as they wish with no penalties or capping.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

1) Students will use and analyse appropriate learning resources (including resources gathered through independent research) to develop their understanding of various contemporary health and social care issues including theories, policies, regulations, and practice skills.
2) Students will develop the capacity to think about health and social care matters with a particular emphasis on health and social care inequalities, values, and ethics.
3) Students are able to reflect on their positionality and moral approaches in health and social care drawing on their experiences in placement and contributing to reflective assignments and group work.
4) Students will develop communication skills and apply them in health and social care practice settings with service users, carers, and other professionals. They will develop their academic written and oral communication skills throughout the course.
5) Students will develop transferable employability skills through embedded placement and a focus on life-long learning.

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (*Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)*)

Course learning outcome	
1. Develop a reflexive, lifelong learning approach through goal setting, assessing, and monitoring your own learning. (*)	
2. Understand the nature, remit and underpinning policies relating to the health and social care sector and consider your contribution and practice in your professional role in the health and social care sector. (k)	
3. Develop ethical and value-based approaches to working with those who use health and social care services (k & s)	
4. Develop active listening, communication, and other advanced skills such as problem-solving, working with risk and groupwork to inform your practice in health and social care. (s)	
5. Recognise the different theoretical perspectives that influence health and social and engage in addressing health and social care development areas, for instance explore the relationship between individuals and society with a view to identify ways in which you can make contributions to social issues, promote social justice, and develop healthy, sustainable communities. (k & s)	

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment
Teaching and learning on your course is closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly in the areas of social care and social work, mental health, community health, health promotion and health inequalities. In general terms, the course provides an opportunity for you to develop and demonstrate the learning outcomes detailed herein. Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures; seminars; tutorials; workshops; study groups; essay plan consultations; oral presentations and guided independent study. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically varied, including, for example, formal examinations, coursework, examined essays, and oral presentations One placement of 160 hours will be undertaken. Contact hours come in various forms and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a specialist support staff. The way in which each module on your course is assessed will also vary, which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your award classification. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module. More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online Module Catalogue. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Section 8 – Additional costs
Students will need to cover their own travel costs to and from placements, although a travel bursary may be available. If the placement organisation is not able to reimburse travel costs, students can apply for the funding up to a maximum amount (previously £250 for entire placement) if they keep travel receipts and/or record of their mileage via moneymatters@rhul.ac.uk . Please also note, that if you are required to have certain vaccinations for your placement, you are expected to cover the cost of these vaccinations.
These estimated costs relate to studying this particular course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	4
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.	
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

Section 10– Intermediate exit awards (where available)		
N/A		
Award	**Criteria**	**Awarding body**
CertHE Health and Social Care	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College