



Curriculum for
**Part time Master Programme in Mas-
ter of Headache Disorders**
2016 (revision 2026)

University of Copenhagen

Effective date: 1 September 2026

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Chapter 1. Description of the programme

1.1 Title

A passed master's degree entitles the holder to the designation Part time Master of Headache Disorders. The corresponding Danish term is Master i hovedpinesygdomme.

1.2 Standardising ECTS credits

The scope of the master's degree programme is calculated in ECTS credits (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). One year of full-time studies amounts to 60 ECTS credits, corresponding to a workload for the student of 1650 hours.

The master's programme is standardised to 60 ECTS credits.

1.3 Affiliation

The programme falls under the Study Board for the Professional Master's Degree Programmes at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences and the students have the right to vote and stand for election to this Study Board.

The programme is affiliated with the Core of Danish Medical Examiners (Censorkorpset for Lægeuddannelsen).

The programme is offered by Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences in Copenhagen.

1.4 Language

The programme is offered in English.

1.5 Academic profile

1.5.1 Purpose

The objective of the Master of Headache Disorders is to educate specialists to diagnose, treat as well as perform research within headache disorders. The masters will have highly specialized knowledge of Headache Epidemiology; Public Health; Burden of Headache; Clinical Headache Care; Clinical Care of Facial Pain; Multidisciplinary Headache Care; Basic Headache Mechanisms; Clinical Headache Research; Headache Genetics, and educational aspects within Headache and Facial Pain.

1.5.2 Competency profile

After graduation, the student will have acquired the following:

Knowledge:

- Diagnose primary and secondary headache phenotypes as well as cranial neuropathies and other facial pains, including knowledge about differential diagnosis and co-morbid diseases
- Obtain a detailed understanding of the international classification of headache disorders and be able to use this in clinical practice
- Identify and analyse possible inconsistencies and thereby help to improve and validate the international classification of headache disorders

- Master the latest knowledge on pain physiology and understand the link between human and animal headache models (translational research)
- Master the latest knowledge on pharmacological development and intervention in headache disorders on an international scientific level
- Identify complex scientific issues and knowledge on current research theories and methods
Critically analyse scientific controversies and scientific literature
- Obtain in depth understanding of the development of new treatment modalities

Skills:

- Plan, execute, analyse and critically evaluate own and others clinical or experimental research projects.
- Use botulinum toxin treatment, apply GON blockade, test pericranial muscle tenderness and other quantitative sensory testing in accordance with current clinical standards
- Investigate and treat headache patients using evidence based treatment principles
- Use the IHCD-classification, apply and analyse a headache diary in a clinical setting as well as develop and improve current clinical tools using evidence based principles
- Critically evaluate test-results and clinical characteristics and together with colleagues make proper working hypotheses
- Communicate knowledge to patients and their relatives and other clinical personnel

Competences:

- Collaborate in a multidisciplinary working environment and to work individually and in teams as well as being able to suggest evidence based solutions in headache treatment.
- Collaborate in a clinical setting focusing on the best patient care.
- Take responsibility for a continued development and training of colleagues and other clinical personnel
- Independently organize and develop own learning-processes in headache treatment Diagnose and treat both simple and complex headache conditions
- Continually search and use the latest scientific news and literature
- Implement research and developmental projects under the current conditions in a given health care system
- Administer and allocate the available resources in headache treatment as fair as possible
- Strive to promote all aspects of headache research in epidemiological, social and health care sectors

Chapter 2. Admission requirements

2.1 Admission to the master's degree programme

Admission to the master's degree programme in Part time Master of Headache Disorders requires that the applicant has

- completed a qualifying Bachelor's degree, including a professional Bachelor's degree, a relevant medium-term higher education, a relevant diploma degree completed as a regulated course or other Danish or foreign education at the same level
- Minimum 2 years of relevant work experience after completing the qualifying education
- Meets language requirements

Deadlines for admission to the programme can be found on the programme's website.

2.1.1 Additional requirements

For admission to the programme, additional knowledge of statistics equivalent to high-school Mathematics level A must be documented.

2.2 Qualifying education

The following programmes are eligible:

- Master's degree in pharmacy
- Master's degree in medicine such as Neurology
- Master's degree in psychology
- Master's degree in public health
- Professional bachelor's degree in nursing
- Professional bachelor's degree in physiotherapy or equivalent

Applicants who do not meet the requirements, but who, on the basis of a specific individual assessment, are deemed to have educational qualifications that can be equated with a qualifying education, may be admitted.

2.3 Relevant work experience

Relevant work experience is defined as: clinical competences and work experience from pain medicine and/or within the headache area.

2.4 Language requirements

Applicants must be able to demonstrate English proficiency equivalent to one of the requirements below:

- upper secondary school B-level
- upper secondary school A-level

2.5 Capacity

Up to 25 students can be admitted to the master's programme every two years.

2.6 Ranking of applicants

If there are more qualified applicants than study places, applicants are ranked by an admissions committee according to the following criteria:

- evidence of qualifying degree
- relevance of work experience in pain medicine and/or headache field
- motivation and goals for applying

Chapter 3. Structure of the education

3.1 Outline of the programme

The programme is standardized to 60 ECTS credits and consists of the following elements:

- Compulsory subject elements of 60 ECTS credits including a Master's project of 20 ECTS credits

Compulsory subject elements including the Master's project comprise the constituent part of the programme.

Recommended course of study

Year	Autumn semester		Spring semester	
1st year	Epidemiology and Diagnosis of Headache and Facial Pain	Mechanisms and Comorbidities of Headache and Facial Pain	Investigations and Management of Headache and Facial Pain	Organization of Headache Care and Clinical Practice
2nd year	Clinical Course at a Specialized Headache Centre		Master's Thesis	

The master's project completes the programme. It is a prerequisite for being able to pass the master's project that all previous exams have been passed.

3.1.1 The compulsory subject elements of the programme

Code	Subject title / LINK	ECTS	External censorship	Form of Assessment	Form of examination	Location and possible schedule group	Formal academic requirements for enrolment
SHDM16001U	Epidemiology and Diagnosis of Headache and Facial Pain	7,5	No	7-point grading scale	Home Assignment	Autumn	

Code	Subject title / LINK	ECTS	External censor-ship	Form of Assessment	Form of examination	Location and possible schedule group	Formal academic requirements for enrolment
SHDM16002U	Mechanisms and Comorbidities of Headache and Facial Pain	7,5	No	7-point grading scale	Home Assignment	Autumn	
SHDM16003U	Investigations and Management of Headache and Facial Pain	7,5	No	7-point grading scale	Home Assignment	Spring	
SHDM16004U	Organization of Headache Care and Clinical Practice	7,5	No	7-point grading scale	Home Assignment	Spring	
SHDM16005U	Clinical Course at a Specialized Headache Centre	10	No	7-point grading scale	Practical Oral Examination	Autumn	
SHDM16006U	Master's Thesis	20	Yes	7-point grading scale	Home Assignment and Oral Examination	Spring	

Chapter 4. General rules

4.1 Maximum programme duration

The student must complete his/her education no later than six years after enrolment. Students who do not complete the education within the maximum period of study will be discharged by the university.

Students are not entitled to the 2nd and 3rd examination attempts in a subject element if this causes the maximum period of study to be exceeded.

4.2 Rules on teaching

4.2.1 Subject element tender

Subject elements are described in the UCPH course catalogue: kurser.ku.dk.

All subject elements are approved by the dean after recommendation from the Study Board, effective 1 September.

4.2.2 Alteration of subject elements

As a general rule, subject elements descriptions cannot be changed after publication in terms of description of objectives, level, language, ECTS credits, location, form of teaching, and examination form.

4.2.3 Cancellation of subject elements

The University of Copenhagen has the right to cancel a subject element after the application deadline, e.g. if there are too few registered participants. In the event of cancellation of subject elements that are compulsory for students enrolled in full master's degree programmes, the student must be assigned an alternative offer within a reasonable period.

4.3 Rules on examinations

The purpose of an exam, regardless of the type of exam, is to test whether the students meet the criteria for assessment as they appear in the subject element description.

4.3.1 Number of exam attempts

The student has three attempts to pass an exam. If the student does not participate in a registered exam, the student has used an exam attempt.

When a course is offered for the last time, the university determines when the student has the last opportunity to take an exam in the subject element.

Students who have exhausted their exam attempts will be discharged by the university.

4.3.2 Rules on writing and spelling skills

The student's writing and spelling skills are included in the overall assessment of the master's project, although the academic content must be given greatest weight.

If there is a *special* focus on writing and spelling skills in other subject elements, this will be stated in the individual subject element description on kurser.ku.dk.

4.3.3 Group examination

It is stated in the subject element description when group exams are allowed, as well as how many students (max.) can participate in the individual group exam.

In a group exam, each student's performance must be assessed individually, and an individual grade is given.

In the case of written group assignments without a subsequent oral exam, the individual student's contribution must be stated in the assignment answer, so that an individual assessment is ensured. If an individual assessment is not possible, the assignment cannot be graded, and the assignment will be rejected from assessment.

In the case of written group assignments with an individual oral examination, the individual student's contribution does not need to be stated in the group assignment. The grade is based on the students' individual oral performance and the group answer.

In the case of an individual oral examination that follows a written group assignment, the other authors of the group assignment may not be present in the examination room before they are to be examined. A grade must be given in connection with an individual oral examination before the next student is examined.

In the case of oral group exams, a group of students are examined at the same time and an individual assessment is made.

4.3.4 Special examination conditions

Upon application, the Study Board may offer special examination conditions on the basis of physical or mental impairment and to students with a mother tongue other than Danish, when the university deems it necessary for the sake of equality of the students in the examination situation.

It is a prerequisite that the offer does not change the academic level of the exam.

The university is responsible for ensuring that the exam can be conducted with the assigned special conditions and that the conditions are clearly communicated to the student.

4.3.5 Exam prerequisites

If a subject element contains exam prerequisites, these will appear in the subject element description in the course catalogue on kurser.ku.dk.

Exam prerequisites must be met before the student participates in an exam for the first time.

If the student does not meet the stipulated exam prerequisite(s), the student will be registered for a used exam attempt.

4.3.6 Re-examination

The form of examination for the re-examination is the same as the ordinary examination, unless otherwise stated in the subject element description.

Rules for holding re-examinations are set out in the University of Copenhagen's administrative rules.

4.3.7 Standard Page Definition

A standard page is 2400 characters including spaces. The keynote count includes footnotes, end-notes, tables, equations and formulas. Front page, table of contents, any summary or abstract, bibliography, figures, attachments and appendices are not included in the keynote count.

4.3.8 Complaints about examinations

The student may submit a written complaint about the exam and/or legal deficiencies.

Complaints about the exam must be submitted to the university no later than 2 weeks after the result of the exam has been reported to the student. The deadline is calculated at the earliest from the date on which the deadline for publication of the assessment has been set.

4.4 Pre-approval and credit transfer of subject elements

The Study Board may grant approval of subject elements passed in another uncompleted master's degree programme to replace subject elements in the programme.

It must be pre-approved by the Study Board if:

- The student wishes to replace compulsory subject elements with subject elements from other master's programmes
- The student wishes to replace elective subject elements with subject elements from other programmes at the Part time Master or master's level

Once the student has been granted credit transfer for previous subject elements, the credit transfer cannot subsequently be cancelled or changed.

Credit transfer from foreign universities is transferred with a pass/fail assessment.

4.4.1 Complaints and appeals

Students can submit a written complaint about legal deficiencies in credit transfer decisions. Complaints must be submitted to the faculty.

Students can appeal the academic assessment in decisions on credit transfers.

If the appeal concerns credit transfers from Danish educational institutions or any type of prior approval, the appeal must be brought before a Credit Transfer Appeal Board. The student must submit his/her appeal to the faculty no later than two weeks after receiving the decision.

If the appeal concerns final credit transfer from abroad, the appeal must be brought to the Qualifications Board no later than four weeks after the person in question has received the decision. The student submits his or her appeal to the faculty.

Chapter 5. Formalities

5.1 Possibilities for exemption

The Study Board may, upon application, grant exemptions from the rules in the curriculum that are solely set by the university if there are documented exceptional circumstances.

Complaints regarding legal issues in connection with decisions on students' circumstances made by study boards can be submitted to the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science.

5.2 Complaints about legal deficiencies

Complaints regarding legal deficiencies in decisions on students' circumstances made by the university can be submitted to the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science.

5.3 Legal basis

The rules of the curriculum are set in accordance with current executive orders, with the subsequent amendments:

- Ministerial Order no. 19 of 9 January 2020 on Master's Degree Programmes at Universities (the Master's Degree Programme Order).

- Ministerial Order no. 1121 of 19 September 2025 on Examinations and Tests in University Programmes (the Examination Order).
- Ministerial Order no. 1125 of 4 July 2022 on the grading scale for degree programmes within the Ministry of Higher Education and Science (the Grading Scale Order).
- Ministerial Order no. 2272 of 1 December 2021 on part-time university programmes (Order on Part-Time programmes).
- Consolidated Act no. 391 of 10 April 2024 on universities (the University Act).
- Ministerial Order no. 1122 of 19 September 2025 on Credit Transfer in University Programmes (the Credit Transfer Order).

5.4 Authentication

The curriculum was approved by the Dean on 6 March 2026.

5.5 Effective date

The curriculum goes into effect on 1 September 2026 and applies to students who commence their degree programme on this date or later.

Chapter 6. Transitional provisions

There are no transitional provisions for this curriculum.