

Acute Medicine

Postgraduate Diploma and MSc Courses





Postgraduate Diploma

Delivered over 1 year, the online, part-time Postgraduate Diploma course is specially developed for busy health professionals. Formatted in 6 modules, each 6 weeks in duration; the course is designed to be practical and clinically focused.

MSc

The MSc runs over 1 calendar year, starting with an initial 12 week online module to develop their skills in critical appraisal and knowledge of research methodologies. Students then complete the professional project module which consists of a 1,200 word proposal and 10,800 word professional project.

Why Study Acute Medicine with us?

Acute medicine is a rapidly evolving specialty that functions as the bedrock of hospital-based medicine and emergency care. Since many registered healthcare professionals are exposed to acute medicine within their daily work routines, there is an increasing demand for tailored postgraduate education. Our course caters for this demand, enabling you to develop a systematic understanding of evidence-based, protocol-delivered practice that is pivotal in optimising acute care.

Unlike a practical course in acute medicine, our theoretical course aims to enhance the existing knowledge of healthcare professionals, and provides an in-depth understanding of relevant guidance and protocols in acute medicine. These can be implemented when addressing complex issues in patient management, directly benefiting patient care.

The primary aims of the course are to equip students with a systematic understanding of acute medicine, skills in critical appraisal and application of knowledge for direct patient benefit. In addition to this, students will benefit from being taught life-long learning and advanced problem-solving skills that they can apply to clinical practice in acute medicine.

Applicants taking our courses in Acute Medicine will typically be doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists and radiographers.

For healthcare professionals who successfully complete a qualification, career progression would likely be facilitated, as well as the direct opportunity to improve patient care.

Acute Medicine Postgraduate Diploma

Course Modules

Our online Acute Medicine Postgraduate Diploma allows you to study for just one calendar year and is a part-time, distance-learning course. The course is worth 120 credits and comprises six modules of 20 credits, each running over a period of six weeks.

Module 1 - Respiratory and Cardiovascular Emergencies

Aim of the module:

- Use relevant understanding, methodologies and approaches to address complex cases and apply guideline and evidence-based care in the management of acutely ill patients presenting with cardio-respiratory conditions.

Synopsis of module content:

- Guideline directed approach to the management of patients with acute cardio-respiratory diseases including severe hypertension, acute heart failure, acute coronary syndrome, arrhythmias, thromboembolic disease, acute exacerbations of chronic respiratory disease, pneumonia, pneumothorax, pleural effusions, acute asthma, respiratory failure and cardiac arrest.

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Use relevant understanding, methodologies and approaches for the diagnosis and management of patients presenting with acute respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.
2. Demonstrate an ability to apply evidence-based learning in acute cardiovascular and respiratory scenarios.
3. Appraise, reflect upon and create ways forward in the management of patients presenting with acute cardio-respiratory conditions within the multidisciplinary team.

Module 2 - Diabetes and Endocrine Emergencies

Aim of the module:

- Enhance the management of complex cases presenting with a variety of acute diabetic and endocrine conditions, and apply guideline and evidence-based care in the management of acutely ill patients.

Synopsis of module content:

- The management of patients presenting with acute diabetic and endocrine diseases, including diabetic ketoacidosis, hypoglycaemia, hyperosmolar non-ketosis, acute hypercalcaemia, thyrotoxicosis, hypocalcaemia and adrenal crisis.

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Use relevant understanding, methodologies and approaches for the diagnosis, treatment and management of patients presenting with acute endocrine conditions.
2. Critically analyse, interpret and evaluate evidence and guidance-based strategies in the management of acutely unwell patients with diabetic-related conditions.

Module 3 - Gastroenterological Emergencies

Aim of the module:

- Reformulate and use relevant understanding, methodologies and approaches to assess and manage complex cases, and apply guideline and evidence-based care in the management of acutely ill patients presenting with gastrointestinal conditions.

Synopsis of module content:

- The management of patients presenting with acute gastrointestinal (GI) illnesses, including upper GI haemorrhage, acute abdominal pain, intractable vomiting, inflammatory bowel disease, acute liver disease, hepatic encephalopathy, cirrhosis, GI infections (such as dysentery and gastroenteritis) and GI malignancy.

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Use relevant understanding, methodologies and approaches for the diagnostic synthesis and management strategy employed in the treatment of patients presenting with acute GI conditions.
2. Demonstrate an ability to apply evidence-based learning and guideline-based treatment in acute GI disorders.

Module 4 - Acute Presentations with Infection and Sepsis

Aim of the module:

- Apply guideline and evidence-based care in the management of acutely ill patients, facilitating the critical evaluation of actions, methods and results used in the management of acute infections.

Synopsis of module content:

- The management of patients presenting with acute bacterial, viral and fungal infection relating to all organ systems; the management, investigation and diagnosis of sepsis and bacteraemia; and the management of the immune-compromised individual in relation to infection.

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Use relevant understanding, methodologies and approaches for the diagnosis and management of patients presenting with acute infections.
2. Critically analyse, interpret and evaluate the presentation, cause and management of the immune-compromised patients in the acute medical setting.
3. Demonstrate an ability to apply evidence-based practice and guideline-based treatment with acute infections and sepsis.



Little did I know that the MSc was going to be a significant stepping stone in my medical career! Both the diploma and MSc were invaluable in terms of expanding my knowledge and management of Diabetes Medicine, but also enhanced my critical thinking and writing skills.

- Dr Kevin Fernando

Module 5 - Acute Neurological Disorders and Stroke

Aim of the module:

- Develop a critical understanding of the assessment and management of acute neurological disorders and strokes, applying guideline and evidence-based care in the management of acute neurological disorders and strokes.

Synopsis of module content:

- The diagnosis and management of patients presenting with acute neurological disorders, including acute stroke, epilepsy, cerebral infections, cerebral haemorrhage and haematomas, and venous sinus thrombosis; presentations with acute cerebral malignancy, dystonias, ataxias, acute neuronopathies and neuropathies and raised intracranial pressure.

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Use relevant understanding, methodologies and approaches for the diagnosis and management strategy employed in the investigation and treatment of patients presenting with acute neurological disorders.
2. Demonstrate a critical understanding of evidence-based practice and guideline-based treatment in neurological disorders, including stroke medicine.

Module 6 - Acute Renal, Metabolic and Toxicological Emergencies

Aim of the module:

- Develop a critical understanding of the assessment of acute kidney, metabolic and toxicological disorders and apply guideline and evidence-based care in the management of these disorders.

Synopsis of module content:

- The management of toxicological emergencies, such as overdoses (both accidental and non-accidental), acute drug reactions and anaphylaxis; the presentation of patients with metabolic and renal issues, including acute kidney injury, acid-base disorders, hyperkalemia and acute hyponatraemia; and the implementation of renal replacement therapy including dialysis.

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"When I enrolled into the course I had no idea about the opportunities it would provide me with. Having my first paper published through this course helped me overcome my apprehensions of academic writing and made me more confident to pursue it further. "

- Rutu Dave



On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Use relevant understanding, methodologies and approaches for the diagnostic synthesis and management strategy employed in the investigation and treatment of patients presenting with acute kidney disorders.
2. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the assessment and management of overdose and acute metabolic disturbance.
3. Apply evidence-based practice and guideline-based treatment in renal, metabolic and toxicological disorders.

Teaching Methods

Our courses are conducted entirely online through self-directed distance learning. However, you will receive guidance throughout with tutor-stimulated academic discussions, which are based on clinically-rich case scenarios. These usually occur within groups of 10-15 students, allowing you to clearly communicate with both your tutor and fellow students.

You will participate in a combination of group and individual activities, which are recorded in a reflective journal. This innovative teaching method enables you to envisage the translation of your studies into your every day work and practice.

Our dedicated Student Support Team are also available to help with any problems you may face. From navigating our online platform to advising you on deadlines, our team can assist with any questions or challenges you may have along the way.

Study Skills week

Once you have secured your place on the course, you will be invited to a Study Skills week webinar. This will give you the opportunity to participate in workshops on Harvard referencing, scientific and reflective writings, and levels of evidence in preparation for your studies. It is not compulsory for you to attend our Induction Day but it is recommended, as it'll provide you with a sturdy introduction to the course.

Acute Medicine Postgraduate Diploma

Entry Requirements

Documents required:

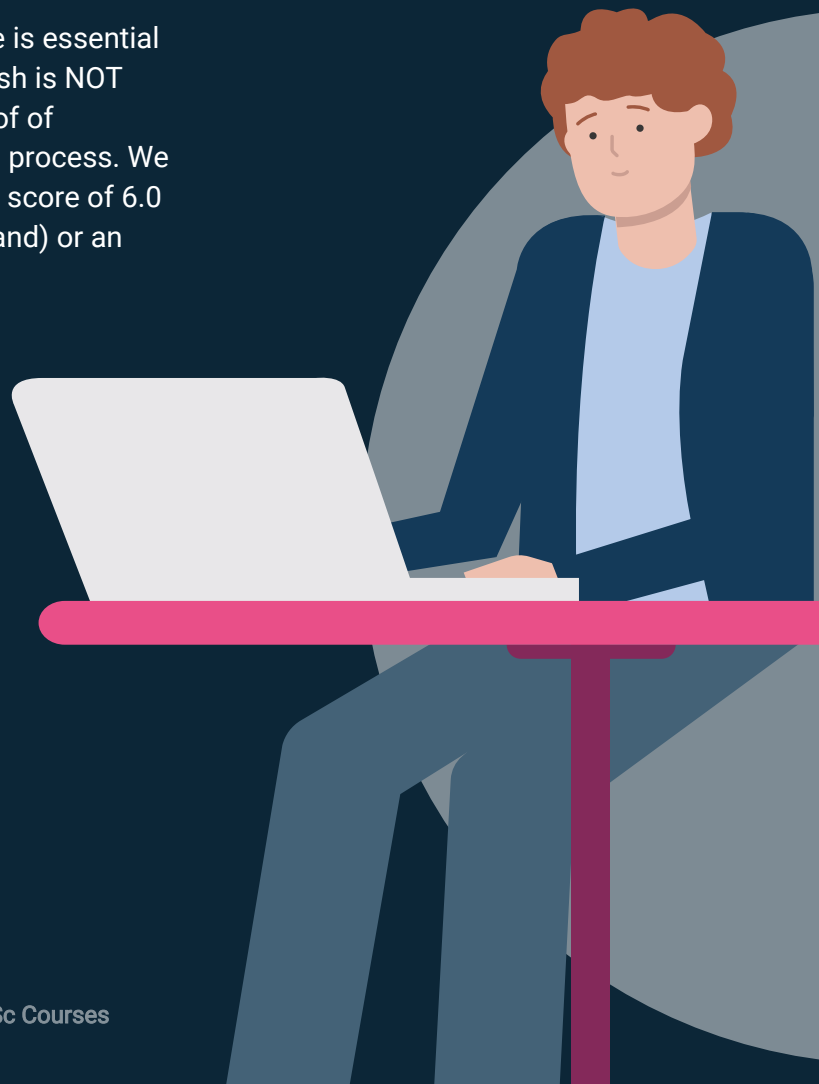
- A copy of your updated CV including your address and date of birth.
- A copy of your undergraduate degree certificate.
- The name and email address of someone who is able to provide a reference, this can be a work colleague, employer or former tutor.
- A detailed personal statement explaining why you would like to undertake the course.

Health professionals working within a clinical setting, both UK and overseas, with a related Healthcare Science degree (including international qualifications) are eligible to apply for the Postgraduate Diploma in Acute Medicine.

Applicants without the above academic criteria but relevant/suitable experience can apply. Applications will be judged on the individual specifics of background and qualifications including ability to work at Postgraduate level (applicants may be asked to submit a piece of work for assessment to confirm that they are able to work comfortably at postgraduate level and demonstrate requisite clinical/professional knowledge).

Applicants should submit copies of the following with their application:

Proficiency in the English language is essential to completing our courses. If English is NOT your first language, we ask for proof of competency during the application process. We are able to accept an IELTS overall score of 6.0 (with a minimum of 5.5 for each band) or an equivalent qualification.



Acute Medicine MSc

Course Modules

Module 1 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal

Aim of the module:

- This module is designed to help you recognise, understand, interpret and apply methods used in healthcare research and critically appraise the various methodologies specific to acute medicine research.

Synopsis of module content:

- Analysis and evaluation of the choice of research tools and/or other methods of enquiry to address research problems.
- Terminology used in epidemiology and research studies such as prevalence, incidence, sensitivity, specificity, false positive and false negatives.
- Interpretation of graphical representation of epidemiological and statistical data such as Kaplan-Meier curves, forest plots and meta-analyses.
- Calculations used in the assessment of research data such as relative risk, absolute risk and number needed to treat.
- Statistical tests and their applications including T-Tests, ANOVA, chi-square.
- Qualitative research methods.
- Fundamentals of evidence-based practice and its application into the clinical setting.
- Principles of health economics, audit and quality improvement/assurance systems.
- Establishing patient registers and the value of disease specific registers.
- Research into educational principles for both healthcare practitioner and patient.
- Understanding what may work for the patient as well as the educator.

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Select and apply different methodological perspectives and tools to answer research questions in acute medicine.
2. Critically analyse and interpret research in acute medicine

Module 2 - Professional Project

Aim of the module:

- The module aims to develop your ability to critically appraise specific areas of clinical, research and/or organisational practice and develop skills in independent research, study and writing for publication.

Synopsis of the module:

The module will depend on the creation of a piece of work based upon a specific clinically related project relevant to your practice. You will select a specific project and submit a project summary/proposal (1,200 words). Once your proposal has been approved, the professional project (10,800 words) is then completed through online guidance and supervision from your tutor.

This project may comprise:

- Literature review and appraisal of the evidence.
- Audit of practice including organisational or clinical.
- Review and implementation of evidence-based practice.
- Qualitative or quantitative research (formal research involving human subjects is not anticipated).

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- Case-based and quality of service review with critical appraisal.
- Case report, review of literature and organisational assessment.

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Design and undertake a research/development project related to acute medicine.
2. Critically evaluate practice and suggest improvements for change.
3. Incorporate knowledge of the research process in developing services appropriately.

Teaching Methods

Module 1 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal

MSc teaching methods for this module are similar to the Postgraduate Diploma course modules, however it is run over 12 weeks.

Module 2 - Professional Project

To produce the professional project, students continue to use the online course; however, much of the work is self-directed.

Students are expected in the first 8 weeks to interact with their tutor on a weekly basis. Students select a specific project and submit a project summary/proposal (approximately 1,200 words).

Once the proposal has been approved, the professional project (10,800 words) itself is then completed through online guidance and supervision offered by the tutor. The student and tutor will interact regularly (weekly) on the dedicated students/ tutor discussion area or through any other means of communication deemed appropriate by both parties (telephone/ SKYPE/ email). Note of any verbal communication with the tutor is recorded in the student's journal by the student.

Entry Requirements

Entry to the one year Acute Medicine MSc will require successful completion of the Acute Medicine Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits). This can be from Diploma MSc, the University of South Wales or another UK university (having completed similar modules). We can discuss this with you during your application.

Individuals who have not completed the postgraduate diploma can apply for the Acute Medicine MSc as a two year course consisting of eight modules (180 credits) with the first 120 credits deriving from the postgraduate diploma.

Entry requirements for the two-year course are as for the Postgraduate Diploma.

Applicants should be working in a clinical setting, either in the UK or overseas, and have a science degree in a relevant subject.

You will also need to submit copies of the following with your application:

- Qualification certificates
- A maximum of two professional and/or academic references
- IELTS score of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 for each band (or an equivalent qualification)

Graduates of this course will receive a Master of Science award from the University of South Wales, Diploma MSc's collaborative partner. The Acute Medicine MSc course provides a progression route for the Postgraduate Diploma course in Acute Medicine.



What do our students think?

Since 2010, over 1000 students have progressed their medical career by enrolling in one of our qualifications. We ourselves have learned a lot during this time and continually seek to improve the student learning experience. Here is what some of our previous students have said:

"I found the online learning very interesting. It enabled me to save money and time."

Dr Imad Eddin Rahamtalla, Doctor

"I strongly recommend Diploma MSc to all those busy physicians who are working in remote areas and wish to upgrade their knowledge."

Dr Junaid Zaffar, Diabetologist

"The learning was fun and enjoyable. The course was awesome and it increased my confidence."

Dr Sankar Nath Jha, Assistant Professor

"I found learning with Diploma MSc interesting, it helped to update my academic knowledge."

Dr Prasanth Kinattupurayil, Doctor

"I love that it was flexible and that I could log in at my convenience. I found this course to be very in-depth, informative, challenging and stimulating."

Kerri-Ann Best PGDip, RD



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