

Diabetes

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 2 calendar years, with the first year comprising of the Postgraduate Diploma. The second year starts with an initial 10 week online module to develop skills in critical appraisal and knowledge of research methodologies. Students then complete the professional project module.

Why Study Diabetes with us?

Diabetes and its complications create substantial economic problems for patients and their families. It also accounts for a large consumption of health system resources and national economies through direct medical costs and loss of work.

As a healthcare professional, you can make a significant contribution to solving this problem by improving your specialist knowledge and skills in treating and preventing the condition.

The Postgraduate Diploma and MSc courses are aimed at healthcare professionals who have a day to day exposure to people with diabetes. They may be part of a team which delivers care, a leader of that team, or an individual who treats people with diabetes.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Diabetes course is particularly relevant to General Practitioners, Practice Nurses, Diabetes Specialist Nurses, Podiatrists, Pharmacists, Dieticians and Pharmaceutical Representatives.

Diabetes Postgraduate Diploma

Course Modules

Our online Diabetes 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 - Principles of Diabetes

- You will be able to critically evaluate the presentation, diagnostic criteria and classification of diabetes, and interpret research in relation to the aetiology, pathophysiology and risk factors for diabetes and its complications.

Module 2 - Approaches to Care

- You'll develop the skills to critically analyse the contribution of different healthcare professionals in providing diabetes care and demonstrate the ability to critically appraise and adopt relevant psychological, behavioural and educational strategies in managing diabetes care.

Module 3 - Promoting Self Care

- You will develop the skills to critically appraise and select appropriate techniques and approaches to encourage self-management and physical activity, and encourage self-management of nutrition.

Module 4 - Management of Diabetes

- You will gain the skills to demonstrate critical discrimination and selection in the choice of therapeutic options for people with diabetes in a variety of situations, and critically evaluate the role of emerging therapies debate their contribution to treatment pathways.

Module 5 - Complications (microvascular)

- You'll develop the ability to diagnose and treat acute metabolic complications in diabetes and critically analyse factors that contribute to the occurrence, recurrence and prevention.

Module 6 - Complications (macrovascular)

- You'll develop the skills to appraise the evidence base to identify risk factors and prevention strategies for macrovascular complications, and critically appraise clinical trial evidence in the management of macrovascular complications.

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Doing a course, all online is a lot more convenient for me around my clinical role so that's why I chose to study with Lerna...

I really like how flexible the course was, I liked the freedom I got with the professional project and I was well supported throughout the whole 2 years!

- Lisa Jayne Edwards, Medical Education MSc graduate



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

1. A critical awareness of the evidence base relating to the identification and treatment of common skin disorders in various populations.
2. An ability to develop and decipher a differential diagnosis for common skin diseases affecting specific populations.
3. A critical awareness of the appropriate management strategy and referral pathways for individuals from sub-groups of the population.

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 required to attend our Study Skills week. 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 compulsory for you to attend, as it'll provide you with a sturdy introduction to the course.

Diabetes 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 Diabetes.

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 also 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.



Diabetes MSc

Course Modules

Module 7 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal

Aim of the module:

- This module is designed help students recognise, understand, interpret and apply methods used in healthcare research and critically appraise the various methodologies specific to diabetes research.
- Terminology used in epidemiology and research studies such as prevalence, incidence, sensitivity, specificity, false positive and false negatives.
- Interpreting graphical representation of epidemiological and statistical data such as Kaplan-Meier Curves, Forrest Plots and Meta-analyses.
- Calculations used in the assessment of research data such as relative risk, absolute risk, number needed to treat.
- Basic statistical tests and their applications including t-Tests, ANOVA, Chi-Square.
- Methodologies as applied to diabetes research.
- Fundamentals of evidence based practice and its application into the clinical setting.
- Establishing patient registers and the value of disease specific registers.
- Research into educational principles for both health care 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. Interpret research and apply this to the management of patients with diabetes.
2. Display a critical understanding of the clinical implications of research and its impact upon healthcare delivery and service development.

Module 8 - 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 (1,500 words). Once your proposal has been approved, the professional project (10,500 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).
- Case(s)-based and quality of service review with critical appraisal.
- Case report, review of literature and organisational assessment.

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

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

Teaching Methods

Module 7 - 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 8 - 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 1500 words).

Once the proposal has been approved, the professional project (10,500 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 Diabetes MSc will require successful completion of the Diabetes 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 Diabetes 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 Diabetes MSc course provides a progression route for the Postgraduate Diploma course in Diabetes.



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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