

Gastroenterology

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 Gastroenterology with us?

This theoretical course is designed to facilitate a better understanding of common gastroenterology disorders typically found in the community and will enable students to up-skill in diagnostic and management of gastroenterological disorders. Students will be better equipped to read and interpret endoscopy reports, an increasingly important element of practice.

Applicants taking our courses in gastroenterology will typically be GPs, doctors, nurses, physicians and pharmacists. For healthcare professionals who successfully complete a qualification, career progression would likely be facilitated, as well as the direct opportunity to improve patient care.

Our Gastroenterology courses are offered in conjunction with our partner, the University of South Wales, who have developed a strong reputation for delivering innovative learning.

Gastroenterology Postgraduate Diploma

Course Modules

Our online Gastroenterology 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 - Oesophagus

Aim of the module:

- To develop a critical understanding of the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the oesophagus.

Synopsis of module content:

- Oesophagus: anatomy and physiology
- Oesophagus diagnostic test
- Oesophagus and Barrett's Oesophagus
- Vomiting
- Oesophageal dysmotility
- Oesophageal Cancer

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

1. Critically apply anatomical and physiological functions of the oesophagus to a variety of oesophageal diseases.
2. Critically appraise current methods of diagnosing and treating diseases of the oesophagus.

Module 2 - Stomach

Aim of the module:

- To develop a critical understanding of the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the stomach.

Synopsis of module content:

- Stomach: anatomy and physiology
- Gastroscopy
- Peptic ulcer disease
- Helicobacter pylori
- Gastric cancer
- Pernicious Anemia

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

1. Critically apply anatomical and physiological functions of the stomach to a variety of diseases affecting the stomach.
2. Critically appraise current methods of diagnosing and treating diseases of the stomach.

Module 3 - Pancreas

Aim of the module:

- To develop a critical understanding of the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the pancreas.

Synopsis of module content:

- Anatomy and physiology of Pancreas
- Pancreatic function tests
- Pancreatic insufficiency
- Acute Pancreatitis
- Chronic Pancreatitis
 - Pancreatic Cysts
- Pancreatic cancer
 - Neuroendocrine Tumours

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

1. Critically apply anatomical and physiological functions of the pancreas to a variety of diseases affecting the pancreas.
2. Critically appraise current methods of diagnosing and treating diseases of the pancreas.

Module 4 - Liver

Aim of the module:

- To develop a critical understanding of the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the liver.

Synopsis of module content:

- Anatomy and physiology of the liver
- Liver function tests
- Cirrhosis and complications
 - Cancer
- Drug and alcohol induced liver injury
- Viral liver disease
- Biliary disease

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

1. Critically apply anatomical and physiological functions of the liver to a variety of diseases affecting the liver.
2. Critically appraise current methods of diagnosing and treating diseases of the liver.

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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 Learna...

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

Module 5 - Small Bowel and Nutrition

Aim of the module:

- To develop a critical understanding of the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the small bowel. Also to learn about basic principles of managing nutrition in health and disease.

Synopsis of module content:

- Anatomy and physiology of the small bowel
- Basic principles of nutrition
- Coeliac disease
- Crohn's disease
- PEG feeding
- Bile salt malabsorption

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

1. Critically apply anatomical and physiological functions of the small bowel to a variety of diseases affecting the small bowel.
2. Critically appraise current methods of diagnosing and treating diseases of the small bowel.
3. Analyse the impact of nutrition on diseases of the small bowel.

Module 6 - Colon

Aim of the module:

- To develop a critical understanding of the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the colon.

Synopsis of module content:

- Colonic anatomy and physiology
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Ulcerative Colitis
- Infective diarrhoea
 - Clostridium difficile
- Colonic cancer
 - Stoma: colostomy and ileostomy
- Colonoscopy, screening and diagnosis

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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. Critically apply anatomical and physiological functions of the colon to a variety of diseases affecting the colon.
2. Critically appraise current methods of diagnosing and treating diseases of the colon.

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 our Induction, as it'll provide you with a sturdy introduction to the course.

Gastroenterology 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 Gastroenterology.

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.



Gastroenterology MSc

Course Modules

Module 7 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal

Aim of the module:

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

Synopsis of module content:

- 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.
- 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. Analyse and interpret research in gastroenterology medicine.
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:

- To develop an ability to critically evaluate areas of professional practice.
- To critically appraise specific areas of clinical, research and organisational practice.
- To develop skills in independent research and study.
- To develop skills relevant to scientific publications.

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 the student's practice.

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 research and development in order to produce an extensive piece of literature which may be suitable for peer-reviewed publication.
2. Critically evaluate practice and suggest improvements or 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 1,200 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 Gastroenterology MSc will require successful completion of the Gastroenterology 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 Gastroenterology 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 Gastroenterology MSc course provides a progression route for the Postgraduate Diploma course in Gastroenterology.



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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