

 **Learna** | **Diploma MSc**

Haematology

Postgraduate Diploma & MSc Courses





Year 1

Year 1, comprising of 6 modules, each of 6 weeks duration, is designed to be practical and clinically focused.

Year 2

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 Haematology with us?

Our Haematology Postgraduate Diploma and MSc are delivered entirely online and are completely flexible to fit around your other commitments.

By joining this rapidly expanding field, you won't just advance your career—you'll make a meaningful impact on patient outcomes in an area lacking in sufficiently skilled clinicians.

Our haematology programme offers a comprehensive and diverse curriculum designed to enhance your expertise in the field and ultimately your employability. The expert-designed curriculum will nurture your research abilities, improve your problem-solving skills, and enhance your knowledge and understanding through multidisciplinary collaboration with classmates.

Haematology Postgraduate Diploma

Course Modules - Year 1

Our online Haematology 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 - Haematological Techniques and Blood Cell Morphology

Aim of the module:

- To understand day-to-day blood test investigations in primary care and define the framework of referrals of haematological abnormalities to the appropriate specialists.

Synopsis of module content:

- Practical haematological knowledge with an emphasis on normal and abnormal results in a range of settings
- Effective communication and accurate terminology to be applied, with a multidisciplinary approach, when referring patients to specialist haematology teams in secondary care.

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

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge of the analysis and diagnosis of complex haematological disorders encountered in a variety of settings, considering the underlying causes, clinical manifestations, and relevant diagnostic criteria.
- Critically evaluate and adapt communication strategies to effectively collaborate and exchange information within multidisciplinary care teams regarding patients with complex haematological disorders.
- Critically evaluate and synthesise the evidence base relating to the relevance and diagnostic significance of conducting specific tests and investigations for haematological disorders in the primary care setting, before making appropriate and timely referrals to secondary care.

Module 2 - Anaemia, Leukopenia and Thrombocytopenia

Aim of the module:

- To develop a systematic knowledge of the most common haematological disorders presenting in primary care to differentiate cases where appropriate investigations may facilitate diagnosis, versus urgent referrals to secondary care and specialist teams.

Synopsis of module content:

- Individual cytopenias anaemia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia
- Pancytopenia

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

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge of the identification and potential investigations of the underlying causes of different cytopenias, considering a wide range of factors such as haematological disorders, systemic diseases, medications, and genetic abnormalities.
- Critically evaluate the need for specific tests to further investigate cytopenias or pancytopenia, demonstrating a systematic understanding of the risk of neutropenic sepsis, in a variety of settings.
- Synthesise and translate the critical knowledge into complex case scenarios relating to the early diagnosis and appropriate referral of common haematological disorders that may present within a variety of settings.

Module 3 - Haemostasis and Thrombosis

Aim of the module:

- To develop a systematic knowledge of the principles and pathophysiological mechanisms of the coagulation system causing bleeding of thrombotic episodes and implementation into everyday practice including surgery and obstetrics/gynaecology.

Synopsis of module content:

- Haemostasis overview
- Thrombosis
- Bleeding problems and surgical procedures
- Obstetric haematology

On completion of this module, students will have:

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge of the application of clotting tests and thrombophilia screening in the evaluation and management of patients with bleeding and thrombotic disorders, considering their diagnostic value, limitations and implications for treatment decisions.
- Critically evaluate the facilitation of early management and ordering of specific investigations for these patients presenting with bleeding and thrombotic disorders, demonstrating a systematic knowledge of the appropriate tests, their interpretation and their significance in guiding clinical decisions in a variety of settings.
- Critically evaluate and synthesise the evidence base relating to the process of ordering initial investigations for patients with bleeding and thrombotic disorders, demonstrating a systematic knowledge of the principles of anticoagulation therapy in a variety of settings, including indications, initiation, monitoring, and complications.

Module 4 - Lymphadenopathy and Splenomegaly

Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth knowledge of the clinical features and common causes of lymphadenopathy and splenomegaly while elaborating on the most common lymphatic disorders presenting to healthcare professionals, ie Hodgkins and non-Hodgkin's lymphomas.

Synopsis of module content:

- Causes and specific investigations and management of lymphadenopathy and splenomegaly
- Types of lymphomas presenting to primary care

On completion of this module, students will have:

- Demonstrate a critical knowledge of the systematic evaluation of patients presenting with lymphatic disorders, including lymphadenopathy, splenomegaly and suspected lymphomas, integrating knowledge of clinical features, medical history and physical examination.
- Critically evaluate the process of ordering appropriate investigations and interpreting findings to establish a diagnosis in primary care settings, considering the specific characteristics and limitations of a range of appropriate tests.
- Demonstrate a multidisciplinary approach and advanced clinical reasoning skills to the process of implementing initial management strategies for patients with lymphatic disorders, including appropriate interventions, monitoring plans and referral pathways, ensuring timely and optimal patient care in a variety settings.



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 - Haematological Malignancies

Aim of the module:

- To develop a critical knowledge of the presentation of the main pathophysiological features of suspected haematological malignancies and the impact to patients, along with rapid referral pathways by recognising red flags and indications for urgent referral or hospital admission, therefore implementing appropriate, immediate interventions and coordinating timely specialist input.

Synopsis of module content:

- This module will address all haematological malignancies, and a non malignant disorder but with similar consequences to patients (aplastic anaemia).

On completion of this module, students will have:

- Critically evaluate the assessment of patients with suspected haematological malignancies, considering their clinical signs, symptoms, laboratory test results and imaging findings, to identify potential malignancies and their characteristics such as types, stages and prognostic factors.
- Critically evaluate the evidence and guidance relating to implementing appropriate, immediate interventions and coordinating timely specialist input with a multidisciplinary approach, ensuring the integration of specialist expertise and resources in the management of patients with haematological malignancies in a variety of settings.
- Demonstrate advanced diagnostic and management skills to confidently assess and appropriately refer patients presenting with suspected haematological malignancies in a variety of settings, adopting a multidisciplinary approach to optimise patient outcomes.

Module 6 - Haemoglobinopathies

Aim of the module:

- To develop a systematic knowledge of the different types of thalassaemia, sickle cell and their genetic basis by recognising clinical features, diagnostic criteria and interpretation of investigations; developing appropriate management plans for patients with thalassaemia in primary care; exploring the pathophysiology and clinical manifestations of sickle cell disease; recognising the acute and chronic complications associated with sickle cell disease; implementing a comprehensive care approach for patients with sickle cell disease in a variety of primary care settings.

Synopsis of module content:

- Thalassaemia intermedia and thalassaemia major
- Sickle cell anaemia and its complications
- Principles of transfusion practice including exchange transfusion

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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 have:

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge of the diagnosis, complications and management of thalassaemia and sickle cell disease, integrating knowledge of genetic factors, clinical manifestations and laboratory testing to assess these presentations at an advanced level and in a range of settings.
- Critically evaluate referral pathways, including emergency referrals for patients presenting with thalassaemia and sickle cell disease in a range of complex scenarios, adopting a multidisciplinary approach across a range of primary and secondary care settings.
- Critically organise and communicate appropriate strategies for the delivery of a comprehensive care approach for patients with sickle cell disease in a variety of settings.

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 will provide you with a sturdy introduction to the course.

Haematology 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.

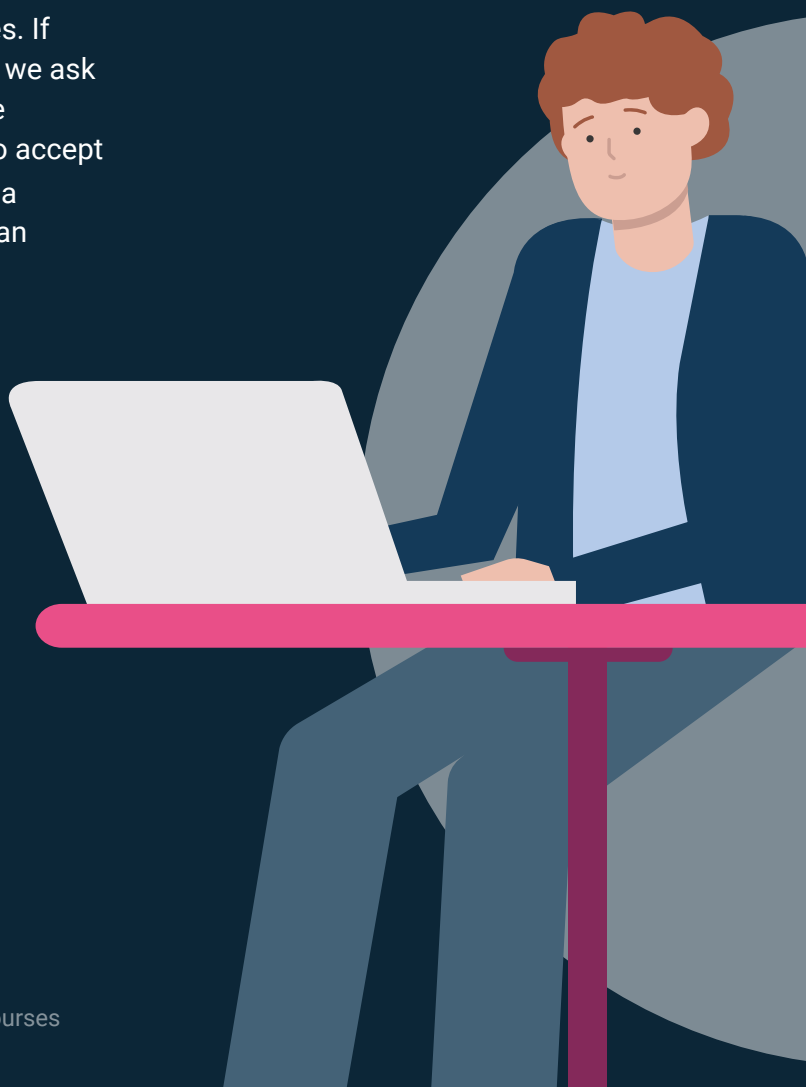
Applicants should submit copies of the following with their application:

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 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 for each band) or an equivalent qualification.

Since our courses are conducted entirely online, they are accessible to both UK and international registered healthcare professionals.

Applicants will typically hold a first degree or equivalent (including international qualifications) in a relevant professional healthcare field, such as a medical or nursing degree. Registered healthcare professionals without these recognised qualifications will be considered on an individual basis and a wide range of prior experience may be taken into account.

In some cases, applicants may be asked to submit a piece of work for assessment in order to confirm that they are able to work comfortably at postgraduate level, and demonstrate the requisite clinical and professional knowledge.



Haematology MSc

Course Modules - Year 2

Module 7 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal/Professional Project

Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal:

- To help students recognise, understand, interpret and apply methods used in healthcare research and critically appraise the various methodologies specific to research in the subject area.

Professional Project:

- To develop students' ability to critically appraise specific areas of clinical, research and/or organisational practice and develop skills in independent research, study and writing for publication.

Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal:

- 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, 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 and 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.

Professional Project:

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

Learning Outcomes:

- Critically analyse and interpret research to assess its application to delivery/service development.
- Design and undertake a professional project related to the field of practice in order to produce an extensive piece of literature which may be suitable for peer-reviewed publication.
- Create evidence-based recommendations to add to the knowledge base of the subject area.
- Demonstrate critical evaluation skills enabling an in-depth critique of the academic literature.
- Demonstrate the ability to create academic work of a publishable standard.
- Evaluate ethical considerations in research and the process of engagement with ethical committees.

Teaching Methods

Professional Project

You will be required to produce a piece of work based upon a clinically-related project that is relevant to your practice. Once you have selected a specific project, you will submit a project summary/proposal of approximately 1,500 words. Following the approval of your proposal you will then complete a 10,500 word professional project.

To produce the professional project you will continue to study online. Much of the work is self-directed, however you will receive guidance from your tutor throughout the module. You will begin the year by developing skills in critical appraisal and knowledge of research methodologies used in the field of Haematology.

Entry Requirements

Entry to the one year Haematology MSc will require successful completion of the Haematology Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits). This can be from Diploma MSc 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 Haematology 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 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 for each band (or an equivalent qualification)

Graduates of this course will receive a Master of Science award. The Haematology MSc course provides a progression route for the Postgraduate Diploma course in Haematology.



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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admissions@learna.ac.uk
or call +44 (0) 29 2192 1312