

Occupational Medicine

Postgraduate Diploma and MSc Courses



THE UNIVERSITY OF
BUCKINGHAM



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 Occupational Medicine with us?

With our professional diploma in occupational medicine, you'll gain advanced knowledge and practical skills to address the diverse health challenges faced by industries worldwide. From identifying and mitigating occupational hazards to developing tailored health promotion initiatives, you'll be equipped to create safer, healthier work environments that benefit both employees and organisations.

The Postgraduate Certificate is aimed at Healthcare Professionals, Occupational Health and Safety Experts, Public Health Professionals, Researchers and Academics.

This occupational medicine courses offers the skills and insights needed to advance your career in occupational medicine, equipping you with the tools to make a significant impact on workplace health and safety.

Occupational Medicine Postgraduate Diploma

Course Modules

Our online Occupational 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: Fundamentals of Occupational Medicine

Aim of the module:

- This module aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of occupational medicine, encompassing its principles, services, and practical applications, including fitness assessment, hazard identification, risk management, and epidemiological interpretation, enabling effective promotion and preservation of employee health and well-being in the workplace.

Indicative content:

- Definition of occupational medicine (scope) and occupational health (OH) services
- Introduction to ethics and the law, multidisciplinary team (MDT)
- Assessment of fitness to work, sickness absence, rehabilitation, redeployment, resettlement and ill health retirement
- Introduction to hazards and PPE
- Introduction to risk assessment and control measures
- Introduction to epidemiology

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

1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the core concepts related to occupational medicine, including occupational health services, risk assessments, hazards, ethical considerations and legal frameworks.
2. Critically evaluate current research and guidelines relating to occupational medicine and the application in a range of settings.
3. Systematically organise and communicate advanced occupational health and safety related information, using criteria developed for a variety of audiences and within a multidisciplinary team approach.

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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 2: Occupational Hazards and Occupational Diseases

Aim of the module:

- The module aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the diverse range of hazards encountered in the workplace and environment, spanning physical, chemical, biological, ergonomic, and psychosocial factors and much more, while considering individual variations in fitness assessment influenced by age, environmental conditions, and specific job roles.

Indicative content:

- Physical, chemical, biological, ergonomic, psychosocial hazards
- Respiratory and skin disorders
- Infectious diseases/zoonoses
- Mental health and other systems
- Musculoskeletal (MSK) disorders and ergonomics
- Fitness for specific roles/individuals

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

1. Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of occupational hazards, their multifaceted impacts on various health systems, and the intricate assessment of fitness for work in diverse conditions.
2. Critically analyse and synthesise complex information from diverse sources, demonstrating advanced problem-solving abilities in assessing and managing occupational hazards, individual health impacts, and fitness for specific roles.
3. Apply advanced occupational medicine principles to assess and mitigate workplace hazards, formulating tailored strategies for health promotion and risk prevention, and effectively communicating with a variety of stakeholders.

Module 3: Workplace Safety

Aim of the module:

- The module aims to equip students with comprehensive knowledge and skills in occupational risk management, including risk assessment, control measures, health surveillance, reporting requirements, relevant regulatory frameworks, toxicology principles, occupational hygiene, and practical skills in walk-through surveys, enabling effective occupational health management and compliance.

Indicative content:

- Principles of health and safety risk management
- Health surveillance and biological monitoring. Health screening and medical examination
- Report writing including portfolio production
- Reporting schemes and health and safety executive (HSE) Appointed Doctor system
- Introduction to Toxicology and hygiene monitoring
- Conducting a walk-through survey

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

1. Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of the principles underpinning health and safety risk management, including the ability to critically analyse and apply these principles in diverse occupational contexts.
2. Systematically evaluate and synthesise the latest evidence-based research and guidance related to health surveillance, biological monitoring, and toxicology, to make informed decisions and recommendations that consider individual patient needs and preferences.
3. Demonstrate an ability to design comprehensive occupational health reports and portfolios, showcasing advanced communication and collaboration skills to effectively engage with employers and employees.

Module 4: Occupational Toxicology and Hygiene

Aim of the module:

- The module aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of various occupational monitoring measures and their applications, including the assessment and exposure to organic and inorganic chemicals in different occupations.

Indicative content:

- Occupational Hygiene sampling methods
- Organic and inorganic chemicals
- Dust and fibres
- Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) and occupational exposure limits (OELs)
- Ionising and non-ionising radiation
- Vibration, noise and light

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

1. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of a range of occupational hygiene sampling methods, including their principles, limitations, and practical applications.
2. Apply critical thinking and problem solving skills to address practical challenges in the implementation of sampling methods, hazard assessments, and control measures in various workplace settings.
3. Utilise advanced research skills to stay abreast of emerging issues and contribute to best practices related to occupational toxicology and hygiene.

Module 5: Occupational Health Practice, including Medical Ethics and Law in the Workplace

Aim of the module:

- This module aims to equip students with an in-depth knowledge of health promotion strategies and programmes in the occupational setting, including policy development with a focus on mental health, the role of assistive technology, research methods and data analysis, critical appraisal skills, and the importance of audit, quality assurance, and accreditation processes such as SEQOHS.

Indicative content:

- Health Promotion - strategies and examples
- Mental health and the workplace; developing a mental health policy
- Assistive Technology
- Fitness for work in specific careers
- Research methods and data analysis; critical appraisal
- Quality Assurance, audit, SEQOHS (safe, effective, quality occupational health service)

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

1. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the fitness requirements specific to various careers, considering the impact on employee wellbeing and performance.
2. Critically assess and integrate diverse health promotion strategies, selecting and adapting them based on the unique needs and characteristics of different workplaces.
3. Utilise advanced research skills to design and conduct studies that contribute to the evidence base for effective workplace wellbeing practices.

Module 6: Occupational Toxicology and Hygiene

Aim of the module:

- The module aims to provide students with an in-depth knowledge of the ethical and legal dimensions of occupational medicine, encompassing health and safety, environmental, and employment regulations, while concurrently developing proficiency in the effective management of an Occupational Health service, including occupational health records and business aspects such as VAT, thereby ensuring comprehensive adherence to professional standards and regulatory compliance.

Indicative content:

- Ethics
- Health & Safety Law
- Employment Law
- Environmental Law
- Management of occupational health service and occupational health records
- Business needs - VAT

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

1. Critically appraise and interpret current and intricate health and safety laws, demonstrating the ability to apply legal knowledge to real-world scenarios within a variety of settings.
2. Demonstrate the ability to formulate and justify strategic decisions in managing occupational health services and maintaining accurate records, integrating legal and ethical considerations.
3. Exhibit effective leadership skills in the implementation of occupational health practices, ensuring compliance with relevant laws and ethical standards.



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

1. A critical awareness of the evidence bases 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.

Occupational 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 Occupational 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 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 6.5 for each band) or an equivalent qualification.



Occupational Medicine MSc

Course Modules

Module 7 (MSc): Professional Project

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.

Learning outcomes

1. Select and apply different methodological perspectives and tools to answer research questions in the field.
2. Critically analyse and interpret relevant research in the subject area.
3. Design and undertake a research/development project.
4. Critically evaluate practice and suggest improvements or change.
5. Incorporate knowledge of the research process in developing services appropriately.

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.

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Teaching Methods

Module 7

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

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 Occupational Medicine MSc will require successful completion of the Occupational Medicine Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits). This can be from Diploma MSc, the University of Buckingham 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 Occupational 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 6.5 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 Occupational Medicine MSc course provides a progression route for the Postgraduate Diploma course in Occupational Medicine.



What do our students think?

Since 2010, over 6000 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:

"The PGDip in Diabetes with Learn at University of South Wales was great experience. It provided an opportunity to have case based discussions and critical thinking in a much supervised manner. The content of the programme was useful to build an approach for patient centred care."

-Asif Muhammad

"Overall, the postgraduate diploma and MSc programmes were great and fulfilling. The contents were elaborate and the tutors were supportive. The programme was flexible but very demanding. I feel very glad to have gone through the programme."

-Anas



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