

Addiction Medicine (The University of South Wales)

Postgraduate Certificate





Postgraduate Certificate

Delivered over 6 months, the online, part-time, Postgraduate Certificate course is specially developed for busy health professionals. Formatted in 3 modules, 6 weeks each; the course is designed to be practical and clinically focused.

Why Study Addiction Medicine with us?

Taught completely online, our Addiction Medicine programme is designed to help healthcare professionals specialise in their career and aid the need for more Addiction professionals. The Addiction Medicine Postgraduate Certificate is applicable to all GPs, Practice Nurses, Specialist Nurses and Pharmacists.

Our 6 month Postgraduate Certificate in Addiction Medicine will provide healthcare professionals with advanced knowledge of addiction, positively contributing to their ability to assess and offer initial treatment or relevant advice to those presenting with related issues

The Postgraduate Certificate is aimed at 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.

Addiction Medicine Postgraduate Certificate

Course Modules

Our online Addiction Medicine Postgraduate Certificate allows you to study for 6 months and is a part-time, distance-learning course.

Module 1: Models of Addiction

Aim of the module:

- To develop a systematic understanding of the biological and pharmacological underpinnings of addiction, including the neurobiological, genetic, and environmental factors contributing to substance misuse. This module aims to create a foundational knowledge base from which students can critically assess and understand the complexity of addiction

Synopsis of module content:

- Introduction to Addiction Biology
- Genetics and Environmental Influences
- Pharmacology of Addiction
- Neuroadaptation and Behavioural Impact
- Substance Specific Addictions
- Emerging Issues and Trends in Addiction

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

1. Critically evaluate and compare the biological, psychological, and socio-cultural models of addiction, analysing their strengths, limitations, and implications for clinical practice and public health interventions.
2. Synthesise advanced theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence underpinning addiction models to develop evidence-based interventions and policies aimed at prevention, treatment, and harm reduction strategies within diverse healthcare settings.

Module 2: Clinical and Psychosocial Management of Addiction

Aim of the module:

- To enhance the knowledge and skills necessary for the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of addiction using evidence-based clinical and psychosocial interventions. This module focuses on developing advanced, practical skills for managing and supporting individuals with substance use disorders through a comprehensive and patient-centred approach to care.

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

1. Demonstrate a systemic understanding and knowledge of assessing people for addiction and critically appraise and evaluate different modes of treatment in addiction care.
2. Construct management strategies that include effective collaboration with a multidisciplinary team, employing advanced communication and leadership skills to optimise patient care and outcomes in addiction treatment.

Synopsis of module content:

- Assessment and Diagnosis
- Evidence-Based Treatment Approaches
- Psychosocial Interventions and Support
- Addressing Co-occurring Disorders
- Relapse Prevention and Management
- Integrated Care and Collaborative Treatment

Module 3: Ethical, Legal and Public Health Perspectives of Addiction Medicine

Aim of the module:

- To provide students with a systematic understanding of the ethical, legal, and public health considerations in addiction medicine in a range of complex settings. This module aims to enhance an appreciation of the societal impacts of addiction, the importance of ethical care provision, and the role of healthcare professionals in advocating for policy changes and public health initiatives to reduce the burden of addiction.

Synopsis of module content:

- Ethical Considerations in Addiction Medicine
- Legal Frameworks and Regulations
- Public Health and Policy
- Social Determinants and Cultural Competence
- Prevention and Community Engagement
- Handling Complex Cases and Safeguarding

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

1. Critically evaluate the ethical implications of legal frameworks in addiction medicine, analysing their impact on patient rights, confidentiality, and equitable access to care.
2. Exhibit critical thinking and analytical skills to examine the ethical, legal, and societal implications related to addiction medicine, synthesising complex information to inform ethical-decision making and policy advocacy.



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



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 this induction, as it'll provide you with a sturdy introduction to the course.

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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

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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 Dermatology in Clinical Practice.

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.





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:

"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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