

Dermatology in Clinical Practice

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 begins with an 8-week focus on research methods, covering research techniques, evidence-based practice, and health evaluations. Students then develop a Professional Project (dissertation), considering the necessary ethical issues required by the University.

Why study Dermatology with us?

Taught completely online, our Dermatology in Clinical Practice MSc is delivered in conjunction with our partner, The University of Buckingham, who possess a GMC-accredited medical school. As the only independent university in the UK with a Royal Charter, The University of Buckingham continues to innovate and educate students.

The Dermatology in Clinical Practice Postgraduate Diploma is applicable to all GP's, Practice Nurses, Specialist Nurses and Pharmacists exposed to patients with dermatological conditions.

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 courses in Dermatology equips healthcare professionals with advanced skills to excel in rapidly evolving medical scenarios. This programme is ideal for those seeking to enhance their expertise in a geriatric care setting.

Prof Christian Aldridge, Learna | Diploma MSc Programme Leader



Dermatology Postgraduate Diploma

Course Modules

Our online Dermatology Postgraduate Diploma allows you to study for just one calendar year and is a part-time, online course. The course is worth 120 credits and comprises six modules of 20 credits, each running over a period of six weeks.

Module 1 - Dermatology in Clinical Practice Overview

Aim of the module:

To develop a critical understanding of the description of dermatological conditions, referral pathways, imaging and management.

Synopsis of module content:

- The language of dermatology
- Therapeutics
- Drug eruptions
- Vasculitis
- Cutaneous manifestations of systemic disease
- Guidance, teledermatology and the multi disciplinary team

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

1. Critically apply knowledge and understanding of dermatology in clinical practice to the care of patients.
2. Critically evaluate dermatology literature and evidence-based guidance for dermatological conditions.
3. Critically appraise appropriate management strategies in relation to systemic disease, side effects of drugs, and vasculitides.

Module 2 - Lumps, Bumps and Skin Cancer

Aim of the module:

To be able to describe, diagnose and interpret the management of skin lesions in the context of guidance.

Synopsis of module content:

- Skin lumps and bumps
- Benign skin lesions
- Melanoma and pigmented lesions
- Non-melanoma skin cancer
- Basic skin surgery
- Cryotherapy

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

1. Critically analyse the predilection for common dermatoses at various sites of the body.
2. Demonstrate an ability to solve diagnostic conundrums relating to regional dermatoses.
3. Demonstrate skills to formulate an evidence-based management plan for site-specific dermatoses.

Module 3 - Lesions at Specific Sites

Aim of the module:

To accurately describe, identify and institute an appropriate management strategy for dermatoses at specific areas of the body.

Synopsis of module content:

- Facial rashes
- Nails
- Scalp and hair
- Perineal dermatoses
- Flexural dermatoses
- Palmar and plantar dermatoses

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

1. A critical understanding of the predilection for common dermatoses at various sites of the body.
2. An ability to solve diagnostic conundrums relating to regional dermatoses.
3. An ability to formulate an appropriate management plan for site specific dermatoses utilising evidence.

Module 4 - Inflammatory Dermatoses

Aim of the module:

To describe, identify and institute an appropriate management strategy for inflammatory dermatoses.

Synopsis of module content:

- Differential diagnosis of inflammatory dermatoses
- Atopic eczema
- Contact dermatitis
- Psoriasis
- Urticaria
- Bullous eruptions

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

1. Critically appraise the evidence base relating to common inflammatory skin conditions.
2. Demonstrate an ability to solve diagnostic conundrums relating to inflammatory dermatoses.
3. Demonstrate skills to formulate an evidence-based management plan for common inflammatory dermatoses.



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 - Skin Infections

Aim of the module:

To be able to describe, diagnose and interpret the management of skin infections in the context of guidance.

Synopsis of module content:

- Differential diagnosis of skin infections
- Cellulitis and ulceration
- Infestation
- Tropical dermatoses
- Infection related to systemic illness
- Photodermatoses

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

1. Critically appraise the evidence base for the identification and management of common skin infections, infestations, and photodermatoses.
2. Demonstrate an ability to differentially diagnose, refer and manage skin infections, infestations, and photodermatoses.
3. Exercise initiative, personal responsibility and ethical decision-making in managing complex dermatological cases.

Module 6 - Dermatology in Specific Populations

Aim of the module:

To develop an ability to identify common skin disorders in particular subgroups of the population and to understand the specific treatment pathways. Students will also gain an understanding of the wider factors and global perspectives affecting dermatology.

Synopsis of module content:

- Infant skin
- Acne and adolescent skin problems
- Pigmented skin
- Elderly skin
- Anti-aging
- Cosmetic treatments

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

1. An ability to critically understand and synthesise the evidence and legal frameworks relating to ethical dilemmas in relation to mental health and end-of-life care.
2. An ability to critically evaluate and synthesise complex ethical, mental health and end of life care of the elderly patient.
3. Develop an ability to incorporate the knowledge into complex clinical scenarios relating to ethics, mental health and end of life care in the elderly person



"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

Module 7: Professional Project

Aim of the module:

The Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal element of the module will help students recognise, understand, interpret and apply methods used in healthcare research and critically appraise the various methodologies related to the specialty.

The Professional Project Proposal and Professional Project elements will 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.

Synopsis of module content:

Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal:

- Key epidemiological terms: prevalence, incidence, sensitivity, specificity, false positives/negatives.
- Interpretation of data visuals: Kaplan-Meier curves, forest plots, meta-analyses.
- Research calculations: relative/absolute risk, number needed to treat.
- Statistical tests: t-tests, ANOVA, chi-square.
- Qualitative research methods.
- Basics of evidence-based practice in clinical settings.
- Health economics, audit, and quality improvement principles.
- Importance of patient and disease-specific registers.
- Research on educational methods for healthcare providers and patients.

Professional Project: Students will complete a subject-related project relevant to their practice, which may include:

- Literature review and evidence appraisal.
- Practice audit (clinical or organisational).
- Review and application of evidence-based practice.
- Qualitative or quantitative research.
- Case-based and quality of service review with critical appraisal.
- Case report, literature review, or organisational assessment.

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

1. Select and apply different methodological perspectives and tools to answer research questions in the field.
2. Critically analyse and interpret research in the subject area.
3. Critically evaluate practice and suggest improvements or change.
4. Incorporate knowledge of the research process in developing services appropriately.
5. Critically analyse and interpret research to assess its application to delivery/service development.
6. Evaluate ethical considerations in research and the process of engagement with ethical committees.
7. 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.
8. Create evidence-based recommendations to add to the knowledge base of the subject area.
9. Demonstrate critical evaluation skills enabling an in-depth critique of the academic literature.



Teaching Methods

Our courses are conducted entirely online through our online learning platform. 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.

Dermatology: Postgraduate Diploma and MSc Courses

Entry Requirements

English Requirements

- IELTS with an overall score of 6.5 or above.
- GMC / NMC (Nursing Midwifery Council) / GPhC / HCPC registered – with a licence to practise.
- Proof of study at a UK, USA, Australian, New Zealand or Canadian University or membership to a medical body from one of these countries.

Educational Requirements

- Possess an undergraduate degree in a relevant subject awarded by a UK university or overseas equivalent.
- Provide evidence in the personal statement as to how they can apply learning to a practical setting and reflect on practice.
- Basic IT skills (e.g. word processing, email and internet).
- If English is not the student's first language they must hold an English language qualification.

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 Dermatology courses.

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).





What do our students think?

Since 2010, over 8000 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 Kinattapurayil, 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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