

 Learnna | Diploma MSc

Family 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 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 Family Medicine with us?

Our Family Medicine programme will enhance the careers of those who operate within countries that do not provide a national healthcare service, unlike the UK.

This is particularly applicable within LEDCs, for example India, whereby they commonly operate health centres with personnel who do not possess the generalist level of training, rather, they are more specialist.

This unique online Family Medicine course is specially developed for busy health professionals and is practical and clinically focused and will ensure medical professionals are equipped to treat a wider array of health problems.

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Our courses in Family Medicine 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.

Dr Karuna Chellaram Hathiramani, Learna | Diploma MSc Programme Leader

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Family Medicine Postgraduate Diploma

Course Modules

Our online Family Medicine 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 - Epidemiology, Prevention and Health Promotion

Aim of the module:

To develop an in-depth understanding of the global epidemiology of disease and the importance of preventative care and health promotion in family medicine.

Synopsis of module content:

- The principles of prevention Health promotion
- Screening
- Primary and Secondary Preventative strategies of chronic disease
- Vaccinations

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the epidemiology of disease globally, health promotion measures, and screening and immunizations as part of disease preventative strategies.
2. Critically Apply an in-depth knowledge of health promotion strategies into their practice as a family physician.

Module 2 - Women's Health and Sexual Health

Aim of the module:

To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the common presentations associated with Women's Health and Sexual Health, in the context of Family Medicine.

Synopsis of module content:

- Common gynaecological presentations including menstrual disorders
- Menopause- related conditions
- Common disorders in pregnancy
- Sexual health presentations (male and female) including STIs
- Contraception
- Infertility

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of a range of common primary care presentations in Women's Health and Sexual Health.
2. Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of diagnosis and treatment into their practice as a family physician.

Module 3 - Child Health

Aim of the module:

To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the common presentations associated with Child Health, in the context of Family Medicine.

Synopsis of module content:

- The febrile child
- Childhood respiratory diseases and abdominal diseases
- Childhood rashes
- Behavioural problems
- Childhood emergencies.

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of a range of common primary care presentations and the recognition of emergencies in Child Health.
2. Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of diagnosis and treatment into their practice as a family physician.

Module 4 - Common Disorders in Adulthood

Aim of the module:

To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the common presentations in Adulthood, in the context of Family Medicine.

Synopsis of module content:

- This module will cover a range of common presentations of common disorders in adulthood that may present to the family physician in primary care. This will include disorders of the main systems of the body and include some common emergencies seen in adult medicine.

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of a range of common primary care presentations and the recognition of emergencies in Adult medicine.
2. Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of diagnosis and treatment into their practice as a family physician.



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 - Mental Health

Aim of the module:

To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the common mental health presentations, in the context of Family Medicine.

Synopsis of module content:

- This module will provide an overview of the diagnosis and treatment of a range of common mental health presentations that may present to the family physician. This will include low mood, delirium and dementia, eating disorders and schizoaffective disorders.
- This module will also cover an overview of some of the methods to promote well being and psychological interventions in primary care.

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of a range of common primary care presentations in mental health.
2. Critically evaluate a variety of methods used to promote well being and psychological interventions available to family physicians.

Module 6 - Cancer Diagnosis, Treatment and Palliative Care

Aim of the module:

To develop an in-depth knowledge and improve recognition of the symptoms presenting to the family physician, that may indicate a possible cancer diagnosis.

Synopsis of module content:

- This module will provide an overview of the diagnosis and treatment of various cancers that may present to the family physician. This module will also cover recognition of red flag symptoms for different malignancies that should alert urgent referral to secondary care for further investigations. Palliative care including the treatment of palliative care symptoms, legal issues and the role of the multidisciplinary team will also be covered.

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of symptoms presenting to the family physician which may indicate a possible cancer diagnosis and improve recognition of these symptoms.
2. Demonstrate a critical knowledge, understanding and evaluation of palliative care including the treatment of associated symptoms, related legal issues and the important role of the multidisciplinary team.



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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

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.

Family Medicine: 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 Family Medicine 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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