

 Learna | Diploma MSc

Medical Oncology

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 12 week online module to develop skills in critical appraisal and knowledge of research methodologies. Students then complete the professional project module.

Why study Medical Oncology with us?

Our Medical Oncology programme will equip the individual with a systematic understanding of medical oncology, skills in critical appraisal and application of knowledge for direct patient benefit/ service development and future study. Enabling graduates to evaluate practice critically in relation to the evidence base in cancer treatment.

Our Medical Oncology courses will equip students with the ability to implement best practice and innovation in complex medical oncology scenarios. Students will be able to extend the scope of practice in Medical Oncology by exploring a complex issue in more depth, utilising knowledge gained in the modules.

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Our Medical Oncology programme is designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice. Through interactive discussions and flexible learning, you'll gain the skills and knowledge to deliver exceptional cancer care. Join us and become a catalyst for positive change in oncology.

Prof Wolfram Dempke, Learna | Diploma MSc Programme Leader

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Medical Oncology Postgraduate Diploma

Course Modules

Our online Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Oncology 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 - Cancer biology and principles of cancer treatment

Aim of the module:

- To demonstrate independent learning skills in tackling and solving complex problems in Medical Oncology.

Synopsis of module content:

- Understanding the molecular biology of the process of carcinogenesis will help to pave the way for novel compounds for cancer treatment; immune-oncology and tyrosine kinase inhibitors are striking examples. It can be expected that our increased knowledge of carcinogenesis and cancer risk factors will provide the basis for the concept of 'personalised medicine' in oncology, which will be a paradigm shift towards tailor-made cancer therapy.

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the risk factors for cancer, causes of cancer and multi-step carcinogenesis.
2. Critically Apply an in-depth knowledge of tumour immunology and principles of immunotherapy and novel targets.

Module 2 - Breast and skin cancers

Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding to demonstrate the ability to lead complex tasks and processes in the delivery and advancement of cancer-related care.

Synopsis of module content:

- Several new treatment modalities have been established during the last decade and studies suggest a 15%-40% mortality reduction, secondary to screening. The most common cause for skin cancer is sun exposure. Amongst all skin cancers, malignant melanoma is the most aggressive, however novel treatment strategies involving immune-oncology and target therapies have dramatically improved clinical outcomes of these patients.

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of Overview of breast and skin cancer and the underlying genetics.
12. Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of oncological emergencies with breast and skin cancer and palliative care.

Module 3 - Prostate and genitourinary cancers (kidney, bladder, testis)

Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of patient management across the spectrum of medical specialties caring for patients with prostate and genitourinary cancers (kidney, bladder, testis).

Synopsis of module content:

- This module addresses the most pressing questions currently in the management of urologic malignancies. The rapid advances in imaging and molecular markers are placed into a clinical context, with explanations of their effects on prognosis and treatment planning. Similarly, progress in immunotherapy is examined, focusing in particular on the role of immune checkpoint inhibitors in both early- and late-stage urologic malignancies.

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge of prostate and genitourinary malignancies and genetics.
2. Focusing in particular on the role of immune checkpoint inhibitors in both early- and late-stage urologic malignancies.

Module 4 - Colorectal and gastrointestinal cancers

Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of a wide range of malignant tumours, gastrointestinal cancers as a group form the second most prevalent cancers worldwide.

Synopsis of module content:

- All practice areas are covered, such as pathology, radiological imaging, and interventions, epidemiology, biology and genetics, staging, and multidisciplinary management of each of the specific gastrointestinal cancers. In addition to disease-oriented chapters, originating from sites spanning from the oesophagus to the anus, hepatobiliary system, and pancreas, non-anatomic subjects.

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of diagnosis, staging, screening, referral and surgical intervention, prognosis.
2. Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of GI cancers cancer and genetics.



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 - Lung and thoracic tumours

Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of thoracic cancer and the underlying genetics.
- To develop an understanding of resistance to therapy and the emergence of immunotherapy for lung cancer.

Synopsis of module content:

- This module describes the molecular mechanisms of thoracic cancer development and progression that determine therapeutic interventions in the era of genomics, when the rapid evolution in lung cancer diagnosis and treatment necessitates critical review of new results to integrate advances into practice.

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

1. Equip students with the ability to implement best practice and innovation in complex medical oncology scenarios.
2. To evaluate practice critically in relation to the evidence base in cancer treatment.
3. Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of diagnosis and treatment into their practice as a Medical Oncologist.

Module 6 - Haematological malignancies

Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth knowledge of haematological malignancies and the underlying genetics.
- To improve the understanding of emerging therapies: CAR-T and stem cell transplantation

Synopsis of module content:

- This module covers the recent developments in stem cell biology with increased emphasis on genomic and proteomic techniques in the diagnosis of haematological malignancies. In addition, advances of new imaging techniques including MRI and PET are discussed. The description of advances in treatment of leukaemias and lymphomas will be covered broadly.

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the recent developments in stem cell biology with increased emphasis on genomic and proteomic techniques in the diagnosis of haematological malignancies.
2. Demonstrate a critical knowledge, understanding of the advances in treatment of leukaemias and lymphomas.
23. Critically apply knowledge of cancer diagnosis, staging, screening, referral and prognosis.



"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

Medical Oncology MSc Course Modules

Note: The first year of the MSc comprises of the 6 modules within the PGDip.

Module 7 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal

Aim of the module:

- To prepare students for an independent research-based project by developing skills in selecting, appraising, discriminating, using evidence and appropriate research/investigative methods to address relevant topics for investigation.

Synopsis of module content:

- Quantitative Studies
- Statistical Analysis Interpretation
- Interpreting the Evidence
- Meta-analysis and Systematic Reviews
- Qualitative Studies
- Evidence Appraisal: Interpreting, Weighing and Synthesizing the Evidence
- Audit, Governance and Quality Improvement, Health Economics
- Preparing a Research Proposal: Research Committees, Consent, Ethics, Probity and Literature Review

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

1. Critically analyse and interpret research to assess its application to delivery/ service development.
2. Select and apply different methodological approaches and tools to answer research questions in your field of practice.

Module 8 - Professional Project

Aim of the module:

- To formulate the research question that you seek to answer
- To develop an ability to critically evaluate areas of professional practice.
- To critically appraise specific areas of clinical, research and organisational practice.
- To develop skills in independent research and study.
- To develop skills relevant to scientific publications.

Synopsis of the module:

The module will depend on formulating the question and the creation of a piece of work based upon a specific public health related project relevant to the person's practice.

This project may comprise:

- Systematic literature review and appraisal of the evidence.
- Audit of non-patient data/organisational audit Review and implementation of evidence-based practice.
- Literature review and qualitative or quantitative research proposal.
- Case(s)-based and quality of service review with critical appraisal.
- Case report, review of literature and organisational assessment.
- Secondary data analysis.



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.

Medical Oncology 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 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.

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 Medical Oncology.

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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