

Critical Care

Postgraduate Certificate





Postgraduate Certificate

Our online Critical Care Postgraduate Certificate allows you to study for just six months and is a part-time, distance-learning course. The course is worth 60 credits and comprises three modules of 20 credits, each running over a period of six weeks.

Why Study Critical Care with us?

Our Postgraduate Certificate in Critical Care is designed to equip practitioners with advanced knowledge of how to respond to and treat a range of critical conditions including sepsis, heart failure and respiratory failure.

With a completion time of just six months, you can now upskill in this crucial field faster than ever before. Our acute care certification enables you to really make a difference in the most critical scenarios, and significantly improve patient outcomes.

Critical care is a highly rewarding field of medical care to specialise in, offering the ability to significantly improve the quality of patient care and ultimately save lives.

Unlike competitors who emphasise theoretical learning through extensive reading and essay writing, our advanced certificate in critical care medicine focuses on practical, clinically-rich scenarios. We offer a multidisciplinary approach, which enables you to apply a global perspective and new-found knowledge immediately in real-life situations in your full-time role.

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Course Modules

Module 1 - Respiratory Support

Module Aims

This module addresses the essential topics in respiratory support, along with related ethical decision-making and communication in critical care settings.

Module Content

- Fundamentals of respiratory failure
- Mechanical ventilation modes and strategies
- Ventilator-associated complications and prevention
- Weaning and extubation protocols
- Non-invasive ventilation techniques
- Management of acute exacerbations of chronic respiratory diseases

Module Outcomes

1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of the aetiology, classification and ethical consideration of acute respiratory failure, including the underlying pathophysiological mechanisms that contribute to different respiratory support needs in critical care settings.
2. Systematically analyse and critically evaluate current research and guidelines related to the aetiology, classification and management of patients requiring respiratory support in the critical care setting.
3. Apply effective communication and collaborative skills within multidisciplinary teams to optimise respiratory support and ethical management for critically ill patients, demonstrating proficiency in the recognition of patient-centred care, communication of ethical decision making, and promoting of interdisciplinary teamwork.

Module 2 - Sepsis

Module Aims

To equip students with a systematic understanding of sepsis, including the pathophysiology, and the crucial aspects of diagnosis and early management to improve patient outcomes in critical care settings.

Module Content

- Fundamentals of sepsis
- Pathophysiology of sepsis
- Diagnosis and risk stratification in sepsis
- Management of sepsis: early interventions
- Antimicrobial therapy in sepsis
- Fluid resuscitation and haemodynamic support in sepsis

Module Outcomes

1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of the aetiology, pathophysiology, and management of sepsis in critical care settings.
2. Analyse and critically evaluate diagnostic criteria, risk stratification methods, and early management strategies to identify and manage sepsis promptly in a range of clinical settings.
3. Apply effective communication and collaborative skills within a multidisciplinary team environment to support the implementation of evidence-based interventions that would aim to prevent complications and optimise patient outcomes in sepsis cases.

Module 3 - Cardiovascular Support and Heart Failure

Module Aims

To provide a comprehensive exploration of the delivery of cardiovascular support in critical care settings, and also the pathophysiology and management of heart failure, to include related ethical decision-making and discussions.

Module Content

This module will explore cardiovascular monitoring techniques, some of the most common invasive methods and the use of vasoactive agents and mechanical circulatory support devices, to optimise patient outcomes in high-acuity situations. Topics will include:

- Pathophysiology of heart failure
- Clinical presentation and diagnostic evaluation
- Pharmacological management of heart failure
- Cardiovascular monitoring
- Advanced cardiovascular support devices
- Multidisciplinary approach to heart failure management, including ethical decisions

Module Outcomes

1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of the pathophysiology and clinical manifestations of heart failure and other cardiovascular issues in patients in need of critical care.
2. Critically evaluate current research and guidelines relating to the pathophysiology, presentation and management of patients in critical care requiring cardiovascular support.
3. Apply effective communication and collaboration skills within multidisciplinary teams to coordinate cardiovascular support and heart failure management for critically ill patients, ensuring an ethical, patient-centred approach aimed at improved outcomes.

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Programme Leader - Dr Nick Stallard

Dr Stallard is a Consultant in critical care medicine with extensive experience at the University Hospital of Wales and University Hospital Llandough.

Key qualifications and roles include:

- Appointed as Consultant Intensivist to Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust in 1997.
- Manages invasively ventilated patients in the community, supported by the Welsh Health Specialized Services Committee (WHSSC).
- Plays a key role in supporting complex patients in the community, including those with spinal cord injury or neuromuscular disease requiring invasive ventilation.
- Collaborates with local health boards and stakeholders to commission appropriate care packages.
- Provides clinical support to the Welsh Spinal Injuries and Rehabilitation unit at Rookwood Hospital, aiding patients with spinal injuries and traumatic brain injuries requiring advanced respiratory support.
- Demonstrates a strong interest in postgraduate education, serving as Course Director for the RCS-sponsored Critical Care in Surgical Patients (CCRiSP) course in Cardiff, and as an Instructor for the ATLS course.



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 everyday work and practice.

Our dedicated Student Support Team is 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 writing, and levels of evidence in preparation for your studies. It is compulsory for you to attend this induction, as it will provide you with a sturdy introduction to the course.

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Entry Requirements

Since our courses are conducted entirely online, they are accessible to both UK and international registered healthcare professionals.

Applicants will typically hold a first degree or equivalent (including international qualifications) in a relevant professional healthcare field, such as a medical or nursing degree.

Registered healthcare professionals without these recognised qualifications will be considered on an individual basis and a wide range of prior experience may be taken into account. In some cases, applicants may be asked to submit a piece of work for assessment in order to confirm that they are able to work comfortably at postgraduate level, and demonstrate the requisite clinical and professional knowledge.



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.
- A copy of your proof of English competency (see English language requirements).

English Language Requirements

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.

If you do not meet these requirements, please don't worry. The University of Buckingham run a number of English Language Programmes at the Centre for International English to prepare you for your academic studies. You can also contact our admissions team on admissions@diploma-msc.com for more information on the qualifications we accept.

Should you have already successfully completed the 1 year Postgraduate Diploma and wish to convert to the MSc and complete only the second year of the programme this is possible. Please contact our admissions department admissions@diploma-msc.com to find out more.



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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