

Applied Health Economics

Postgraduate Diploma and MSc Courses





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 1 calendar year. Starting with an initial 12 week online module to develop their skills in critical appraisal and knowledge of research methodologies, the students then complete the professional project module which consists of a proposal and professional project.

Why Study Applied Health Economics with us?

Taught completely online, our Applied Health Economics courses are necessary to address the disparity between national and sub-national decision-making and between different sub-national regions or institutions. They aim to standardise processes and give practitioners the ability to apply the same principles to their individual decision-making.

The courses in Applied Health Economics will enable health care professionals to be well equipped to elicit the maximum value from finite budgets. They will help students understand why Applied Health Economics has and should become integral to healthcare decision making as well as understanding the underlying principles, methodologies and processes associated with this established and growing international discipline.

The Applied Health Economics course has been developed for NHS Managers, Doctors, Nurses, Allied Health Professionals, CCG commissioning teams, CCG Pharmacy teams, Pharmaceutical Industry Professionals and other suitably qualified and interested individuals.

These courses will focus on direct application to current topics, case studies and processes relevant to the student's own remit and country of practice. Unlike other courses, it covers the key disease area pertinent to Applied Health Economics for healthcare decision making.

Applied Health Economics PgDip

Course Modules

Our online Applied Health Economics Postgraduate Diploma 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 - Health Economic Decision Making and Health Technology Appraisal/Assessment

Aim of the module:

- To understand and evaluate the purpose, principles and processes of health economics in healthcare decision making & HTA.
- To understand and critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of health economics in healthcare decision making & HTA in regard to meeting their aims/achieving their purpose.
- To understand the relevance of Health Economic decision making to clinical practice.

Synopsis of module content:

- Principles of Health Economics
- The role and function of health technology assessment (HTA).
- Common misconceptions of Health Economics & HTA.
- Health Economics & HTA as part of Evidence Based Medicine/ Practice
- The relevance of Health Economics to healthcare professionals.
- The effect of budget on decision making.

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

1. Demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate processes used in health economic decision making.
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of health economics used in health technology appraisals.

Module 2 - Principles of Obtaining Patient Access

Aim of the module:

- Develop a critical understanding of the way in which benefits or clinical value are calculated and judged within health economic decision making.

Synopsis of module content:

- Identifying clinical benefit: Critical Appraisal and Systematic Literature Review.
- Length vs. Quality of life (QoL): the Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY).
- Challenges with length of life estimations
- Avoidance of negative events.
- Critical appraisal of clinical data: Evidence Based Medicine and HTA/Health Economic Decision Making
- Critical appraisal of real world data.

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

1. Demonstrate the ability to critically appraise the strengths and limitations of the Quality Adjusted Life Year as a measure of clinical benefit.
2. Demonstrate the ability to apply principles of Evidence Based Medicine to assess the quality of clinical evidence used to support patient benefit within HTA/ health economic decision making.

Module 3 - Health Economic Modelling and Analysis

Aim of the module:

- To develop a critical understanding of the economic burden of chronic diseases, types of economic analyses, establishing pay thresholds and budget impact.

Synopsis of module content:

- Investigating and establishing the economic burden of disease
- Types of analysis: Cost-effectiveness, Cost-utility and Cost-minimisation.
- Exploration and analysis of cost perspectives
- Willingness to pay thresholds.
- Establishing budget impact.
- Challenges: rare diseases, end of life considerations, unlicensed comparators, affordability and work flow change

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

1. Critically appraise to budgetary burden of chronic disease.
2. Critically appraise the implementation of health economic analysis and budgetary impact in real life/complex clinical situations.

Module 4 - Understanding the Use of Data in Health Technology Assessment

Aim of the module:

- Develop a critical understanding of data interpretation including levels of evidence and statistical interpretation of data.

Synopsis of module content:

- Additional Data Sources: Real World Data, Expert Opinion, The Patient's Voice
- Statistics: Confidence intervals and p-values Statistics: Hazard ratios and NNT
- Statistics: Bayesian statistics and Cox model
- Statistics: Sensitivity Analysis and Marginal Analysis.
- Statistics: Indirect Comparison and Meta-Analysis.

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

1. Show an ability to critically evaluate the validity of published data.
2. Critically appraise statistical interpretation of scientific data related to health economics.



Little did I know that the MSc was going to be a significant stepping stone in my medical career! Both the diploma and MSc were invaluable in terms of expanding my knowledge and management of Diabetes Medicine, but also enhanced my critical thinking and writing skills.

- Dr Kevin Fernando

Module 5 - National and International Health Economic Decision Making

Aim of the module:

- To develop a critical understanding of the international health economic decision making processes within legal frameworks together with the procurement and tendering processes associated with treatments.

Synopsis of module content:

- Examine the international Health Economic decision making process.
- Legislations vs. Recommendations.
- Stakeholders and Payers.
- HTA vs. non HTA processes: Procurement, Tendering, and Commissioning.
- Evolving Health System policy as it relates to Health Economic decision making.
- Maximising patient benefit in healthcare decision making.

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

1. Critically evaluate, understand and contrast the current models of healthcare decision making.
2. Critically appraise the legal basis of economic decision making.

Module 6 - Sub-National Health Economic Decision Making

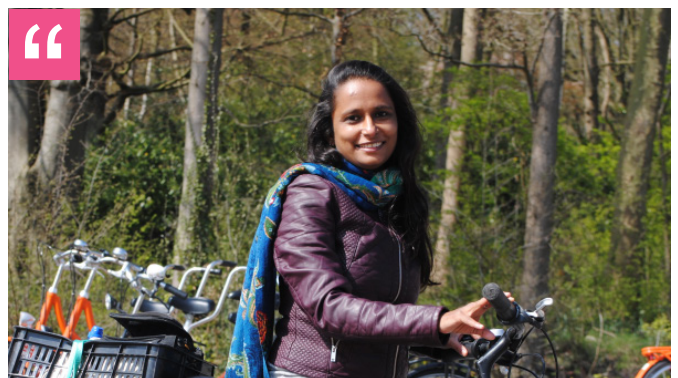
Aim of the module:

- To appreciate and evaluate the process of implementation of Health Technology Appraisals at the regional and local levels. Appreciate and understand the makeup and evaluation of the stakeholder group at regional/local level.

Synopsis of module content:

- Applying national decisions/guidelines at a subnational level.
- Data required to make decisions at a Sub-National level.
- Stakeholders/decision makers at a Sub-National level.
- Challenges of implementation at national level to meet Sub-National budget constraints.

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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



- Implementation of HE analysis at sub national level with real world data.
- Budgetary analyses at subnational level with real world data.

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

1. Critically appraise the implementation of HTA advice at the regional and local level, evaluating the challenges of local implementation of national decisions.
2. Critically evaluate stakeholder contribution to decision making at regional/local level.

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 invited to a Study Skills week webinar. 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 not compulsory for you to attend our Induction Day but it is recommended, as it'll provide you with a sturdy introduction to the course.

Applied Health Economics

Postgraduate Diploma

Entry Requirements

Documents required:

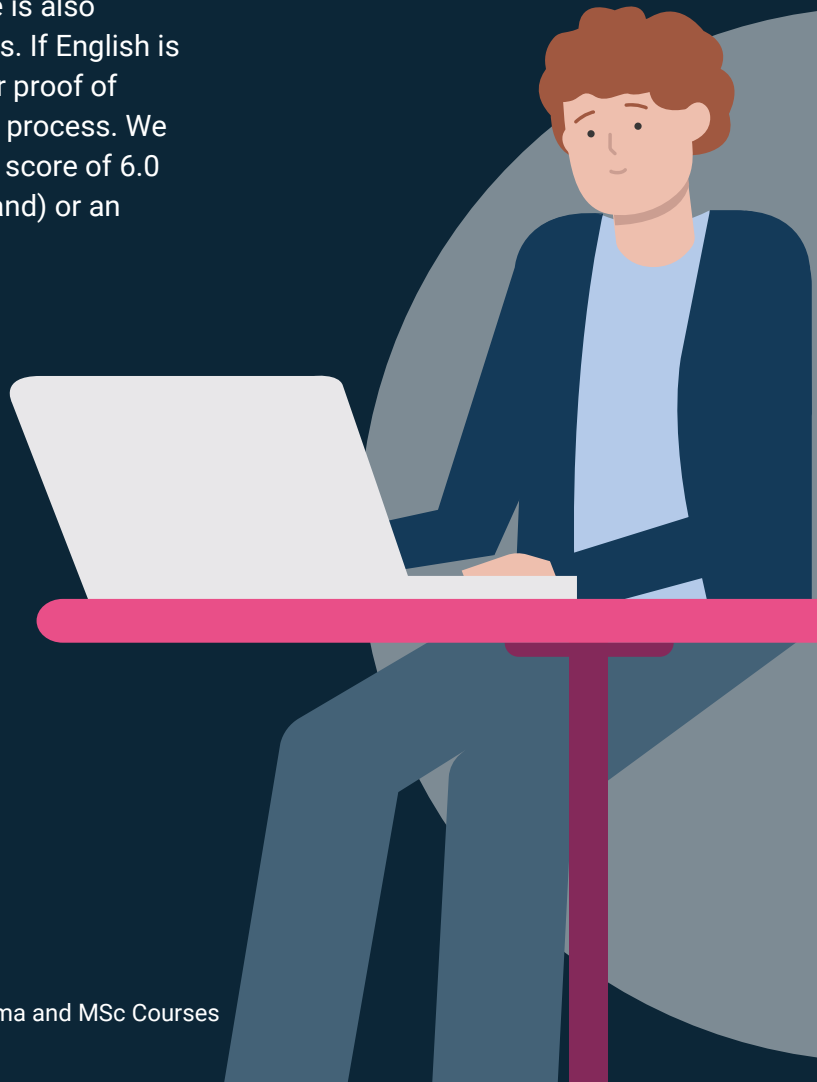
- A copy of your updated CV including your address and date of birth.
- A copy of your undergraduate degree certificate.
- The name and email address of someone who is able to provide a reference, this can be a work colleague, employer or former tutor.
- A detailed personal statement explaining why you would like to undertake the course.

Applicants should submit copies of the following with their application:

Proficiency in the English language is 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.

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 Applied Health Economics.

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).



Applied Health Economics MSc

Course Modules

Module 1 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal

The module runs over 12 weeks and is designed to develop skills in critical appraisal and knowledge of research methodologies used in applied health economics. The module consists of mandatory formative assessment activities to support your learning and development prior to the Professional Project module.

Module 2 - Professional Project

You will be required to produce a piece of work based upon a clinically-related project that is relevant to your practice. Once you have selected a specific project, you will submit a project summary/proposal of approximately 1,500 words. Following the approval of your proposal, you will then complete a 10,500 word professional project.

Teaching Methods

Module 1 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal: MSc teaching methods for this module are similar to the Postgraduate Diploma course modules, however it is run over 12 weeks.

Module 2 - Professional Project: To produce the professional project, students continue to use the online course; however much of the work is self-directed. Students are expected in the first 8 weeks to interact with their tutor on a weekly basis. Students select a specific project and submit a project summary/ proposal (approximately 1,500 words).

Once the proposal has been approved, the professional project (10,500 words) itself is then completed through online guidance and supervision offered by the tutor. The student and tutor will interact regularly (weekly) on the dedicated students/ tutor discussion area or through any other means of communication deemed appropriate by both parties (telephone/ SKYPE/ email). Note of any verbal communication with the tutor is recorded in the student's journal by the student.

Entry Requirements

Entry to the one year Applied Health Economics MSc will require successful completion of the Applied Health Economics Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits). This can be from Diploma MSc, the University of South Wales or another UK university (having completed similar modules). We can discuss this with you during your application.

Individuals who have not completed the postgraduate diploma can apply for the Applied Health Economics MSc as a two year course consisting of eight modules (180 credits) with the first 120 credits deriving from the postgraduate diploma.

Entry requirements for the two-year course are as for the Postgraduate Diploma.

Applicants should be working in a clinical setting, either in the UK or overseas, and have a science degree in a relevant subject.

You will also need to submit copies of the following with your application:

- Qualification certificates
- A maximum of two professional and/or academic references
- IELTS score of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 for each band (or an equivalent qualification)

Graduates of this course will receive a Master of Science award from the University of South Wales, Diploma MSc's collaborative partner.



What do our students think?

Since 2010, over 1000 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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or call +44 (0) 29 2192 1312