

Dermatology in Clinical Practice **(The University of South Wales)** 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. Students then complete the professional project module which consists of a 1,500 word proposal and 10,500 word professional project.

Why Study Dermatology in Clinical Practice with us?

Taught completely online, our Dermatology in Clinical Practice courses are designed to help healthcare professionals specialise in their career and aid the need for more dermatology professionals. The Dermatology in Clinical Practice Postgraduate Diploma is applicable to all GPs, Practice Nurses, Specialist Nurses and Pharmacists exposed to patients with dermatological conditions.

Our Dermatology in Clinical Practice courses satisfies the growing international demand for dermatology courses. Having a specialist knowledge in dermatology is an increasingly important asset for medical personnel.

The Postgraduate Diploma and MSc courses are aimed at health professionals such as GPs, doctors, nurses, physicians and pharmacists. For healthcare professionals who successfully complete a qualification, career progression would likely be facilitated, as well as the direct opportunity to improve patient care.

Students may apply for the MSc in Dermatology as a two year course, year one being the completion of the Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits), followed by second year as the MSc (60 credits).

Dermatology in Clinical Practice

Postgraduate Diploma

Course Modules

Our online Dermatology in Clinical Practice 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 - 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. Resolve diagnostic conundrums and institute appropriate management strategies in relation to systemic disease, side effects of drugs and vasculitides.
2. Demonstrate acuity in using health care resources for the benefit of the patient in such areas as the role of the multi-disciplinary team, referral pathways and evidence-based, guidance in dermatological conditions.

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
- Non-melanoma skin cancer
- Melanocytic Naevi
- Melonoma
- Surgical Approach to Skin Disease

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

1. Differentially diagnose a wide variety of skin lesions.
2. Differentiate between benign and malignant lesions and an understanding of the appropriate referral pathway and treatment guidance.
3. Critical appraisal of the evidence relating to the management of skin lumps and bumps.

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 accurately 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. A critical understanding of the evidence relating to common inflammatory skin conditions.
2. An ability to solve diagnostic conundrums relating to inflammatory dermatoses.
3. An ability to formulate an evidence-based management plan for common inflammatory dermatoses.



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 - 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
- Infection related to systemic illness
- Photodermatoses

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

1. Have critical awareness of the evidence basis for the identification and management of common skin infections/infestations/photodermatoses.
2. Develop and decipher a differential diagnosis for skin infections/infestations/photodermatoses.
3. Have critical awareness of the appropriate management strategy and referral pathways for infections/infestations and photodermatoses.

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

Synopsis of module content:

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

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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



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

1. A critical awareness of the evidence basis relating to the identification and treatment of common skin disorders in various populations.
2. An ability to develop and decipher a differential diagnosis for common skin diseases affecting specific populations.
3. A critical awareness of the appropriate management strategy and referral pathways for individuals from sub-groups of the population.

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.

Dermatology in Clinical Practice

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.

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 Dermatology in Clinical Practice.

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).

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.



Dermatology in Clinical Practice MSc

Course Modules

Module 1 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal

Aim of the module:

- To help students recognise, understand, interpret and apply methods used in healthcare research and critically appraise the various methodologies specific to dermatology research.

Synopsis of module content:

- Terminology used in epidemiology and research studies such as prevalence, incidence, sensitivity, specificity, false positive and false negatives.
- Interpreting graphical representation of epidemiological and statistical data such as Kaplan-Meier Curves, Forrest Plots and meta-analyses.
- Calculations used in the assessment of research data such as relative risk, absolute risk and number needed to treat.
- Statistical tests and their applications including t-Tests, ANOVA, Chi-Square.
- Qualitative research methods.
- Fundamentals of evidence-based practice and its application into the clinical setting.
- Principles of health economics, audit and quality improvement / assurance systems.
- Establishing patient registers and the value of disease specific registers.
- Research into educational principles for both healthcare practitioner and patient.
- Understanding what may work for the patient as well as the educator.

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

1. An ability to interpret research in dermatology.
2. Display a critical understanding of the clinical implications of research and its impact upon healthcare delivery and service development.

Module 2 - Professional Project

Aim of the module:

- This module is designed to enable students to study a clinically-related issue in greater depth relating to dermatology.

This project may comprise:

- Literature review and appraisal of the evidence.
- Audit of practice including organisational or clinical.
- Review and implementation of evidence-based practice.
- Qualitative or quantitative research (formal research involving human subjects is not anticipated).
- Case(s)-based and quality of service review with critical appraisal.
- Case report, review of literature and organisational assessment.

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

1. Produce an extensive piece of literature which may be suitable for peer-reviewed publication.
2. Demonstrate an ability to recognise and implement good practice.
3. Critically evaluate practice and suggest improvements or change.
4. Incorporate knowledge of the research process in developing services appropriately.

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 Dermatology in Clinical Practice MSc will require successful completion of the Dermatology in Clinical Practice 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 Dermatology in Clinical Practice 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. The Dermatology in Clinical Practice MSc course provides a progression route for the Postgraduate Diploma course in Dermatology in Clinical Practice.



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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