

 **Learna** | **Diploma MSc**

Women's Health

MSc Course



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 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 which consists of a proposal and 10,000 word professional project.

Why study Women's Health with us?

Most women's health problems present in primary or community care, and yet training in Women's Health offered at undergraduate level is being constantly reduced to allow other topics to be covered. Many aspects of women's health are now considered specialist and no longer covered in undergraduate degrees, making confident and evidence based management in primary care difficult without additional training.

Whilst the need for global improvements in emergency obstetrics, and prevention of HIV/AIDS are well known, other less well known issues around women's health also comprise a huge burden of global disease and a significant cause of deaths, morbidity, poor quality of life and poverty. These problems are often preventable, with low-cost, evidence based solutions available, and their non availability could also be seen as a human right's issue.

This unique online women's health course is specially developed for busy health professionals and is practical and clinically focused. It will give you a better understanding of women's health, allowing you to apply your knowledge of women's health to your clinical practice.

The course is suitable for doctors of all grades and nurses, in particular medical professionals and clinical nurses specialists wanting to specialise in women's health. Healthcare professionals working within a relevant clinical setting, both UK and overseas, with a related healthcare science degree (including international qualifications) are eligible to apply for the two-year MSc course.

Women's Health MSc

Year 1

Our online Women's Health MSc a part-time, distance-learning course. The course comprises seven modules. The first six modules are each worth 20 credits and run over a period of six weeks. The seventh module lasts 10 weeks and will develop skills in critical appraisal and knowledge of research methodologies. Students then complete the final module - the professional project - which consists of a 1,500 word proposal and 10,500 word professional project (dissertation).

Module 1 - Women's health: an overview

Aim of the module:

- To examine the sciences (anatomy, physiology, endocrinology, microbiology and pathology) that underpin women's health and the external professional and ethical issues that influence practice, recognising and addressing potential conflict areas.

Synopsis of module content:

- The importance of women's health both globally and locally
- Gender based and domestic violence
- Female reproductive physiology and anatomy
- Normal placental function and pregnancy
- Prevention and screening of infections affecting women's health
- Identification and treatment of infections affecting women's health

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

1. Critically apply knowledge of clinical sciences to the understanding of women's health issues
2. Critically appraise the importance of social and cultural factors determining women's health.
3. Reflect on learning from prior experience and challenge preconceptions in order to holistically integrate new knowledge within complex situations.

Module 2 - Contraception, abortion and early pregnancy problems

Aim of the module:

- To examine the choices in family planning and fertility control, including ethical considerations. Develop critical skills and confidence in the diagnosis and safe management of early pregnancy conditions.

Synopsis of module content:

- Public health considerations for contraception and early termination of pregnancy
- Contraception
- Early miscarriage
- Ectopic and molar pregnancy
- Miscarriage
- Termination of pregnancy

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

1. Demonstrate a critical knowledge and understanding of the diagnosis and management of early pregnancy problems.
2. Critically interpret the evidence base relating to contraception, abortion and early pregnancy problems.
3. Demonstrate advisory skills in offering evidence-based choices about fertility control, contraception, termination and continuation of pregnancy whilst navigating complex ethical and legal issues.

Module 3 - Fetal medicine

Aim of the module:

- Understand the pathophysiology that leads to fetal compromise including prevention, diagnosis and management. Develop confidence in counselling skills to support affected parents.

Synopsis of module content:

- Common structural and chromosomal abnormalities
- Prenatal screening and diagnosis
- Fetal infections
- Genetic disease
- Intrauterine Growth Restriction (IUGR)
- Ethics and counselling

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

1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of genetic, chromosomal and structural fetal abnormalities, screening and the diagnosis and management of intrauterine growth restriction.
2. Analyse and synthesise different perspectives in understanding the ethical issues and decisions made concerning fetal abnormalities, both pre and post, prenatal screening.
3. Demonstrate the ability to exercise initiative, personal responsibility and ethical decision-making in complex and/or unpredictable situations.



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 4 - Maternal medicine

Aim of the module:

- To understand the importance of detection and management of maternal complications in and resulting from pregnancy.

Synopsis of module content:

- Maternal mortality and morbidity
- Pregnancy related disease, effect of pregnancy on pre-existing disease
- Labour issues
- Cesarean section, placental pathology
- The puerperium
- Preventing problems for future

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

1. Critically appraise the importance of routine pregnancy care, screening in pregnancy and management of abnormal pregnancy and childbirth.
2. Critically examine the conditions contributing to maternal morbidity and mortality.
3. Demonstrate the ability to exercise initiative, personal responsibility and ethical decision-making in complex and/or unpredictable situations.

Module 5 - Female cancer

Aim of the module:

- To develop an understanding of the disease burden of female cancer and endometriosis both locally and globally, developing an awareness of primary and secondary prevention, diagnosis and appropriate management.

Synopsis of module content:

- Incidence and mortality from female cancers
- Prevention and diagnosis
- Vulval and cervical cancer
- Endometrial and ovarian cancer
- Breast cancer
- Endometriosis and pelvic pain

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

1. Utilise the evidence-base to critically appraise the benefits of primary prevention, screening for early detection and treatment for cancers specific to women.
2. Critically appraise the prevalence and aetiologies of gynaecological cancer and breast cancer.
3. Reflect on learning from prior experience and challenge preconceptions in order to holistically integrate new knowledge within complex situations in female cancer.

Module 6 - Abnormal uterine bleeding (AUB), menopause and urogynaecology

Aim of the module:

- To understand the impact of benign gynaecological conditions throughout a woman's life course and be able to diagnose and provide evidence-based care.

Synopsis of module content:

- AUB (diagnosis and management)
- Amenorrhea and adolescent gynaecology
- Infertility
- Menopause and osteoporosis
- Incontinence, fecal and urinary
- Prolapse

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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. Demonstrate ability to critique health information sources for women and communicate appropriately with them about benign gynaecological conditions.
2. Critically examine the impact of benign gynaecological problems on women's lives.
3. Construct management strategies for the investigation and treatment of benign gynaecological problems.

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.

Women's Health MSc

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 Women's Health MSc.

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.



Women's Health MSc

Year 2

Module 7 - Professional Project: Women's Health

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. The professional project module provides students with an opportunity to complete an important, substantial and potentially publishable study of their own choosing.

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

Following the research methods, students will submit a professional project proposal for their chosen topic, this includes a proposal form and ethics application. Students are given a 4-week period after the research methods to complete this.

Students will then create a piece of work based upon a specific subject-related project relevant to the student's practice. The students will have a further 24-weeks to complete this.

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

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. Critically appraise different methodological approaches and tools used to answer research questions in your field of practice.
3. Design and undertake a professional project related to your field of practice in order to produce an extensive piece of literature which may be suitable for peer-reviewed publication.
4. Create evidence-based recommendations to add to the knowledge base of your subject area.
5. Develop a critical understanding of the interrogation of academic literature.

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6. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of ethical considerations in the performance of research.
7. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of research methodologies in quantitative and qualitative research.
8. Demonstrate critical evaluation skills enabling an in-depth critique of the academic literature.
9. Demonstrate the ability to create academic work of a publishable standard.
10. Evaluate ethical considerations in research and the process of engagement with ethical committees.



Teaching Methods

Module 7

Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal:

This module runs over a 12 week period and is designed to develop skills in critical appraisal and knowledge of research methodologies used in Women's Health.

The module consists of mandatory formative assessment activities to support your learning and development prior to the professional project module.

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 words. Following the approval of your proposal you will then complete a 10,000 word professional project.

Graduates of this course will receive a Master of Science award from the University of Buckingham, 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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