

Family Medicine

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 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 Family Medicine with us?

Although the significance of family medicine is appreciated, there are acknowledgements that the system of care does not adapt easily to the changing needs of society, specifically with the concerns of 'overcare' and 'undercare'; both of these issues can be greatly minimised by the evolution of family practitioner education.

To instill the change necessary to further the reach of family medicine, steps must be taken to bring education on the subject to medical professionals on a global scale. Learna have launched a master's in family medicine online to address these needs within the healthcare sector.

Our family medicine course will give medical professionals the opportunity to study interesting, engaging and relevant course topics that will aid them on their career journey as they seek to progress within the healthcare sector.

Learna breaks down the economic barriers students face with other institutions by providing an affordable online family medicine course via our award-winning platform, giving you the opportunity to study around your busy schedule anywhere, anytime.

Family Medicine

Diploma Course Modules

Our online Postgraduate Diploma in family medicine 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 - Epidemiology, Prevention and Health Promotion

Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth understanding of the global epidemiology of disease and the importance of preventative care and health promotion in family medicine.

Synopsis of module content:

- The principles of prevention
- Health promotion
- Screening
- Primary and secondary preventative strategies of chronic disease
- Vaccinations

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the epidemiology of disease globally, health promotion measure, and screening and immunizations as part of disease preventative strategies.
2. Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of health promotion strategies into their practices as a family physician.

Module 2 - Women's Health and Sexual Health

Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the common presentations associated with women's health and sexual health, in the context of Family Medicine.

Synopsis of module content:

- Common gynaecological presentations including menstrual disorders
- Menopause-related conditions
- Common disorders in pregnancy
- Sexual health presentation (male and female) including STIs
- Contraception
- Infertility

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of a range of common primary care presentations in women's health and sexual health.
2. Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of diagnosis and treatment into their practice as a family physician.

Module 3 - Child Health

Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the common presentations associated with child health, in the context of Family Medicine.

Synopsis of module content:

- The febrile child
- Childhood respiratory diseases and abdominal diseases
- Childhood rashes
- Behavioural problems
- Childhood emergencies

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of a range of common primary care presentations and the recognition of emergencies in child health.
2. Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of diagnosis and treatment into their practice as a family physician.

Module 4 - Common Disorders in Adulthood

Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the common presentations in adulthood, in the context of Family Medicine.

Synopsis of module content:

- This module will cover a range of common presentations of common disorders in adulthood that may present to the family physician in primary care.
- This will include disorders of the main systems of the body and include some common emergencies seen in adult medicine.

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of a range of common primary care presentations and the recognition of emergencies in adult medicine.
2. Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of diagnosis and treatment into their practice as a family physician.



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 Lerna...

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 - Mental Health

Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the common mental health presentations, in the context of Family Medicine.
- To develop an understanding of some of the psychological interventions in primary care.

Synopsis of module content:

- This module will provide an overview of the diagnosis and treatment of a range of common mental health presentations that may present to the family physician.
This will include:
 - low mood
 - delirium and dementia
 - eating disorders
 - schizoaffective disorders
- This module will also cover an overview of some of the methods to promote wellbeing and psychological interventions in primary care.

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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of a range of common primary care presentations in mental health.
2. Critically evaluate a variety of methods used to promote well being and psychological interventions available to family physicians.
3. Critically apply an in-depth knowledge of diagnosis and treatment into their practice as a family physician.

Module 6 - Cancer Diagnosis, Treatment and Palliative Care

Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth knowledge and improve recognition of the symptoms presenting to the family physician, that may indicate a possible cancer diagnosis.
- To improve the understanding of palliative care including the treatment of symptoms as well as legal issues and the role of the multidisciplinary team in palliative care.

Synopsis of module content:

- An overview of the diagnosis and treatment of various cancers that may present to the family physician.
- Recognition of red flag symptoms for different malignancies that should alert urgent referral to secondary care for further investigations.
- Palliative care including the treatment of palliative care symptoms, legal issues and the role of the multidisciplinary team.

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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, Postgraduate student



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

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of symptoms presenting to the family physician which may indicate a possible cancer diagnosis and improve recognition of these symptoms.
2. Demonstrate a critical knowledge, understanding and evaluation of palliative care including the treatment of associated symptoms, related legal issues and the important role of the multidisciplinary team.
3. Critically apply knowledge of cancer diagnosis, treatment and palliative care into their practice as a family physician.

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 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 not compulsory for you to attend this induction but it is recommended, as it'll provide you with a sturdy introduction to the course.

Family Medicine: Postgraduate Diploma

Entry Requirements

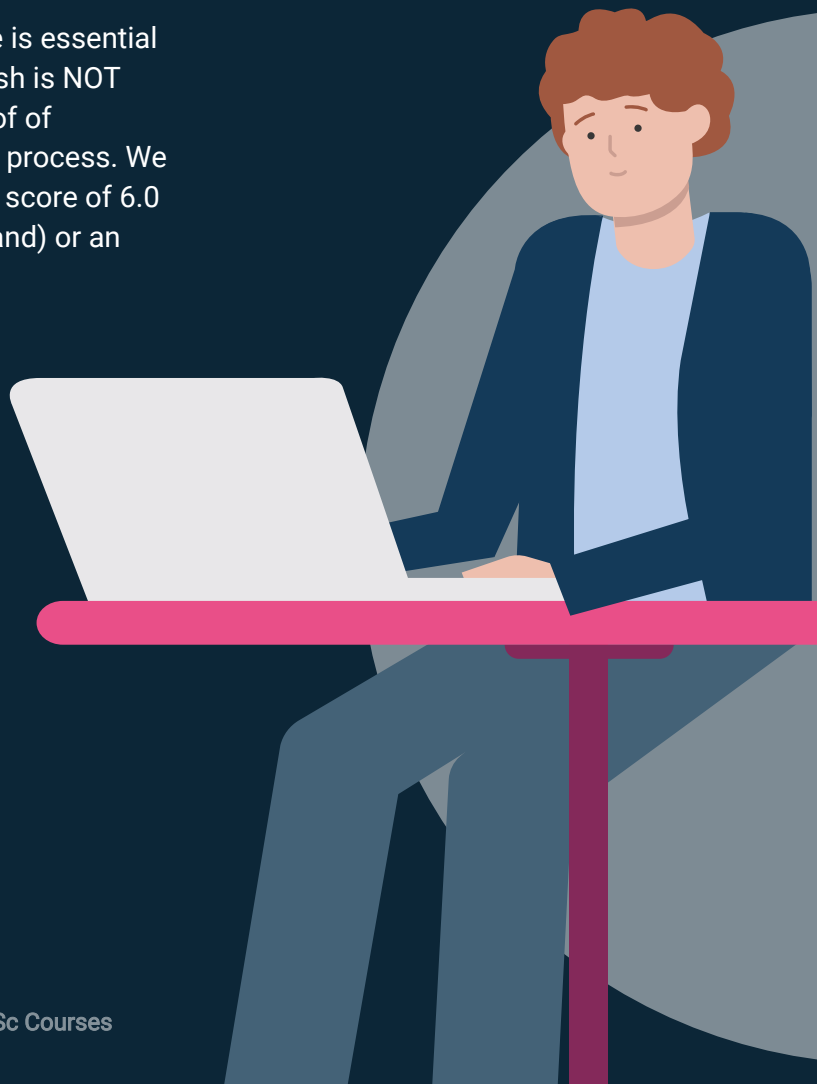
Documents required:

- 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 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 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.



Family Medicine: 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:

- Quantative 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

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

1. Design and undertake research and development of a project in order to produce an extensive piece of literature which may be suitable for peer-reviewed publication.
2. Critically evaluate practice and suggest improvements or change in a healthcare setting.
3. Incorporate knowledge of the research process in developing services appropriately.

Teaching Methods

Module 7 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal

This module runs over a 8 week period and is designed to develop skills in critical appraisal and knowledge of research methodologies. The module consists of mandatory formative assessment activities to support your learning and development prior to the Professional Project module.

Module 8 - Professional Project

Students will create a dissertation, the theme of which has been developed in discussion with their tutor.

Supervision will normally involve direct online support involving planned progress, supporting research activity and reading student work.

Supervisors and students will agree on a communications plan, which may involve emails or online chats. Some students may employ the use of freely available chat or audio conferencing facilities for live discussion with supervisors.

Students will have access to online forums where they can develop their research capabilities together.

All communications with tutors will be logged on the Professional Project forum by the student, and consists of brief summaries of discussion.

Entry Requirements

Individuals who have not completed the postgraduate diploma can apply for the Family Medicine 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.

The Family Medicine Postgraduate Diploma provides a progression route for the MSc course in Family Medicine.



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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