

# Respiratory 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 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 Respiratory Medicine with us?

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Taught completely online, our Postgraduate Diploma and MSc course in Respiratory Medicine has been designed to enable more health care professionals to have the required knowledge to treat patients. It will develop problem solving and clinical skills together with preparing students to take a leadership role in Respiratory Medicine.

The course is developed by taking note of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance on Respiratory Medicine, the curriculum subjects of the Specialty Certificate Exam of the Royal College of Physicians and that of the Royal College of General Practitioners (Respiratory) with an emphasis on the management of these conditions in both primary and secondary care in the UK and abroad.

Applicants taking our courses in Respiratory Medicine will typically be Doctors, GPs, Allied Health Professionals, Nurses and those with related undergraduate degrees (e.g. Pharmacists) or equivalent professional qualifications and background experience.

Our Respiratory Medicine courses are offered in conjunction with our partner, the University of South Wales, who have developed a strong reputation for delivering innovative learning. Students may apply for the MSc in Respiratory Medicine a two-year course, firstly completing the Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits), followed by the MSc (60 credits).

# Respiratory Medicine Postgraduate Diploma

## Course Modules

Our online Respiratory Medicine 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 - Symptoms, Signs and Investigations

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#### Aim of the module:

- Establish an understanding of Respiratory Anatomy and Physiology and apply this to the clinical assessment and investigation of common respiratory symptoms.

#### Synopsis of module content:

- Impact, burden and epidemiology of Lung diseases
- Anatomy and Physiology of the Respiratory systems
- Clinical Assessment and Clinical Examination
- Breathlessness and Wheeze, Cough and Sputum.
- Spirometry
- Other Respiratory Investigations (X-rays, blood tests and more complex lung function tests).

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

1. Recognise the impact of respiratory disease on society and the importance of epidemiology in the diagnosis and management of respiratory conditions.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of anatomy and the physiology of the respiratory system and relevance to the pathophysiology of respiratory disorders.
3. Compare and contrast the range of presenting symptoms in respiratory disease and how they are investigated.

### Module 2 - Asthma and Allergy

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#### Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth understanding of Asthma and Allergy and its impact on patient life.

#### Synopsis of module content:

- Asthma Diagnosis and Investigation
- Allergy and anaphylaxis
- Pharmacological management
- Non-pharmacological / self-management
- Co-morbidities (obesity, OSA, bronchiectasis, rhinitis, depression)
- Difficult Asthma

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

1. Identify common causes of allergy and anaphylaxis, their investigation and treatment.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the diagnosis, treatment and management of Asthma
3. Appreciate the role of co-morbidities and their relationship to difficult asthma
4. Formulate a coherent approach for assessing, investigating and managing patients with difficult asthma



## Module 3 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

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### Aim of the module:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the presentation, diagnosis and management of patients with COPD.

### Synopsis of module content:

- Early and accurate diagnosis
- Pharmacological management (including oxygen therapy)
- Non-pharmacological management (smoking cessation, pulmonary rehabilitation and assisted technology)
- Management of exacerbations (acute and chronic, ICS debate, NIV, ceiling of treatment)
- Co-morbidities (osteoporosis, heart disease and depression)
- End of life care, palliative care and advance care planning

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

1. Outline a robust approach to the diagnosis and investigation of patients with COPD
2. Compare and contrast pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions in COPD, focusing on their strengths and limitations

3. Recognise the importance of exacerbations and co-morbidities in COPD and their effects on patient morbidity and mortality

4. Critically evaluate the role of palliative and end of life care in COPD, focusing on strengths and weakness of services in their locality

## Module 4 - Thoracic Oncology and Pleural Disease

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### Aim of the module:

- Develop an in-depth understanding of the presentation, investigation and management of thoracic malignancy and pleural disease

### Synopsis of module content:

- Lung cancer – screening, red flags, solitary pulmonary nodules
- Lung cancer – diagnosis and staging Lung
- cancer - treatments
- Asbestos related pleural disease
- Pleural effusion and pneumothorax
- The interface and ethics (MDT, working across boundaries, communicating difficult diagnoses, when to stop treatment)

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

1. Critically evaluate screening programmes, diagnostic investigations and treatments in lung cancer
2. Formulate a robust approach for investigating and treating patients with pleural disease
3. Justify the role of the multidisciplinary team in the management of malignant and non-malignant respiratory disease



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 - Respiratory Infections: Diagnoses and Management

### Aim of the module:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of pulmonary infection, its investigation and management

### Synopsis of module content:

- Tuberculosis and non-tuberculous mycobacterial disease
- Pneumonia (including community acquired and hospital acquired)
- Respiratory tract infection (bronchitis, URTI, bronchiolitis)
- Bronchiectasis and Cystic Fibrosis
- Infections in the immunocompromised patient (HIV, immunomodulatory drugs, atypical infections)
- Antibiotic guardianship

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

1. Contrast the presentation, diagnosis and management of different respiratory pathogens
2. Demonstrate an understanding of antimicrobial side effects and resistance, and the importance of antibiotic guardianship
3. Describe the role of more rare pathogens in immunosuppressed patients and develop a robust approach to diagnosing such infections

## Module 6 - Wider Respiratory Horizon

### Aim of the module:

- To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of interstitial lung disease, pulmonary vascular disease and conditions resulting in respiratory failure

### Synopsis of module content:

- Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Other interstitial lung diseases
- Venous thromboembolic disease and pulmonary vascular disease
- Lung disease in my environment (occupational lung disease, children, flying and diving, dysfunctional breathing)
- Lungs at the extremes (age, obesity, illegal drugs)
- Sleep disordered breathing and ventilatory failure

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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. Compare and contrast the presentation, investigation and management of interstitial and pulmonary vascular disease
2. Outline and differentiate conditions that lead to ventilatory failure, including sleep disordered breathing
3. Outline and differentiate respiratory conditions that pertain to a particular environment or country

## Teaching Methods

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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

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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 writings, and levels of evidence in preparation for your studies. It is compulsory for you to attend our Induction, as it'll provide you with a sturdy introduction to the course.

# Respiratory Medicine Postgraduate Diploma

## Entry Requirements

### Documents required:

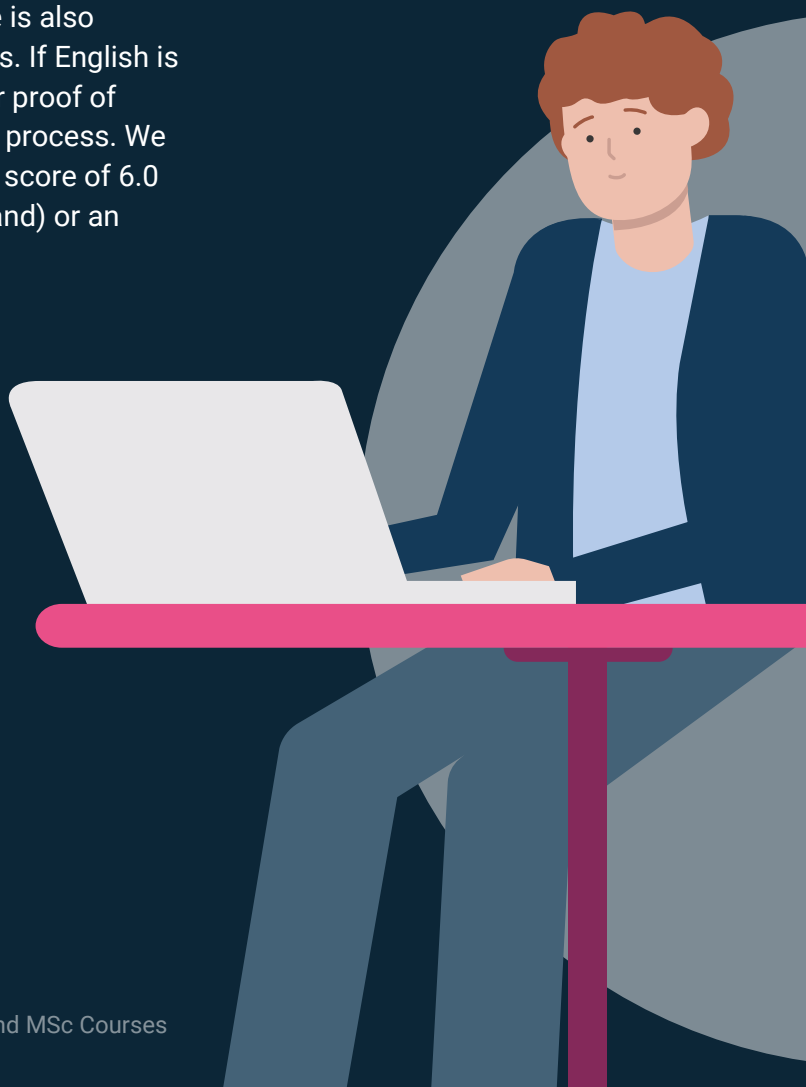
- A copy of your updated CV including your address and date of birth.
- A copy of your undergraduate degree certificate.
- The name and email address of someone who is able to provide a reference, this can be a work colleague, employer or former tutor.
- A detailed personal statement explaining why you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

### Applicants 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 Respiratory Medicine.

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).



# Respiratory Medicine MSc

## Course Modules

### Module 1 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal

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#### 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 respiratory medicine research.

#### Synopsis of the module:

- Basic 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, number needed to treat.
- Basic statistical tests and their applications including t-Tests, ANOVA, Chi-Square.
- Methodologies as applied to respiratory medicine research.
- Fundamentals of evidence-based practice and its application into the clinical setting.
- Establishing patient registers and the value of disease specific registers.
- Research into educational principles for both health care 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. Interpret research in respiratory medicine.
2. Display a critical understanding of the clinical implications of research and its impact upon healthcare delivery and service development.
3. Implement evidence-based practice into care.

### Module 2 - Professional Project

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#### Aim of the module:

- 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 the creation of a piece of work based upon a specific clinically related project relevant to the student's practice.

#### 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).

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- Case(s)-based and quality of service review with critical appraisal.
- Case report, review of literature and organisational assessment.

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

- Produce an extensive piece of literature, which may be suitable for peer-reviewed publication.
- Demonstrate an ability to recognise and implement good practice.
- Critically evaluate practice and suggest improvements for change.
- 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 Respiratory Medicine MSc will require successful completion of the Respiratory Medicine 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 Respiratory 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 from the University of South Wales, Diploma MSc's collaborative partner. The Respiratory Medicine MSc course provides a progression route for the Postgraduate Diploma course in Respiratory 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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