

Stroke 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 Stroke Medicine with us?

This online and flexible postgraduate diploma in stroke medicine has been designed for busy healthcare professionals to demonstrate a systematic understanding of stroke medicine, and critically appraise current and potential practical treatments for use in a variety of patient population groups.

Successful completion of this affordable diploma will add value to a CV and will enable graduates to rise to the challenges of delivering high quality care to their patients within a complex primary and secondary care environment.

The MSc program will also allow healthcare professionals to complete a professional project producing a piece of work, featuring a topic of personal interest in this specialist area.

Postgraduate training in stroke care is limited worldwide, with inadequate training opportunities for doctors. The provision on the treatment has been left to the will of the health service, and higher education, wherein it competes for finite training resources with other UK health priorities such as cancer and heart disease.

Stroke Medicine

Diploma Course Modules

Our online Postgraduate Diploma in Stroke 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 - Stroke/TIA definition, diagnosis, epidemiology and stroke mimics

Aim of the module:

- To develop a systematic understanding and critical knowledge of the clinical definition of stroke and transient ischaemic attack (TIA) to make an informed diagnosis based on neuroanatomy.

Synopsis of module content:

- Stroke/Transient Ischaemic Attack definition
- Epidemiology
- Diagnosis
- Classification of stroke
- Stroke mimics
- Stroke chameleons

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

1. Demonstrate clinical knowledge about pathology, clinical presentation and diagnosis of stroke
2. Differentiate between stroke and other clinical scenarios (not stroke) when patient presents with similar initial sign/symptoms
3. Critically apply an advanced knowledge of stroke and transient ischaemic attack (TIA) definition, diagnosis and epidemiology to decision making in unpredictable and/or complex situations
4. Critically appraise research in the subject area of stroke/transient ischaemic attack (TIA) and stroke mimics
5. Critically appraise current and potential practical stroke/transient ischaemic attack (TIA) prevention and management options for use in a variety of patient population groups

Module 2 - Risk factors of stroke/TIA: Primary and secondary prevention

Aim of the module:

- To develop a systematic understanding and critical knowledge of a range of risk factors for stroke/transient ischaemic attack (TIA) and the impacts and management of each of these risk factors, including secondary prevention.

Synopsis of module content:

- Non modifiable risk factors
- Pharmacologically modifiable risk factors
- Lifestyle related risk factors
- Risk factor for Hemorrhagic stroke
- Uncommon risk factors
- Secondary prevention and general approach to risk factors

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

1. Understand risk factors for stroke
2. Develop strategies to control risk factors and prevent stroke
3. Critically appraise stroke risk factor control in different targeted population groups

Module 3 - Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) diagnosis, management and guidance

Aim of the module:

- To develop a deep and systematic understanding of acquiring an accurate history from patients, along with exploring further facts to rule out non-transient ischaemic attack neurological conditions to successfully establish a diagnosis of transient ischaemic attack. Once an accurate diagnosis has been established, to demonstrate the ability to initiate appropriate investigation, treatment and advice for the patient.

Synopsis of module content:

- Transient ischaemic attack - diagnosis/ neuroanatomical types
- Transient ischaemic attack - mimics/chameleons
- Transient ischaemic attack - neuroanatomy
- Transient ischaemic attack - investigation
- Overall approach to transient ischaemic attack
- Other neurological conditions

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

1. Develop ability to diagnose TIA effectively
2. Efficiently address TIA in appropriate manner

Module 4 - Stroke/TIA: Hyperacute and acute diagnosis and management

Aim of the module:

- To develop a systematic understanding and critical knowledge of the skills needed to effectively diagnose and initiate pathways when managing hyperacute and acute stroke, which includes appropriate history taking, effective and rapid clinical examination, arranging appropriate investigation and trigger pathways for best clinical outcome. To critically evaluate different modes of treatment and relevant indications and contraindications of each.

Synopsis of module content:

- Hyperacute stroke
- Imaging in hyperacute/acute stroke
- Infarct - Thrombolysis
- Infarct - Thrombectomy
- Haemorrhagic stroke
- Other relevant clinical facts

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

1. Efficiently diagnose acute stroke
2. Plan urgent investigations and appropriate treatment
3. Critically appraise indications and contraindications of different modes of treatment in stroke management
4. Critically appraise the structure and application of recognised scoring models in a variety of settings



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 - Investigation and mode of therapy/Stroke in special circumstances

Aim of the module:

- Develop a systematic understanding of the importance and indication of a range of investigations to accurately inform decision making in the approach to diagnose the site and extent of stroke.
- To explore and critically evaluate different modes of therapy which will inform the selection of patient groups for each type of therapy.
- Develop knowledge in key concepts and strategies required to manage stroke where circumstances are rare and/or unusual.

Synopsis of module content:

- CT (computerised tomography) scan /CT (computerised tomography) angio
- Doppler/MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) Scan
- Pharmacotherapy
- Surgical treatment
- Stroke in young patients
- Cerebral venous thrombosis

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

1. Develop the ability to plan the most relevant investigation suited for a specific clinical scenario
2. Select the most relevant management plan suited to a specific clinical scenario
3. To critically appraise the indications, benefits, limitations and appropriate use of the various investigations and treatments in special circumstances
4. Use skills to individualise care for patients in special circumstances taking into account a wide range of factors

Module 6 - Rehabilitation and organising a stroke service

Aim of the module:

- To develop systematic understanding and critical application of the importance of rehabilitation and multispeciality input.
- To critically apply a systematic understanding of the leadership and resourcing of stroke services in line with patient pathways to ensure that patients have appropriate and timely input from the correct team.
- To critically evaluate different components of an effective stroke service model

Synopsis of module content:

- Establishing the TIA (transient ischaemic attack) service
- Establishing the acute Stroke service
- The MDT (multidisciplinary team) in the Stroke and TIA (transient ischemic attack) service
- Acute Stroke Rehabilitation
- Longer term disabilities arising from Stroke and their management
- The evidence base for the Stroke and Stroke rehabilitation services

Continued on next page



"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. Critically apply a systematic understanding of the importance of rehabilitation in stroke medicine to include the impact of the multidisciplinary team and an effective stroke service
2. Critically evaluate the evidence and research relating to the multidisciplinary management in stroke rehabilitation and in establishing a stroke service
3. The ability to synthesise the evidence and critically apply the knowledge into complex clinical scenarios in the context of rehabilitation in stroke medicine

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 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.

Stroke Medicine Diploma

Entry Requirements

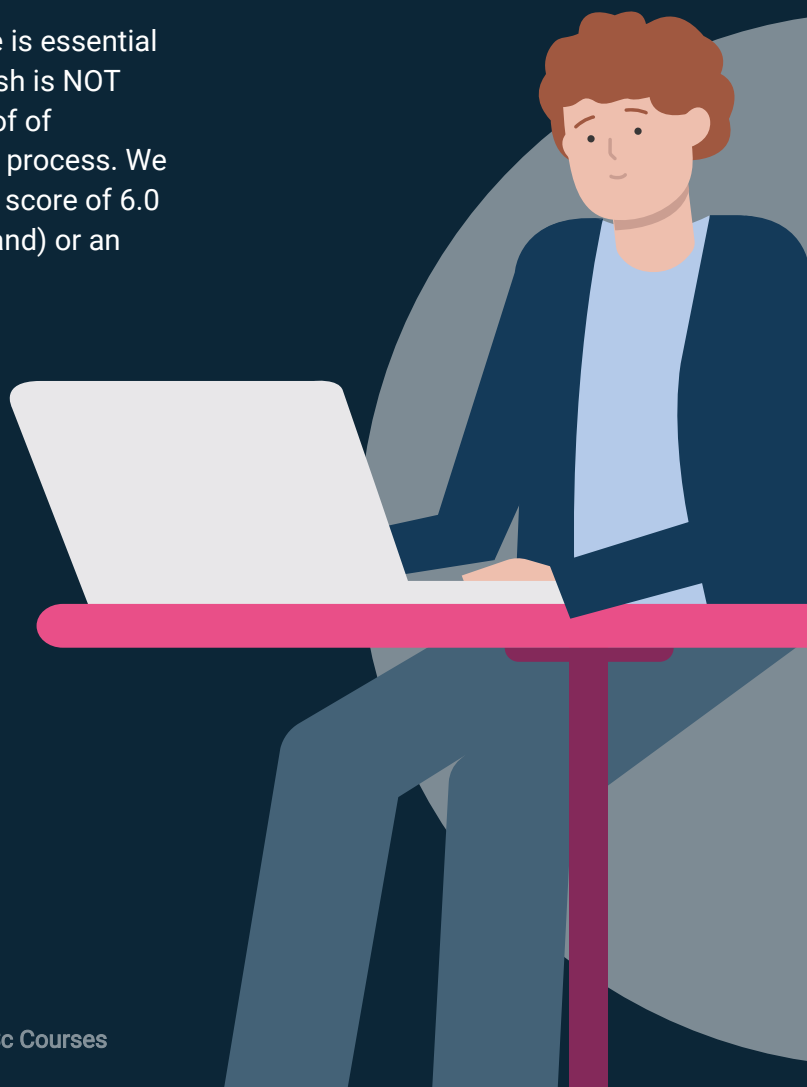
Documents required:

- 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.



Stroke Medicine: MSc

Course Modules

Note: The first year of the MSc comprises of the 6 modules within the PGDip.

Module 7 - Professional Project

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 research in stroke medicine.
- To develop students' ability to critically appraise specific areas of clinical, research and/or organisational practice and develop skills in independent research, study and writing for publication.

Synopsis of module content:

- 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 the literature and organisational assessment.

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

1. Design and undertake a research/development project related to paediatrics and child health.
2. Critically evaluate practice and suggest improvements or change.
3. Incorporate knowledge of the research process in developing services appropriately.

Teaching Methods

Module 7 - 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 Stroke Medicine 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 Stroke Medicine Postgraduate Diploma provides a progression route for the MSc course in Stroke 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



-  <https://www.facebook.com/DiplomaMSc>
-  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/diploma-msc>
-  <https://www.instagram.com/diplomamsc>
-  <https://twitter.com/DiplomaMSc>

To apply now visit: www.diploma-msc.com/c

For more information on applications email
admissions@learna.ac.uk
or call +44 (0) 29 2192 1312