



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINCHESTER

"The PgCert continues to be a valuable programme offering young doctors an important and relevant insight into professional practice in contemporary primary care and in engaging them in academic study. It is one of only a few programmes that do this in the UK."

External Examiner's Report 2012/13.

For further details and to apply please contact
mwgpe@winchester.ac.uk

Postgraduate Certificate and MSc Delivery of Primary Health Care

Mid-Wessex GP Education at the University of Winchester delivers the Day Release Course to Mid-Wessex GP Trainees as part of their training towards qualification as General Practitioners. In the final year of training, GP Registrars have the opportunity to undertake the Postgraduate Certificate in the Delivery of Primary Health Care alongside their training.

The University of Winchester has now introduced the MSc Delivery of Primary Health Care so that those GPs who have successfully completed the Postgraduate Certificate can go on to further their studies and exit with a Masters qualification.

The Postgraduate Certificate Delivery of Primary Health Care has been taught at the University of Winchester since 2008. The programme aims to broaden knowledge and skill sets beyond that of clinical medicine; develop a culture of self-critical, self-motivated lifelong learning through various cross-cutting themes; and foster leadership skills within the setting of the ever-changing political and economic structure of the NHS.

The course provision is part of the final year of training for doctors before accreditation for Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) as an Independent Practitioner. At interview for a General Practitioner post, all candidates are expected to have the MRCGP. The PgCert is now becoming recognised as a further quality benchmark and ownership of the certificate may afford the candidate an advantage over others.

PgCert entry requirements: The programme is open to ST3 GP Trainees attending the Mid-Wessex GP Training Scheme through the GP National Recruitment Office. GP Registrars have the unique opportunity to gain a recognised postgraduate qualification, with all teaching taking place on the day release programme. Candidates receive support from a named Programme Director who acts as tutor and mentor throughout the learning process.

PgCert programme content: The PgCert requires the completion of three modules and there are three hand-in deadlines during the academic year. There is a set module pattern, meaning no matter when students enrol on the certificate, they take the same modules as their peers. This pattern is designed to encourage students to be able to successfully complete the PgCert during their time on day release as an ST3. The three modules, each worth a total of 20 CATS credits are:

- National Delivery of Primary Health Care – a 20 minute presentation plus submission of referenced slides and hand-out. Autumn term.
- Personal Development – to lead a peer small group session and a 1,000 word essay reflecting on the process of leading a small group and dealing with feedback. Spring term.
- Management of Primary Health Care in General Practice – a 2,000 word essay plus a 2,000 word written report on the investigation and response to a complaint from a patient relating to a communication or system failure in the practice. Summer term.

The NHS is constantly changing and new reforms continue to shape the future of general practice. By offering a progression route from the Postgraduate Certificate Delivery of Primary Health Care and creating an MSc in the subject, we are offering a programme that academically stretches and prepares those GP trainees who will become the future leaders in the NHS.

The MSc Delivery of Primary Health Care is designed for qualified doctors who have trained for General Practice, providing a progression route to enable students who had completed the Postgraduate Certificate Delivery of Primary Healthcare to exit with a Masters qualification.

The programme aims to facilitate graduates who have broadened their knowledge and skills set beyond clinical medicine for professionals working in Primary Health Care. Various cross-cutting themes and aims help develop a culture of self-critical, self-motivated lifelong learning, fostering leadership skills within the setting of the ever-changing political and economic structures of the NHS. Students develop an understanding of critically appraising research and the value this brings to practice by carrying out their own small scale research projects within the ethical boundaries of Primary Health Care.

The majority of modules have generic learning outcomes that can be achieved in relation to a wide variety of subject specific topics and questions. This enables students to focus on their developing professional career in primary health care in the context of an ever-changing NHS.

Although the programme uses existing research and dissertation modules, students consider Primary Health Care as the focus for their studies. Four part-time members of the Department of Interprofessional Studies work alongside existing MRes and MA Education tutors to enable students to consider a Primary Health Care context. These colleagues already teach on postgraduate medical programmes and have either a relevant MA or PhD.

MSc entry requirements: Qualified GP on the General Medical Council list, having successfully undertaken the Postgraduate Certificate Delivery of Primary Health Care at the University of Winchester. Qualified GPs with relevant experience and qualifications will also be considered via APEL.

MSc programme content: The programme offers a very flexible route to a Masters award. Although the programme uses existing research modules, students consider Primary Health Care as the focus for their studies. Assessment takes the form of essay and report writing, leading small groups and presentations.

MSc modules:

- Quantitative methods in social research – 20 or 40 credits, face to face or online version
- Qualitative methods in social research – 20 or 40 credits, face to face or online version
- Independent Study – 60 credits

Students must take one qualitative methods module and one quantitative methods module (one 20 credit module and one 40 credit module). They should select a 40 credit module depending on their proposed Independent Study methodology (for example a student intending to undertake a quantitative methodology for their Independent Study would choose a 40 credit quantitative methods module).

Neither methodology takes precedence. Students would be supplied with guidance as to which methodology they should choose. Students have free choice over whether they undertake taught or distance learning modules. For those students selecting to undertake research modules through distance learning, tutorial support is provided as well as training on how to access materials and resources on the Intranet. Personal Tutors are available to undertake Tutorials with students, these can be arranged as preferred by students via face-to-face, telephone and/or using Skype.

