MERCK FOUNDATION CAPACITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Postgraduate Diploma in Paediatrics and Child Health

The Postgraduate Diploma in Paediatrics and Child Health aims to improve medical education and therefore clinical outcomes for children worldwide by equipping healthcare professionals with a specialist knowledge in paediatric care that is so urgently needed. The course will provide healthcare professionals with the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to improve their career prospects and address the issues facing child health.

This program specifically focuses on the following topics:

- Neonatal period and infancy
- Preventable childhood diseases
- Common paediatric presentations
- Paediatric emergencies and safeguarding
- Developmental disorders and mental health issues
- Global child health

Postgraduate Diploma in Paediatrics and Child Health, University from UK	
Duration	1 Year online learning platform

Eligibility:

- Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery (Primary Medical Qualification) (e.g.: MBBS or MBChB)
- Candidates working within a public sector clinical setting (Preferably)
- Recommendation from the Ministry of Health or Office of The First Lady (For Asian Countries- Recommendation letter from The Ministry of Health or Vice Chancellor/Dean/Rector of the Medical University or President of respective Society or Medical Association)
- Proof of English language proficiency(details provided below)
- Accessibility to stable Internet connection

Course Structure

The online course lasts one calendar year and is a part time distance learning course. It consists of 6 modules per year, each of 6 weeks duration.

Module 1 – Neonatal period and infancy

Aim of the module:

- This module will provide students with a systematic understanding of general paediatrics, and application of knowledge for direct patient benefit, service development, and future study, including Genetic testing and counselling, Maternal risk factors on newborn, Resuscitation and examination, Screening, Monitor growth and development in Infancy.

Module 2 – Preventable childhood diseases

- Aims to impart an understanding of the importance of immunization in preventing communicable diseases and reduction in mortality and morbidity; Modify risk factors like obesity and asthma; Prevent development of chronic diseases; appropriate diet and nutritional management; and Allergic disorders in childhood.



Module 3 – Common paediatric presentations

- Aims to develop an ability to apply evidence based practice in diagnosing and managing common childhood presentations in primary and secondary care settings, such as Childhood rashes, Child presenting with fever, Child presenting with a recent onset limp, Child with first seizure, and chronic cough and Precocious puberty.

Module 4 – Paediatric emergencies and safeguarding

- This module delves into the application of evidence based medicine in managing common paediatric emergencies. This module will cover a range of common presentations such as pediatric basic and advanced life support, acute asthma, status asthmaticus, status epilepticus, altered consciousness, head trauma, encephalopathy, non-accidental injury, diabetic keto-acidosis, acute abdominal pain, child abuse, child safeguarding procedures.

Module 5 – Developmental disorders and mental health issues

- This module will encourage a deeper understanding of the diagnosis and management of children with developmental disorders. It provides an overview of the diagnosis and treatment of chromosomal syndromes, inherited disorders, metabolic syndromes and ex-preterm and developmental disorders and also cover the mental health disorders, substance abuse, domestic, social and environmental factors.

Module 6 – Global child health

- This module covers childhood physical activity, mental well-being and social development, and learning and evaluating the effectiveness of global initiatives on improving child health. It will also give an overview of the diagnosis and treatment of climate change, Covid-19, malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea, digitalisation, violence against children, global child health initiatives.



Assessment

Assessments are done using clinical scenarios to enhance problem-solving, critical analysis and evidence-based care. Each of the 6 modules has the same assessment format. Due to the online nature of the course, students are expected to login and participate in the course regularly throughout the module.

- Academic Forum - 40%
- Reflective Journal - 10%
- Module Activity - 20%
- Exam - 30%

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- Proof of English language proficiency
  - o Proficiency in the English language is essential to completing courses. If English is **NOT** your first language, proof of competency during the application process is to be submitted.
  - o An **IELTS overall score of 6.5** (with a minimum of 6.0 for each band) or an equivalent qualification is required as proof of English Language Proficiency.
- Accessibility to stable Internet connection

Applicants should submit copies of the following with their application:

- A copy of your updated CV including your address and date of birth
- Copy of qualification certificates
- English language qualification
- Personal statement
- Recommendation from the Ministry of Health or Office of The First Lady (For Asian Countries- Recommendation letter from The Ministry of Health or Vice Chancellor/Dean/Rector of the Medical University or President of respective Society or Medical Association)
- Income proof (one month Salary/Pay slip or Salary Statement or 3 months bank statement)