



MERCK FOUNDATION CANCER ACCESS PROGRAM

Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Oncology

The Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Oncology will provide the essential knowledge, skills, and experience needed to support and benefit patients diagnosed with cancer. With completion of the PG diploma in Medical Oncology, students will be equipped with a systematic understanding of medical oncology, critical appraisal and knowledge application skills, and will be able to evaluate practice critically in relation to the evidence base in cancer treatment.

This program specifically focuses on the following topics:

- Cancer biology and principles of cancer treatment
- Breast and skin cancers
- Prostate and genitourinary cancers (kidney, bladder, testis)
- Colorectal and gastrointestinal cancers
- Lung and thoracic tumors
- Hematological malignancies

Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Oncology, University from UK

Duration

1 - Year online learning platform



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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 – Cancer Biology and Principles of Cancer Treatment

- This module aims to impart a complete understanding of cancer risk factors, causes, multi-step carcinogenesis, and an ability to critically apply knowledge of tumor immunology and principles of immunotherapy.

Module 2 – Breast and Skin Cancers

- This module covers the pathogenesis of breast and skin cancers, different treatment options for breast and skin cancers, and novel treatment opportunities. Aims to impart an in-depth knowledge of oncological emergencies with breast and skin cancer and palliative care.



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Module 3 – Prostate and Genitourinary Cancers (kidney, bladder, testis)

- This module covers the different treatment approaches for prostate and genitourinary tumours, the basic role of chemotherapy for testicular cancers, role of immuno-oncology and targeted therapy concepts.

Module 4 – Colorectal and Gastrointestinal Cancers

- Covers the specific diagnostic procedures and combined modality approaches for GI tumours, current treatment for pancreatic carcinomas, and the emerging role of immuno-oncology therapies.

Module 5 – Lung and Thoracic Tumors

- This module covers the role of environmental factors, combined modality approaches for lung cancers, and the paradigm shift for treatment of lung cancers.

Module 6 – Hematological Malignancies

- This module covers the principles of current diagnostic procedures, the principles of cell-based therapies, major therapy pillars of hematological malignancies, and novel treatment approaches.



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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%

Eligibility Criteria

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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)



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