MERCK FOUNDATION CAPACITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Postgraduate Diploma in Care of the Older Person

The Postgraduate Diploma in Care of the Older Person is designed specifically for healthcare professionals who want to expand their clinical knowledge, skills, and confidence in dealing with the complex health and social needs of the aging population. This course will cover a variety of interesting subjects such as confusion and dementia, frailty and continence, and much more. The programme utilises the latest concepts and research evidence in the field.

This program specifically focuses on the following topics:

- Care of the older person overview
- Falls
- Confusion and Dementia
- Stroke, age-related neurological disorders and syncope
- Frailty and continence
- Ethics and end-of-life care in the older person

Postgraduate Diploma in Care of the Older Person - 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 provded 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 - Care of the older person overview

- The concept of physiological ageing in comparison with younger adults, differences between physiology and pathology, major presentation of illness in older people and general approach to therapy, clinical case-based scenarios that are reflective of everyday clinical practice and research.

Module 2 – Falls

- Highlights the importance attached to the risk of falls in older people in different environments (community and institution), consequences of falls, holistic assessment of causes, the importance of the multidisciplinary team assessment, plan of prevention and management, weekly case-based scenarios to develop knowledge and understanding of the assessment, treatment, prevention and management of falls.



Module 3 - Confusion and Dementia

- Highlights the risk of confusion and cognitive impairment in older people in different settings, differentiating between different types and causes of confusion, acute and chronic cognitive dysfunction, and measures of assessment and management. How to critically evaluate and selectively differentiate knowledge between alternative presentations and causes of confusion in older people, in a variety of settings.

Module 4 - Stroke, age-related neurological disorders and syncope

- Contemporary knowledge of common age-related neurological conditions, TIA (transient ischaemic attack), stroke and causes of syncope. To include approaches to assessment, management and prevention of stroke, myopathies and Parkinson's disease together with the impact on function and quality of life in older age.

Module 5 - Frailty and continence

- Diagnosis and management of frailty and continence in older people. This will include aetiology, models of assessment, medical and surgical management of frailty, urinary incontinence and constipation in older people.

Module 6 - Ethics and end-of-life care in the older person

- Ethical issues and end-of-life care in the older person. In particular it analyses issues relating to consent to treatment, quality of life and also brings to attention the complex aspects of end-of-life care.



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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 Assignments - 20%
- Case-Based Examination - 30%

Eligibility Criteria

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- (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
  - 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)