



# MSc IN PRACTICAL DERMATOLOGY

## Online Distance-Learning Course



Are you a Cardiff DPD holder?

Would you like to further your Dermatology knowledge?

If you answer yes to these two questions, please read on.



### Key Information:

- The MSc in Practical Dermatology launched in September 2009. Places on the course are limited, therefore early application is recommended.
- The course is delivered entirely online and no travel to Cardiff (or elsewhere) is required at any point in the course.
- The MSc will be assessed by the submission of a dissertation.
- To be eligible for the MSc, you must be a Cardiff DPD holder (further details inside).

## MSc in Practical Dermatology

### Online Distance Learning Course

Intake: September

Duration: Eighteen months

The MSc in Practical Dermatology is designed specifically for general practitioners who have completed the Diploma in Practical Dermatology and wish to gain further expertise in the practical management of patients with skin disease.

#### AIMS

This programme is delivered entirely online and aims to further develop skills obtained in the Diploma in Practical Dermatology (DPD) in order to:



- Prepare students to develop a more structured analytical approach to their knowledge, experience and skills through the completion of a case series of dermatological problems.
- Promote critical reflection and understanding of present-day dermatology practice and enable change in the practice setting.
- Develop critical evaluation of how patients are managed and flexibility in the implementation of management plans.
- Promote collaboration, both academic and clinical, between course participants.
- Provide evidence of an understanding of research methodology applied to the presentation of a case series.

#### ASSESSMENT

This will be a non-modular programme involving a ten week online block of teaching on study and writing skills. The aim of the ten week introductory



block is to introduce students to academic writing and equip them with the skills outlined in the course aims to be able to complete a dissertation.

Upon completion of the study block, students will be required to produce a research proposal which will be peer reviewed and approved by a supervisor.

#### DISSERTATION

The regulations for the degree of Master of Science in Practical Dermatology require you to undertake a piece of supervised research or enquiry and that you submit a dissertation of 15,000 – 20,000 words (maximum), excluding appendices.

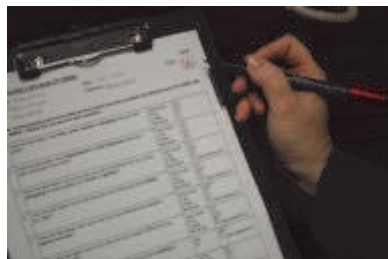
The dissertation will involve five cases on a theme related to dermatology (of approx 3000 words each) and a 3000 word synopsis/synthesis to analyse the cases and to describe how the dissertation adds to the discipline.

The dissertation is intended to provide students with the opportunity to work independently in an area of specific interest and which may contribute to either the quality of service provision or the evidence on which it is based.

Students will be required to design the study and then collect, analyse and present data

relevant to the stated aims of their investigation.

Students will need to demonstrate analytical and synthesis skills, and the ability to conceptualise ideas using the



available information (or the lack of it). It is appropriate for students to provide their own opinion based on the strengths and limitations of researched evidence.

#### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must have completed and passed the Diploma in Practical Dermatology (DPD) course delivered by Cardiff University (or

University of Wales College of Medicine) after 2002 (i.e. from the 2002-2003 course onwards as this is when



the course was fully delivered online) and must have gained a DPD with one of the following:

- distinction;
- a combined score of 70% in the case histories and written assignment components of the course.

Good English language skills are essential, and candidates must satisfy the criteria of the Cardiff University General Entrance Requirement.

It is a programme requirement that participants have access to a computer that is connected to the internet.

#### HOW TO APPLY

To process an application, we must receive:

- A completed application form
- Two references
- A supporting statement of 750 words outlining your current practice and ability to see dermatology patients as well as detailing your reasons for wishing to undertake an MSc. You will be required to provide written evidence or a declaration of your ability to see dermatology patients from a practice manager, work colleague, local dermatologist or GP with a Special Interest in Dermatology.
- Once your place on the course has been approved by the department you are required to pay a non-refundable deposit to secure your place on the course.

Go to [www.dermatology.org.uk](http://www.dermatology.org.uk) to apply online.

If you would like further information about any of our courses, please contact us (details overleaf).

## Testimonial

Dr Ben Kay, UK

### “The MSc in Practical

Dermatology course offers DPD graduates the opportunity to take their learning to the next level and gain a Masters qualification.

I work as a full-time UK NHS GP



and gained the DPD qualification in 2006 which transformed my dermatology practice. I decided to apply for the MScPD to further establish my interest and expertise as a GP in this exciting field.

Having really enjoyed the case history component of the DPD, I found the MScPD was immediately familiar, being based on writing and researching five good case histories on a topic relevant to primary care dermatology. Students then take this to another level by exploring the literature and current evidence behind their chosen topic leading to a 20,000 word thesis. I chose to research the topical treatment of superficial basal cell carcinoma in primary care which gave me real insight into the problems facing GPs treating this skin cancer.

The course is an MSc by research (compared to a taught MSc) and as such is a very different experience to the DPD where there is always new teaching material and a pending deadline. For the MScPD you quickly have to get used to self-directed study which can be quite daunting. However, the supervision system works well and help is only an email/forum posting away.

If you enjoyed the DPD and want to gain a more academic qualification then this course offers you the opportunity to achieve an MSc whilst working as a busy **doctor.**”

## Contact Us:



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## About the Department:

The Department of Dermatology, Cardiff University, is an international centre for dermatology research and teaching. An international team of tutors and lecturers and a team of administrators based in Cardiff are dedicated to running the courses and other educational activities.

The department has won numerous awards including Clinical Teacher of the Year in 2011 and Outstanding ICT Initiative at the 2009 Times Higher Leadership and Management Awards.



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