

Graduate Diploma Programme (60 Credits)

The Diploma programme aims to develop skills and knowledge acquired from Certificate level to an advanced level, enabling practitioners to act as a palliative care resource within their clinical practice. Following completion of the Certificate programme, students will complete a further two core modules and two optional modules over two semesters (September to December and January to May 2011).

Course Content

Core Module 5 (10 credits)

Module Title: Advanced Pain and Symptom Assessment and Management in Clinical Practice

Core Module 6 (10 credits)

Module Title: Communication and Ethical Decision-making in Palliative Care

Optional Module 7 (5 credits)

Module Title: Evidence-based Practice in Palliative Care

Optional Module 8 (5 credits)

Module Title: Palliative Care for People with Life-limiting Cardiovascular Disease

Optional Module 9 (5 credits)

Module Title: Palliative Care for People with Life-limiting Neurological Disease

Optional Module 10 (5 credits)

Module Title: Palliative Care for People with Life-limiting Respiratory Disease

Assessment Methods

Formative assessment processes will include assignments and multiple-choice questions (MCQs). Each module has a compulsory associated assignment.

Entry qualifications

Applicants must hold a medical degree. They must also meet English language requirements.

Course requirements

100% attendance is required at the dedicated study days and participants will be required to submit assignments to achieve certification.

Course Application

The online application process for 2010/2011 will open April 2010. To apply for the course click on the link www.ucd.ie/apply and follow the instructions (Programme Code GCME001: Major code: x442). Please read the introductory page carefully before continuing with your application.

Please contact us directly should you require further information:

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St. Francis Hospice



Dublin Academic Medical Centre
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

Graduate Certificate/Diploma In Palliative Medicine

(commencing September 2010)



We wish to acknowledge the very generous financial support received from **Mundipharma Pharmaceuticals** and **Nycomed Ireland**, which has enabled the development of the above programme

Introduction

I am genuinely pleased to welcome you to the UCD Graduate Certificate/Diploma Programme in Palliative Medicine. The development of this programme was one of our driving ambitions when developing the UCD Centre for Postgraduate Medical Education and it is extremely gratifying to see it now on offer to you. A significant amount of work has gone into the design of the programme and I hope that you, our medical colleagues, and your patients will benefit from the knowledge and skills gained from your participation. The DAMC (Dublin Academic Medical Centre) through the Postgraduate Medical Education Centre at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital is delighted to be associated with these programmes and wish you well in your pursuit of them.

Dr Dermot Power, Director Postgraduate Medical Education, DAMC and Consultant General Physician and Geriatrician

Foreword

"Patients with incurable illness must no longer be viewed as medical failures for whom nothing more can be done. They need palliative care, which does not mean a hand-holding, second-rate, soft option, but treatment that most people will need at some point in their lives, and many from the time of diagnosis, demanding as much skill and commitment as is normally brought into preventing, investigating and curing illness".

Dr Michael Kearney, Medical Director, Palliative Care Services, Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, USA.

Palliative care is the continuing active total care of patients and their families, at a time when the medical expectation is no longer cure. Palliative care responds to physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs, and extends to support in bereavement. The goal of palliative care is the highest possible quality of life for both patient and family.

This programme has been developed to meet the clearly identified needs of medical practitioners and to facilitate the translation of best practice from the specialist palliative care setting. It is the product of collaboration between UCD, the Centre for Postgraduate Medical Education at the DAMC, Mater Hospital and St Francis Hospice.

DAMC, UCD and St Francis Hospice are delighted to work in partnership to deliver a programme, which aims to enable clinicians to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to provide a

palliative care approach in clinical practice. The programme acknowledges the time limitations that face healthcare professionals who are in full-time employment and adopts a flexible approach to teaching and learning in order to provide a blend of education that meets student's needs. Over half of the course is delivered by distance learning and there is an emphasis on interactive learning methods based on individual student's knowledge and experience in order to foster the development of a reflective approach to solving complex problems.

Our team of experienced educators and practitioners look forward to meeting you and working with you to ensure that you find this a valuable and enjoyable learning experience.

*Dr Karen Ryan, Palliative Medicine Consultant
St Francis Hospice, Mater Misericordiae University
Hospital, Connolly Hospital*

Course Structure

Award	Module	Credits	Credit Total
Graduate Certificate (Year 1)	4 core modules	2 x 10 credits 2 x 5 credits	30 credits
Graduate Diploma (Year 2)	2 core modules 2 optional modules	2 x 10 credits 2 x 5 credits	30 credits

ECTS credits

One ECTS credit corresponds to a norm of 20 to 25 hours of student time. This time recognises classroom time, e learning, preparation of assignments and revision of work.

Teaching Strategies

Modules will be taught through a variety of appropriate learning activities: web-based lectures and discussion groups and face-to-face lectures. Over half of the course content will be delivered by distance learning. E learning is a flexible and convenient method of study, and allows students to enrol in a programme while continuing with full-time employment.

Face to face teaching will take place at the Postgraduate Medical Centre Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and one session at the Education Centre, St Francis Hospice.

Graduate Certificate Programme (30 Credits)

The Certificate programme consists of 4 modules run sequentially over two semesters (September to December and January to May).

Designated Study Days

2010: Sept. 16th ½ day; Sept 17th 1 day, Oct. 15th 1 day; Nov. 19th 1 day
2011: Jan 20th ½ day; Jan 21st 1 day; Feb. 25th 1 day; Mar. 25th 1 day (provisional)

Course Content

Core Module 1 (5 credits)

Module Title: The Philosophy, Principles and Social Context of Palliative Care

Core Module 2 (10 credits)

Module Title: Pain and Symptom Assessment and Management in Palliative Care

Core Module 3 (5 credits)

Module Title: Personhood and Loss in the Context of Life-limiting Illness

Core Module 4 (10 credits)

Module Title: Psychological, Spiritual and Ethical Aspects of Palliative Care Practice



St Francis Hospice