PALLIATIVE CARE: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

MSc / PGDip / PGCert: Distance Learning
Department of Applied Health and Professional Development
COURSE OVERVIEW

Oxford Brookes pioneered the development of palliative care education and have developed a number of palliative care courses. This MSc in Palliative Care: Global Perspectives is another pioneering development, opening palliative care education to a global market.

This multiprofessional degree is offered as an online distance learning course and is open to a wide range of practitioners including nurses, social workers, doctors, therapists and others working with people who have life-threatening illnesses. We welcome UK, EU and international applicants who wish to study palliative care at an advanced level.

The distance learning mode of study offers you the advantages of studying with Oxford Brookes University whilst remaining grounded in your own professional practice and your own cultural values.

The aim of the course is to develop your knowledge and skills to respond effectively to people with palliative care needs and to their families. This will develop you as a confident and knowledgeable practitioner, with a range of critical skills and abilities, who will be able to lead and develop palliative care services wherever your practice is based, responding to local cultural, professional and economic factors.

COURSE PHILOSOPHY AND STRUCTURE

The programme aims to enable you to develop an advanced level of theoretical and professional understanding of palliative care, within the context of its development as a global speciality. It achieves this through a critical exploration of the principles of palliative care and other relevant theoretical models, the evidence base for practice, and social, cultural and policy studies.

You may exit the course with:
- PGCert in Palliative Care: Global Perspectives (three modules)
- PGDip in Palliative Care: Global Perspectives (six modules)
- MSc in Palliative Care: Global Perspectives (nine modules). MSc students will complete a triple dissertation module.

MODULES

Depending upon the intended exit award, you will study from the following list of modules:
- Death and Dying: Global Perspectives
- Psychosocial Palliative Care
- Advanced Symptom Management
- Mastering Professional Practice
- Evidence-Based Practice
- Advanced Research Design
- Dissertation (MSc only)

Modules may be subject to change as courses are continually reviewed. Please visit www.brookes.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/palliative for the most up to date information.

DEATH AND DYING: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

This module critically analyses issues related to death and dying, drawing on cross-cultural studies and the historical development of palliative care policy and services. The module promotes a critical approach to models and theories of dying. It emphasises the global context of palliative care, and the implications of this for practice at a local level, and for policy at a national and international level. An understanding of the nature of dying within a culture, and of society’s response in terms of service provision, is essential to the practice of palliative care.

PSYCHOSOCIAL PALLIATIVE CARE

This module recognises the centrality of human relationships within the practice of palliative care. It focuses on the nature of personal and social responses to life-threatening illness, within the palliative care setting. It emphasises family-centred care, and key concepts in coping such as resilience. Effective communication and psychosocial interventions are analysed as core components of palliative care. It also stresses the importance of critical self-reflection as a means of raising personal awareness and developing practice.

ADVANCED SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT

The assessment and management of symptoms is a central feature of Palliative Care. The themes of this module are assessment, evaluation of the evidence base for interventions, and the resources available to manage them, all of which are explored in the context of clinical practice. The module recognises the unique nature of individual experiences of symptoms, and promotes care that responds to personal priorities.
STUDYING ONLINE AT OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

Oxford Brookes University has a community of more than 19,000 students, including more than 5,000 postgraduates. Approximately 20% are international students who come from more than 145 countries worldwide, in addition to other European Union countries. We value the academic and cultural contribution international students bring to the University.

If you are able to visit and stay in Oxford during your course, you will have the opportunity to visit the local services, and there may be opportunities for you to have a placement. You can discuss this when you are applying for a place on the course.

In addition, we have links with palliative care services around the world. If you are interested in developing your career outside of your country of origin, or you would like to undertake a period of voluntary or paid work in another country, the course team are able to support you in finding suitable contacts and opportunities for networking in the global palliative care community.

PRACTICE MENTOR

You will need to identify someone who can act as your practice mentor on the course, to provide you with support in applying what you learn to your own area of practice. Choose someone who you feel will be supportive to you in the process of your learning, but who can at the same time challenge you to learn and develop your practice. They should be familiar with your practice setting and the demands that it makes on you as a practitioner and student.

START DATES

You can either begin the course in Semester 1 (September – December) or Semester 2 (January – May). Module choices will be restricted by the timetable conditions.
SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for the postgraduate course in Palliative Care will normally be health or social care professionals with palliative care experience. In addition, you should:

- Hold a UK honours degree or equivalent overseas degree from a recognised institution.
- If you do not hold a first degree or equivalent, you will be required to submit work which will be taken into account as part of your application.
- Have good and reliable access to the internet, through a broadband connection.

COURSE FEES

The fees for the course are calculated on the number and type of modules taken:

- PG Cert: 3 modules
- PG Dip: 6 modules
- MSc: 9 modules

Please visit our website or contact the Programme Administrator for details of costs. If you work in the NHS you may be eligible for funding via your employer’s education budget. You must discuss funding options with your employer’s Education Lead before you apply.

HOW TO APPLY

You apply for this course through UCAS Postgraduate: https://www.ucas.com/ucas/postgraduate/apply-and-track (course code 33528).

Applications are dealt with on a first come, first served basis, so please act early to avoid disappointment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to talk to a member of the teaching team about the course, please contact the Programme Administrator who will direct your enquiry to a member of the team.

PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATOR

c-pcare@brookes.ac.uk
+44 (0) 1865 488157
www.brookes.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/palliative

To obtain a large-print copy of this publication or to enquire about other formats please contact +44 (0) 1865 484848 or email query@brookes.ac.uk

Oxford Brookes University actively supports equality in education and welcomes applications from all people representative of our diverse community. For more details please visit www.brookes.ac.uk/services/hr/eod or phone +44 (0) 1865 485929.