MSc, PGDip, PGCert

Infection Prevention and Control

This master’s course is open to all UK, EU and international healthcare and health related professionals, who require a deeper knowledge of all aspects of infection prevention and control, in both clinical and public health work.

This is a taught course using a blended learning approach.
Course overview

Infection Prevention and Control is now an integral part of all healthcare workers’ roles as it is essential to safeguard the welfare of patients and the staff that care for them.

This course has been developed in response to increasing demands for advanced study opportunities in this important area of practice. It builds on the school's existing success in providing infection prevention and control courses and is designed to equip you with the advanced skills and knowledge necessary to lead innovative and effective practice in infection control. It will enable you to increase your knowledge of communicable diseases and gain an insight into the impact that infection prevention and control can have locally, nationally and globally.

Key facts...

This course offers you three exit points, depending on your individual needs. The course commences in September (Semester 1). Part-time applicants can also start in January (Semester 2).

The course is comprised of M Level modules as follows:
- Single (s) modules worth 20 CATS credits. A single module usually requires 200 hours of student effort which typically consists of:
  - Seminars/group work/Brookes Virtual: 32 hours
  - Individual tutorials: 2 hours
  - Self-directed study: 166 hours
- Treble (t) module worth 60 CATS credits. A dissertation module usually requires 600 hours of student effort.

The core objective of this course is to reinforce and develop your knowledge with regards to all aspects of infection prevention and control so that your practice is safe, effective and grounded in evidence and provided in an environment that is conducive to patient needs whilst safeguarding public health.

This course is taught by lecturers with a wealth of practice experience who are specialists in the field of infection control. Expert practitioners have contributed towards the planning of the course and one member of the core teaching team practises as a senior nurse at the Health Protection Agency. The specialist experts who teach on the course come from a range of professional backgrounds and disciplines within the public health arena.

Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)
(three modules) Normally taken over 7 months or 1 year part-time.
Worth 60 CATS credits. You are required to pass:
- Module P44618 An Introduction to Microbiology and Immunology (s)
- Module P44617 Principles of Infection Prevention and Control (t)
- Module P44615 Communicable Diseases and Public Health (s)

Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)
(six modules) Normally taken over 8 months full-time, or 1–2 years part-time. Worth 120 CATS credits.
You are required to pass the above modules for PGCert, plus:
- Module P44612 Epidemiology (s)
- Module P49210 Advanced Research Design (t)
- One acceptable module from an approved list.

Master of Science (MSc)
(nine modules including a triple dissertation module)
Normally taken over 1 year full-time or 2-3 years part-time.
Worth 180 CATS credits. You are required to pass the above modules for PGDip, plus:
- Module P49215 Dissertation (t)

Note: Oxford Brookes operates the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) all postgraduate single modules are equivalent to 10 ECTS credits, double modules 20 ECTS credits and Treble modules 30 ECTS credits. A full master's carries 90 ECTS credits. You may be eligible for transferred certificated credit, if you can produce transcripts of equivalent study in one or more module areas. If you wish to transfer credit, you will be required to produce transcripts, so you are advised to make initial enquiries via email to publichealth@brookes.ac.uk

Most teaching sessions will be held at the school's Marston Road site. However, there will be some practical microbiology sessions held at the Gipsy Lane site. There will also be the opportunity to join two external visits during the course.

Note: You will normally be expected to make your own travel arrangements for the external visits but it is anticipated that anyone who does not have access to transport will be able to negotiate travel arrangements with a fellow student.

Note: This course is included within the scholarship schemes offered by Oxford Brookes. For more details, visit our school website: http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/courses/scholarships or email shscpgscholarship@brookes.ac.uk
All our courses adopt a student-centred approach to teaching and learning and are strongly focused on encouraging each individual to attain their full potential as life-long learners. To facilitate this, a variety of teaching methods are used. These include seminars, group work, external visits and practical sessions in the laboratory. The teaching and learning strategies will reflect the realities of clinical practice and the use of day-to-day examples from practice will be a key part of the course. This will enable you to reflect on both the necessity and the benefits of multidisciplinary, interprofessional and collaborative approaches to solving infection problems and minimising the spread of disease.

The assessment methods used within the course are also varied; they are designed to be stimulating as well as academically rigorous, and are based on your learning needs and individual aims and the academic standards expected for the course. Assessment is focused on coursework, which includes academic essays, presentations and completion of a portfolio of evidence of learning.

Student support

You will be supported throughout the course by academic skills sessions, an allocated academic advisor and module and dissertation support. The school’s student support co-ordinators also provide a drop in service for any queries you may have about any aspect of student life, covering both academic and personal welfare. The university’s support services include Upgrade (academic skills development support). There is also a dedicated Student Disability Service, which provides help for students with disabilities including sensory and mobility impairments, dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties. For more information go to: www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/brookeslife/support

If you are an international student, you will join the school’s bridging programme, which has been set up to enable international students to make a smooth transition into study in the school. For more information, go to: http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/international

The university also provides a comprehensive range of support networks and services. For more information, go to: www.brookes.ac.uk/international/support

The teaching team

The teaching team for this course has a wide range of skills and professional and academic experience.

Jackie Miley
Senior Lecturer / Programme Leader
Jackie has had extensive experience in infection prevention and control in both Australia and the UK. A background in operating room practice, sterilising services, endoscopy and management of a large ambulatory surgery unit, infection control both in adults and paediatrics, in the acute sector and in primary care, led to a position as consultant health planner for a large redevelopment of a tertiary level hospital in Australia. She is a member of the Infection Prevention Society, and the Australian Infection Control Association and the Infection Control Association of Western Australia. Jackie maintains close links with practice both in the UK and Australia. Areas of research interest include the role of education in compliance with infection prevention and control practices, and the potential contribution of e-learning to the field. In addition to teaching in the UK, she also teaches in Hong Kong.

Jane Goodman-Brown
Senior Lecturer
Jane is a health visitor by background and her interests include the role of health visitors in public health, as well as health promotion theory and its links to practice. She has recently co-authored a chapter exploring how theory can help practitioners develop their practice. She has current experience of teaching health promotion in Hong Kong. She is the external examiner for the Public Health Nursing course at Bolton University. Jane retains her links with health visiting and nursing practice through her role as a link lecturer to local Primary Health Care Teams.

Hamed Adetunji
Programme Leader, Public Health
Hamed is an experienced public health and infectious diseases epidemiologist. He is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health. His current research areas include; occupational health risks from exposure to nano-particulates in photocopier machines and enquiry into students’ health behaviours and wellbeing (multi-centre cross-sectional studies). He has just finished writing five book chapters; three for SAGE in the key concepts in Public Health and two for Palgrave in Research for Health and Social Care.
Specific entry requirements

You will need to demonstrate that you are able to fulﬁll the objectives of the course and achieve the standard required for the award.

To do this, you need to be computer literate and be able to use the internet. If you do not have a PC and internet facilities, you will be expected to attend the university during your personal study time to use the university’s facilities.

Admission processes are guided by the university’s Admission and Equal Opportunities policies.

Applicants should:

- Hold a UK or overseas degree from a recognised institution or be able to demonstrate their ability to study at postgraduate level.
- Be a registered Health Care or Public Health professional with a current registration acceptable to the relevant UK professional body.
- Have a minimum of one year’s post-qualifying experience.
- Provide copies of Higher Education certiﬁcates together with your English Language certiﬁcate if English is not your ﬁrst language. The certiﬁcate must have one of the following:
  - British Council IELTS: level 6.5 or above.
  - TOEFL score of 600 or above for the paper-based test or 250 or above for the computer-based test.
  - Cambridge Certiﬁcate of Proficiency of English: grade A or B.
  - O-level or GCSE English Language Certiﬁcate: grade A or B.
  - Oxford Brookes University English Language Level 4 – pass.

OR

- for details of an equivalent qualiﬁcation acceptable to the university, visit our website: www.brookes.ac.uk/international/courses/postgraduate/apply

Course fees

Funding arrangements vary across the UK. Oxford Brookes University has a contract with the South Central Strategic Health Authority (covering the geographical areas of Oxfordshire, Berkshire (East and West) and Buckinghamshire), and the South West Strategic Health Authority (covering Swindon and Wiltshire). In these areas it may, therefore, be possible to receive funding for this course from your NHS employer. International applicants should contact the Programme Administrator, see ‘How to apply’ for more information. International applicants who are offered a place on the course will be asked to pay a deposit of £1,000 to secure a place on the course.

How to apply

If you would like an application form or more information about the course, please contact the Programme Administrator. When you submit your application form, you will be required to forward all the necessary documents such as references – please see the application pack where you will find a ‘checklist of required documents’.

Applications are dealt with on a ﬁrst come, ﬁrst served basis. Please act early to avoid disappointment. For general information about the school, visit our website: http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk

Why study at Oxford Brookes?

- Oxford Brookes University continues to improve its position in the league tables due to good graduate prospects and strong student satisfaction ratings (The Times Good University Guide 2010).
- Oxford Brookes has been judged one of the greenest universities in the country – according to the student campaigning group, People & Planet as detailed in the Times Higher Education supplement.
- We have a large and dedicated building in Oxford (Marston Road) and a campus in Swindon (Ferndale), Wiltshire equipped with state-of-the-art classroom and clinical skills simulation suites and resources. To view our online picture gallery, go to: http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/picture-gallery
- We have our own osteopathic clinics: Mill Court in Headington, Oxford and at Ferndale Campus in Swindon offering a full range of osteopathic treatments to University students, staﬀ, NHS staﬀ and the general public: http://shsc.brookes.ac.uk/osteoclinics
- Our courses are open to a wide range of health and social care professionals providing highly ﬂexible continuing professional development (CPD) study opportunities with part-time, full-time and mixed mode options (including increasing opportunities for e-learning, blended and distance learning).
- The school supports multi and interprofessional learning and teaching, and many of our courses are either fully multiprofessional or offer excellent opportunities for shared learning.
- Our lecturers are experienced in their specialist practice area and maintain excellent practice links with those areas locally or across the region.
- Many of our lecturers have reputations for excellence and have established links with colleagues, organisations and institutions at national and international level.
- The school has a strong research proﬁle, with experienced researchers working in established areas of cancer care, children and families, drug and alcohol, physical rehabilitation and employment and interprofessional education & collaborative practice.
- Oxford Brookes is rated internationally excellent across a broad range of subjects in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 70% of our research in Allied Health Professions and Studies was rated as being of international signiﬁcance in the 2008, and of this, 10% was rated as world-leading.
- Oxford Brookes is a student centred institution that is fully committed to each individual achieving their potential. To support this, both the school and the university offer a broad range of student support schemes to facilitate learning and development: www.brookes.ac.uk/studying/brookeslife/support

The school has been awarded the highest commendation possible, for all its programmes and courses, by the Quality Assurance Agency, following their Major Review of the school’s educational provision in 2005.
- We have an excellent track record of high levels of student satisfaction, low student attrition rates and high employability.