



# DIPLOMA IN CLINICAL DERMATOLOGY AND MSc IN CLINICAL DERMATOLOGY

## COURSE INFORMATION

This document gives details of the Diploma in Clinical Dermatology and MSc in Clinical Dermatology courses.

It is possible to apply for:

1. The **Diploma in Clinical Dermatology course**. This commences at the beginning of October and has a duration of 9 months.
2. The **MSc course** which commences in July. This course consists of the Diploma in Clinical Dermatology course (as above) and in addition a further three months study in Cardiff. Candidates who have passed the Diploma in Clinical Dermatology will be able to progress to the MSc course.

## DIPLOMA IN CLINICAL DERMATOLOGY

### INTRODUCTION

The Diploma in Clinical Dermatology course is designed for medical practitioners who wish to specialise in dermatology, after completing at least two years general medical experience. The course is a full time taught programme lasting one academic year. The course is suitable for overseas medical graduates in particular but is also appropriate as an additional course to contribute to any dermatology specialist training programme.

### THE COURSE

The course is designed to give a firm grounding in the fundamentals of modern British dermatology. It gives priority to clinical instruction, but also emphasises the scientific content of dermatology. It therefore gives prominence to the following topics:

- Skin histopathology.
- Clinical immunology as applied to dermatology.
- Microbiology of the skin.
- Photobiology.
- Skin surgical techniques.
- Newer diagnostic techniques.
- Research methods in dermatology.
- Cosmetic dermatology.

### **Other major topics covered include:**

- The relationships between the skin and internal disorders.
- Socio-economic and psychological consequences of skin disease.
- Pharmacology and the skin, and principles of treatment of skin disease.
- Tropical dermatology.
- Cutaneous aspects of sexually transmitted disease.
- Contact dermatitis.

#### **1. CLINICAL INSTRUCTION:**

- a) Regular dermatology clinics. Attendance at general outpatient dermatology clinics with teaching.
- b) Clinical tutorials. These are detailed clinical teaching sessions related to patients with specific interesting conditions.
- c) Regular clinical lectures and clinical slide tutorials. A very wide range of clinical topics are lectured on. Lecture titles include:  
Acne, benign skin tumours, bullous diseases, collagen-vascular disease, cosmetics and the skin, dermatitis herpetiformis, diseases of the oral mucosa, disorders of keratinisation, disorders of pigmentation, ectoparasites and the skin, eczema, erythema multiforme, genetics and the skin, hair disorders, hidradenitis suppurativa, lichen planus, melanoma clinical aspects and epidemiology, mycosis fungoides, nail disorders, nursing treatment in dermatology, paediatric dermatology, panniculitis and amyloidosis, porphyrias, pregnancy rashes, primary care dermatology, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, pyoderma gangrenosum, rosacea, sarcoidosis, skin disease in the newborn, toxic epidermal necrolysis, tuberous sclerosis, urticaria.
- d) Dermatology Day Treatment Unit. Each student is personally allocated to the dermatology day treatment unit for two weeks for practical clinical experience.

#### **2. PATHOLOGY OF THE SKIN:**

Regular pathology seminars and lectures are held. Teaching on this part of the course includes:

Pattern recognition, artefacts, principles of pathological diagnosis, inflammatory changes in the skin, the range of epidermal reactions, benign tumours, malignant tumours, reticuloses, metabolic and degenerative disorders, bullous disorders.

#### **3. ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND BIOCHEMISTRY OF THE SKIN:**

This is based on a course of lectures which cover the following topics:

Epidermis and stratum corneum, dermis, blood supply to the skin, nerve supply to the skin, hair follicles, sebaceous glands, apocrine and eccrine sweat glands, keratinization, epidermopoiesis, sweat secretion, hair cycle, pigmentation, collagen synthesis, cells of the dermis, wound healing, regional anatomy, ageing of the skin.

#### **4. CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY AND THE SKIN:**

This topic is taught through a course of lectures covering:

Immunological principles, allergy, manifestations of immune reactions in the skin, investigation of immune status, testing for delayed hypersensitivity, testing for immediate hypersensitivity, immunofluorescence diagnosis, skin signs of the immunocompromised patient.

5. **MICROBIOLOGY OF THE SKIN:**

This topic is taught through a series of lectures which cover the following topics:

Normal skin flora, microbiological techniques, mycological principles, bacterial disease of the skin, viral disease of the skin, fungal disease of the skin, chemotherapeutic agents.

6. **PHOTOBIOLOGY:**

This topic is taught through a series of demonstrations of the determination of minimal erythema dose and use of PUVA apparatus, and a series of lectures which include the following topics:

Principles, skin disorders caused by or aggravated by light exposure, investigation of patients with photodermatoses, photochemotherapy and phototherapy, protection from sun.

7. **PRINCIPLES OF TREATMENT OF SKIN DISEASE  
& PHARMACOLOGY OF THE SKIN:**

This topic is taught through a series of lectures which cover the following topics:

Mediators of inflammation, anti-inflammatory agents, antimetabolic agents, immunomodulators, modulators of keratinization, symptomatic treatments, principles of treatment with topical and systemic applications, radiotherapy.

8. **SOCIO-ECONOMIC PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF SKIN DISEASE:**

Lectures on this topic cover:

Epidemiology of skin disease, the social and psychological consequences to the individual of persistent skin disease, the manifestations in the skin of psychiatric disease, economic cost to the community of skin disease.

9. **SURGICAL PRINCIPLES AND THE SKIN:**

A short practical course on general surgical procedures has been organised. This course includes practical demonstrations with hands-on sessions in relevant surgical techniques.

10. **COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY:**

This is a new addition to the programme and includes lectures on cosmetic formulations, lasers in dermatology, facial peels and procedures such as botox for wrinkles and collagen injections. Practical demonstrations are included wherever possible.

11. **TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY:**

A series of lectures from visiting lecturers provide a basic grounding in tropical dermatology. Subjects covered include:

Leprosy, leishmaniasis, tropical fungal infections, tropical ulcer, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis.

12. **GENITO-URINARY DERMATOLOGY:**

A clinical attachment to a genito-urinary clinic is arranged, and there is a series of lectures throughout the course. All aspects of genito-urinary medicine related to dermatology, including AIDS, are introduced.

13. **CONTACT DERMATITIS:**

Lectures are given by local and visiting lecturers. In addition there is a clinical attachment to the contact dermatitis clinic.

14. **JOURNAL ANALYSIS:**

A series of journal analysis sessions are held. All students contribute journal article presentations to this in order to gain expertise in critical evaluation of published work. In addition, students each give a short presentation at a "Dermatology in my Country" forum.

15. **DEPARTMENTAL MEETINGS:**

Students attend all regular major departmental meetings for further clinical instruction.

16. **GENERAL MEDICAL MEETINGS:**

Students are encouraged to attend the weekly grand rounds of the University Hospital of Wales.

17. **VISITS TO OTHER CENTRES:**

Day visits to other dermatology centres are arranged. In recent years Oxford, Swansea, Newport, Bath, Birmingham, Gloucester, Swindon and Bridgend have been visited for clinical instruction and lectures from local experts.

**New additions to the programme include:**

1. **COLLABORATIVE LEARNING**

In recognition of the value of learning from fellow students and other colleagues a number of group activities to encourage a more interactive and problem based approach to learning have been included in the programme.

2. **COMMUNICATION COURSE**

A professional communication course has now been added into the initiation week of the programme. This course is helpful in preparing students for their patient consultations both during the course and after in their own practice. The course is run by a communication consultant and includes a team of actors to make the scenarios as real as possible.

3. **COURSE WEBSITE**

The entire course is managed through a modern interactive website which makes communication between students and administrators much more efficient. Many course resources are available through this site.

**THE LECTURER FACULTY**

Over 35 visiting lecturers, including many very eminent and internationally known British dermatologists, come to the department as visiting lecturers on the course. There are more than 75 different lecturers who teach on the course.

**SELECTION COMMITTEE**

This course is popular and we receive more applications than we have places to offer. All applications are carefully considered by the selection committee. There is a limit on the total number of students accepted each year in order to maintain high standards of personal teaching. It is therefore essential to apply well in advance, as time is needed for receiving referee reports and for the selection process. Applicants are required to produce evidence of their qualifications and general suitability. It is in your interest to reply promptly to any communication received concerning your application.

## **GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS AND EXAMINATION**

The Diploma Course is based on a programme of one academic year starting in October each year. This full time programme of study consists of three academic terms with the University vacations of 3 - 4 weeks during December/January and during March/April.

In course assessment is carried out during the course in which group activities, a short clinical review and clinical performance is assessed.

The examinations and end of course are in June. The last week of the course is devoted to four days of examinations. The examination consists of clinical and written segments and is conducted by both internal and external examiners.

# **MSc IN CLINICAL DERMATOLOGY**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The MSc in Clinical Dermatology course is a full-time partially taught programme designed for individuals who are qualified in medicine and who wish to specialise in dermatology. Applicants are required to produce evidence of their qualifications and general suitability. The course is suitable for both international and British medical graduates.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR ENROLMENT**

1. The candidate must be qualified in medicine and have had at least two years general medical experience.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETING FINAL 3 MONTHS OF MSc COURSE**

2. All candidates who have passed the Diploma in Clinical Dermatology will be allowed to progress to the MSc course.
3. Current regulations require that the Diploma in Clinical Dermatology has been awarded within the three calendar years immediately preceding starting the MSc course.

## **THE COURSE**

The MSc course is designed for individuals who have recently successfully completed the Diploma in Clinical Dermatology course at the School of Medicine, Cardiff University. The final part of the course is of three months duration commencing at the beginning of July. The course consists of a dissertation element as detailed below.

## **DISSERTATION ELEMENT**

The dissertation consists of a detailed review of a subject area. The dissertation element will comprise of a thesis **no longer than 20,000 words**. The topic for the thesis will be discussed with the candidates near the start of the course. The Department will try to make these topics as relevant to the students' background and career aims as possible. The thesis will describe the background of the topic with appropriate scholarship. A short 'Research Planning Module' will be included in which students will be required to design a short study based on their review of the literature. The student **WILL NOT** be required to carry out the study only to design and describe it.

In addition to this, MSc students actively participate in all major departmental meetings and all local and regional dermatology society activities held at the School of Medicine, Cardiff University. MSc students are also encouraged to attend the weekly Grand Rounds of the University Hospital of Wales.

## **EXAMINATION**

There is a Viva Voce Examination on the dissertation following its submission and marking. This is usually held in November.

The MSc in Clinical Dermatology is awarded to those candidates who have reached a satisfactory standard in both the dissertation and the formal viva voce examination.

A distinction may be awarded, at the examiners' discretion, to candidates who have achieved a high level of performance in both the formal examination and the dissertation.

## **COURSE FEES**

The 2007-2008 fees are £13,000 (UK pounds sterling) for the Diploma in Clinical Dermatology and an additional £5,500 for the MSc in Clinical Dermatology. The course fees may increase slightly each year. Candidates are required to pay a non-returnable deposit (subject to the discretion of the College Authorities) of £1,500 (UK pounds sterling), payable immediately on acceptance of a place offered; the balance being payable at the start of the course. Places on the course cannot be secured until deposits are received. The same fees are payable by all students, whatever their place of residence. The Diploma and MSc can only be awarded if all fees relating to the course and examination have been paid in full, prior to the examination.

**For an application pack or further information on our courses please visit our website [www.dermatology.org.uk](http://www.dermatology.org.uk) or contact;**

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