

Medical Science (Clinical Audit)

PG Certificate, PG Diploma, MMedSci
 Part-time (PGC typically 1 year)

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Introduction

The one year, part time Postgraduate Certificate offers an exciting opportunity for those working within clinical audit to pursue a taught postgraduate qualification. The overall aim of the course is to improve the quality and effectiveness of clinical audit projects and programmes and to support the professional development of those working in clinical audit – whether at clinical or non-clinical level.

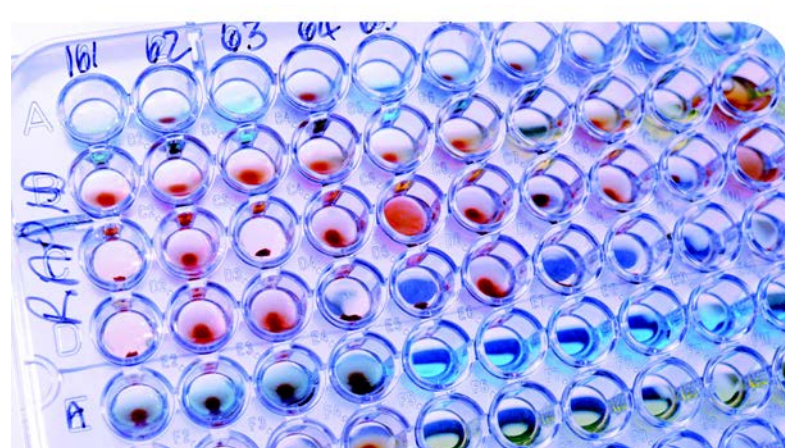
Entry Requirements

The programme is designed for graduate (or equivalent) professionals currently engaged in clinical audit. A clinical qualification is not necessary for entry to this course and it is expected that students will be drawn from a range of different roles. Entry routes will be flexible and have been designed to recognise appropriate prior experience. Please contact the School for detailed information and to check whether your own experience and professional development is appropriate for entry.

Aims of the Course

The programme will:

- explore clinical audit within wider health policy and regulatory contexts
- promote greater understanding of governance, quality, assurance and the management of risk within and between healthcare organisations
- equip students with an appreciation of system design, thereby enabling the critical review of clinical audit frameworks
- develop practical skills in clinical audit
- provide masterclasses in effective leadership, change management, communication and negotiation skills
- enable participants to effectively engage and motivate others so as to bring about change and improvement
- actively support the development of clinical audit within the NHS (or other, health-related organisations)





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Course Structure and Content *Details correct at time of printing*

The PG Certificate requires successful completion of four, 15 credit modules. The modules are:

- Governance and Assurance in Healthcare
- Realising the Potential of Clinical Audit
- Managing Change and Quality Improvement
- Clinical Audit In Practice: Extended Project

The programme will normally be available part time, over one year. However, it may be possible for students to take the PG Certificate over two years, by agreement. A variety of teaching methods will be used in both the face-to-face and online elements of the course. In addition to lectures, presentations and tutor-led discussion, there will be opportunities for students to undertake group exercises as well as complete an extended project relevant to their own role.

Course Modules

Induction Session (including Study Skills and an Introduction to the University e-learning system)

Module One: Governance and Assurance in Healthcare

This module will enable participants to critically consider the governance requirements and regulatory frameworks which apply to healthcare organisations and within this the role and value of clinical audit as a source of assurance. The key focus will be on governance and healthcare in the UK, although the module will draw on developments in other sectors / countries as these have influenced the requirements placed on healthcare organisations in the United Kingdom.

Core topics include:

- Understanding the NHS: roles, responsibilities and relationships
- What is Governance and why does it matter?
- Governance, Risk, & Assurance within the NHS
- Assuring the Quality of Care: The Pivotal Role of Clinical Audit

Module Two: Realising the Potential of Clinical Audit

This module considers what constitutes robust clinical audit (at both strategy, programme and project level) and explores the value of clinical audit at all levels of an organisation - locating this within the wider quality framework for an organisation/clinical team. The module also provides an opportunity for students to critically review the key stages within the clinical audit cycle, develop their skills in planning and undertaking audits and identify the key challenges involved in managing clinical audit projects and programmes.

Module Three: Managing Change and Quality Improvement

All healthcare organisations are dependent on their staff, so how do you get the best from them? This module explores the core concepts associated with change so as to enable students to effectively manage the behavioural and organisational issues associated with audit and quality

improvement programmes. The aim is for students to develop strategies and actions that contribute to the successful delivery of sustainable change across professional, functional and hierarchical boundaries.

Module Four: Clinical Audit In Practice: Extended Project

This module requires students to bring together the knowledge and skills from earlier in their programme of study and to purposefully apply these in a well researched, extended project. Students will be required to critically examine a self-chosen empirical issue or, preferably, a specific work-related problem and develop a related action plan.

Assessment

The Postgraduate Certificate is assessed through coursework. This will involve completion of individual and group exercises together with submission of a formal assignment at the end of each module.

There will be a choice of assignment subjects for each module and assignment titles, submission deadlines and reading lists will be supplied at the start of the course.

Further Study

The PG Certificate in Medical Science (Clinical Audit) provides a bespoke introduction to clinical audit at postgraduate level and is a qualification in its own right. However, should students wish to continue their studies, the course has been designed to act as a precursor to further academic study at Keele University and other institutions. Students who successfully complete the PGCert can, for example, progress onto the Diploma or Masters in Medical Science within the Faculty of Health at Keele.

Course Fees

£438 per 15 credit module (may be subject to change)

Application Procedure

PLEASE CONTACT DEBBIE PADDISON IN THE FIRST INSTANCE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS COURSE / TO FIND OUT ABOUT BURSARIES (Please Note: Bursaries awarded by competitive application)

Email: d.paddison@pmed.keele.ac.uk

Tel: (01782) (6)72694

Details of application procedures are given on the postgraduate website at www.keele.ac.uk/postgraduate. If you are unable to access this then an application form and the Postgraduate Prospectus can be requested via email, telephone or post:

Or contact The University's Postgraduate Office