

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024-25: PGCert in Paediatric Infectious Diseases



Course facts

Mode of study	Part Time Online Only
Expected length	12 months

About the course

The Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in Paediatric Infectious Diseases is a part-time, online course directing students through the syllabus required in Europe for clinical training in the subspecialty. The course is appropriate for both those in the UK and Overseas.

Worldwide, two-thirds of the deaths of children under five years of age are caused by infectious diseases, and the prevention and treatment of infections in children is the number one priority for global health. Thus, the department believes that professionally-oriented education in paediatric infectious diseases is essential in the training of clinicians and clinical academics who will provide the future leadership in this key area for global health.

The Postgraduate Certificate is a one-year, part-time course taught primarily online providing you with an in-depth understanding of both the theoretical and practical aspects of paediatric infection. It also places the practice of paediatric infectious diseases in the broader context of applied sciences, such as pathogenesis, population biology and epidemiology.

The course will appeal to doctors who have experience in paediatrics, including trainees in paediatrics who have an interest in specialist knowledge in the field of paediatric infectious diseases, for example those training for the RCPCH paediatric infectious diseases special interest (SPIN) module. It is also suitable for GPs with an interest in paediatric infectious diseases.

The syllabus covers the following modules:

- Infectious Syndromes
- Diagnostics, Therapeutics, Infection Control and Prevention
- Important Viral Infections

The majority of the teaching takes place online through a virtual learning environment (VLE), with online teaching discussions, interaction with tutors and other students, and access to an extensive resource library. Tutors will lead online discussions of the syllabus topics during timetabled weeks (on average eight to eleven weeks per module) which will be followed by study weeks to allow you to carry out self-directed study. This enables students from around the world to participate in the programme.

In addition to the online teaching, you are required to attend the Infection and Immunity in Children (IIC) Conference which takes place in Oxford each year. You are also strongly encouraged to participate in the PentaTr@ining: 'HIV & Other Congenital Infections' course which consists of an online modular component and a three-day residential in Rome. The PentaTr@ining course takes place every other year.

The course is a result of a close collaboration between the University of Oxford Department of Paediatrics and the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID).

The international panel of tutors is led by Sir Andrew Pollard, Professor of Paediatric Infection and Immunity at the University of Oxford, and Honorary Consultant Paediatrician at the Children's Hospital, Oxford.

Students who successfully complete the PGCert in Paediatric Infectious Diseases may choose to go on to complete a postgraduate diploma by applying for the second year of the course.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department of Paediatrics. It is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. A supervisor is often found outside the department.

It is down to the student and supervisor to agree the details of how regularly they will be in touch, depending on the needs of the student.

The role of the supervisor is to offer guidance with your assignments, particularly with regard to topics and general direction. Students are responsible for contacting their supervisor; please ensure you contact them early on and not too close to the

deadline of your assignment. Please be aware supervisors are not expected to proof-read assignments or undertake research for you.

Assessment

To complete the PGCert in Paediatric Infectious Diseases you will need to complete:

- two 4,000-word written assignments. These assignments will be based on the modules taught in Michaelmas and Hilary term (Infectious Syndromes and Diagnostics, Therapeutics, Infection Control and Prevention) and will be due at the end of each respective term; and
- one examination at the end of the year, consisting of single-best answer (SBA) questions covering the modules taught in that year.

Each of the summative assessments (two written assignments and one SBA exam) make up a third of the overall mark for the PGCert.

You are also required to attend the annual IIC Conference in Oxford. You are strongly encouraged to participate in the monthly ESPID Online Case Rounds, as well as attend the bi-annual PentaTr@ining: 'HIV & Other Congenital Infections' course, and complete the Self-Assessment Questions (SAQ's) during the course of the certificate. You will have the opportunity to deliver a five-minute oral presentation to tutors, assessors and fellow peers, which is strongly encouraged.

Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after you commence your course. These might include significant changes made necessary by any pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2024-25

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£8,390
Overseas	£8,390

Information about course fees

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>).

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Additional cost information

This course requires participation in one instance of the Infection and Immunity in Children (IIC) conference in Oxford, an internationally known residential course run jointly by the University of Oxford and the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID). The IIC registration fee is included in the annual course fee on the University of Oxford Postgraduate Certificate in Paediatric Infectious Diseases, however students will still need to meet their own travel and accommodation costs in attending this course. Students are encouraged to become members of ESPID as they may be eligible for a discount towards IIC travel and accommodation costs.

In addition to fees and living costs, students will require their own laptop and internet access. As this is an online course, it is advisable for all applicants to have reliable internet access. Many of our students will have reliable internet access in the workplace, but the course is designed to be accessible even in low bandwidth settings. We limit the number of synchronous elements in the course, to ensure maximum flexibility. All elements of the course will be downloadable so that students can work offline if necessary. They can then log in at various points each week to upload work and keep abreast of discussions, using Canvas, Zoom and VoiceThread to help ensure students can stay connected and engaged.