

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023-24: PGDip in Paediatric Infectious Diseases

About the course

The Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Paediatric Infectious Diseases is a part-time 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 Diploma is a two-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 a specialist qualification equivalent to the Membership Examination of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (MRCPCH), specialist trainees in paediatric infectious diseases or relevant medical subspecialties, and clinical research fellows. It will provide in-depth knowledge and is aimed at those working in specialist PID centres.

The syllabus covers the following modules:

- Infectious Syndromes
- Diagnostics, Therapeutics, Infection Control and Prevention
- Important Viral Infections
- Immunology
- Tropical Paediatrics and Tuberculosis
- Neonatal 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 modules 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 also required during the two years on course to attend two Infection and Immunity in Children (IIC) residential conferences held annually in Oxford. 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 3-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, the Department for Continuing Education and the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID).

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

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department for Continuing Education and/or 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

Year 1

- Two 4,000-word written assignments based on the modules taught in Michaelmas and Hilary term, and an examination consisting of multiple-choice questions taken from the modules covered in the first year
- You will have the opportunity to deliver a 5-minute oral presentation to tutors, assessors and fellow peers during Year 1, which is strongly encouraged usually before or after the IIC conference.

Year 2

- Two 4,000-word written assignments based on the modules taught in Michaelmas and Hilary term, and an examination consisting of multiple-choice questions taken from the modules covered in the second year.

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 two-years on course as part of exam preparation. Students with an interest in paediatric mycology are also encouraged to participate in the PentaTr@ining: 'Fungal Infections in Paediatrics' course.

Each of the summative assessments – the written assignments and the MCQ Exams – contribute equally to the final mark achieved for the PGDip.

Changes to courses

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 registration. These may include significant changes made necessary by a pandemic (including Covid-19), 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>).

Expected length of course

	Part Time Only
Expected length	2 years

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2023-24

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£7,635
Overseas	£7,635

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 two instances of the Infection and Immunity in Children (IIC) course 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 course fee is approximately £640 to £1000 for each instance, depending on membership and Earlybird discount, however enrolled students on the University of Oxford Postgraduate Diploma in Paediatric Infectious Diseases can apply for a bursary towards the course fees. You will also need to meet your own travel and accommodation costs in attending this course.

The Department for Continuing Education offers a contribution towards these costs to Home students in the form of a reduction in the annual tuition fee of £1,250 per annum. 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.