



University of Glasgow | Faculty of Medicine

Nursing & Health Care

Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy

Supported by



Introduction

The Medical Faculty-based Division of Nursing and Health Care at the University of Glasgow offers a comprehensive range of educational opportunities for healthcare chaplains and other health professionals to develop knowledge and skills in spiritual and religious care in healthcare. The aim is to prepare practitioners to various levels of clinical expertise and academic ability to meet their specific needs for professional development. The Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy is a programme of three courses on offer within Nursing & Health Care. The courses form part of the MSc. (Med Sci) in Health Care programme that students may choose to pursue. Details of all courses can be found online at <http://www.gla.ac.uk/nursing/>

Background

Healthcare chaplaincy in the UK is working towards registration as a healthcare profession. The publication of standards for NHSScotland Chaplaincy Services and Spiritual and Religious Care Capabilities and Competencies for Healthcare Chaplains together with the creation of the UK Board of Healthcare Chaplaincy (UKBHC) are building blocks in the process. In supporting the journey towards professional registration NHS Education for Scotland (NES) has been working to promote chaplaincy education and safe practice which will be key components for registration.

The University of Glasgow Healthcare Chaplaincy Programme has been developed with the support of NES and is a recognised qualification for professional registration with the UKBHC. The course enables students to evidence the NES Spiritual and Religious Care Capabilities and Competences for Healthcare Chaplains (NES 2008) and safe practice and is registered with the UKBHC for CPD points.

Located within the Medical Faculty-based Department of Nursing and Health Care the programme offers prospective and existing healthcare chaplains the opportunity to engage in

multidisciplinary education to develop their academic ability, reflective practice and clinical expertise to meet their needs for continuing professional development.

The programme has been designed at M level and offers the opportunity to progress to Postgraduate Diploma and Masters Degree by completing further courses from within the MSc. in Health Care Programme.

The PG Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy aims to:

- Critically appraise the evidence base for spiritual and religious care practice;
- Develop knowledge and understanding of healthcare chaplaincy practice;
- Enable the development of academic foundations to support the delivery of evidence based care;
- Equip students to engage in the advancement of healthcare chaplaincy;
- To emerge with the capacity to be Board Registered Chaplains with the UKBHC.

Each of the three courses has a set of learning outcomes that shape the programme. Students can therefore increase their knowledge and skills as they complete the programme of study. The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate areas of knowledge and understanding, particular skills, qualities and attributes. Here is an example from each course:

Providing Spiritual and Religious Care in Healthcare: With reference to the main world faith groups develop an understanding and assessment of the spiritual and religious needs of patients, carers and staff.

Professional Practice in Spiritual and Religious Care: Through reflection on their own beliefs and practice students will consider issues of safe practice in spiritual and religious care and the impact of caring for others with differing beliefs and values.

Promoting Specialist/Advanced Practice: Working with an experienced mentor students will prepare a portfolio based learning and education plan to develop higher levels of practice and evidence safe and competent practice as a healthcare chaplain.

Accreditation

The educational level is based at M level postgraduate learning (equivalent to SCQF level 11, QCA level 4). Students are awarded academic accreditation of 20 credits for each course they successfully complete. On successful completion of all three courses on the programme students are awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy.

The delivery and development of the programme is monitored by a multidisciplinary programme board in Nursing and Health Care.

Entry requirements for the PG Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy

All students are required to meet the university criteria for undertaking postgraduate study, usually a first degree. Candidates for the Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy must also be in a healthcare chaplaincy post or an arranged voluntary placement as a healthcare chaplain for the duration of the programme. Placements should be discussed with the programme leader.

Applications for study are accepted throughout the year.

Programme Structure

The three compulsory courses for the Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy are shown in the diagram below. Each course is accredited at 20 Credits (M Level, SCQF 11, QCA 4) and students normally study over a 12 week period.



Providing Spiritual and Religious Care in Healthcare: this course aims to develop students understanding and assessment of the spiritual and religious needs of patients, carers and staff with reference to the main world faith and belief groups. Through reflection on personal communication skills in pastoral encounters and reflective practice students will be encouraged to critically evaluate their practice and the local and national procedures and protocols for spiritual and religious care services.

Professional Practice in Spiritual and Religious Care: Through reflection on their own beliefs and practice students will consider issues of safe practice and education in spiritual and religious care and the impact of caring for others with differing beliefs and values. The course enables students to consider their personal practice within the context of the wider healthcare team as a resource and in providing support.

Promoting Specialist/Advanced Practice: this course runs across two semesters and introduces strategies to facilitate self directed professional and personal development and the integration of theory and practice. Working with an experienced mentor students will prepare a portfolio based learning and education plan to develop higher levels of practice and evidence safe and competent practice as a healthcare chaplain.

Students can choose to study one, two or three courses in any one year. To gain the Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy all three courses must be completed within 5 years. Students intending to progress to the PG Diploma or MSc. (MedSci) in Healthcare (Chaplaincy) should note that all courses require to be completed within the same 5 year period.

Learning Methods

Blended learning: The blended learning approach uses a limited number of study days supported by on-line distance learning. Students may choose to work from home or from work with employers' agreement.

Study days normally 2 per course provide an opportunity to meet face to face with students and staff and to engage with experts in the field of spiritual and religious care. The on-line learning enables students to complete the learning materials from work or home. The **online** components of the course are taught using the University's virtual learning environment - **Moodle**. You will require regular use of a computer with internet access.

Through Moodle each course will have a common format and include guided reading, resources, formative activities and student communication. The University of Glasgow's Virtual Learning environment, Moodle is maintained by a team of technical and academic staff who provide support to the programme leader and students.

There is a common Moodle site for all students containing learning support space, an introduction to research and critical appraisal, and Nursing and Health Care student resources. All Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy students are encouraged to access this common site.

Multidisciplinary learning: The chaplaincy courses are available as optional modules for all students within the MSc in Health Care Programme. While chaplains will focus on the learning materials from their professional perspective other health professionals will bring their own insight and experiences. The multidisciplinary nature of the courses allows chaplains to study alongside the health professions they work with day to day. Multidisciplinary learning engenders informed discussions that give professionals a more in-depth understanding of each other's skills and expertise.

Placements

It is a requirement of the course that students will be in a chaplaincy post (full time or part time) or undertake a voluntary placement as a chaplain in a healthcare setting. All students will have a mentor (supervising chaplain) who should be a Board Registered Chaplain with the UK Board of Healthcare Chaplaincy and be approved by the University of Glasgow.

Assessment

All courses include a variety of formative assessments to support students to develop learning, critical thinking and writing skills prior to submitting a summative assessment. These include critical appraisal, audio taped interviews and presentations. By completing these formative assessments students will be supported to complete the summative assessment. Feedback for formative assessment will be through peer assessment, self assessment, and comments from the course leader. The feedback will inform them about progress and demonstrate areas of weakness and strength.

The summative assessment for the Providing Spiritual and Religious Care in Healthcare and Professional Practice in Spiritual and Religious Care in Healthcare courses is a 2,500 word assignment to demonstrate critical appraisal and application of the key concepts studied. The assignment will include evidence gained from the online activities completed throughout the course. The Promoting Specialist/ Advanced Practice course is assessed by portfolio. The portfolio provides a collection of evidence to demonstrate what has been learned and how it

has been incorporated into practice. The evidence includes concept maps, an education plan and a 2,500 word reflective summary.

The course leader is available to support all students throughout their time of study.

Further study

On successful completion of the 60 credit Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy students can continue to study within the MSc (Med Sci) in Health Care programme. Possible Exit Awards and Opportunities include:

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Care (Chaplaincy): Successful completion of the three chaplaincy courses, the 40 credit research methods course and one 20 credit optional course from within the MSc (Med Sci) in Health Care programme will enable students to graduate with a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Care (Chaplaincy) (120 credits at M Level).

MSc (Med Sci) in Health Care (Chaplaincy): Successful completion of the three chaplaincy courses, the 40 credit research methods course and one 20 credit optional course from within the MSc (Med Sci) in Health Care programme will enable student to progress to the Masters programme and complete a 60 credit research project or work based learning project. Successful completion of the 180 credits at M Level will enable students to graduate with a MSc (Med Sci) in Health Care (Chaplaincy).

In Summary

Healthcare chaplaincy has a longstanding recognised place in healthcare. NES, the professional chaplaincy organisations and the UK Board of Healthcare Chaplaincy are seeking recognition as a registered healthcare profession. The Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy has been commissioned as part of that process and is the first of its kind in Scotland.

By undertaking this programme of study existing and prospective healthcare chaplains will be enabled to develop their knowledge, skills and practice founded on critical appraisal, supervised experience and reflective practice to support their development as a Board Registered Chaplain and as a resource for the education and provision of spiritual and religious care within the wider healthcare team.

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