

Innovative, part-time postgraduate degree developed in conjunction with the NHS, designed to equip health care professionals with a repertoire of skills necessary to lead innovative practice in infection control.

Infection control continues to be a growing concern amongst health care organisations, professionals and the wider public. Fundamental to this programme is the belief that the provision of health care, at a level of excellence which the public rightly expects and requires from individual practitioners, depends on a commitment to learning as the primary method of developing and enhancing standards of infection control research and practice in all clinical situations.

The programme aims to help students to develop critical approaches to the challenges and complexities facing modern health care practice and to be proactive in their infection control practice. Students will develop a positive, evaluative approach to infection control research and innovation, which is necessary for progressive, evidence based infection control and sound patient care.

The multi-professional nature of infection control is reflected in the programme, and students will recognise the value of personal and professional co-operation in both practice and learning situations. Collaborative working and partnership is imperative for clinically effective patient care and the development of infection control research and practice.

With these beliefs about infection control research, practice and education, graduates of this programme will be motivated to strive for the highest standards of care for patients and clients. They will be equipped to adopt a constructively critical approach in their personal and professional life.

### How is this programme different?

Infection Control is an area of applied research that is relatively new, and therefore the mandate to translate research into practice through education and learning and through policy and procedure development is imperative. This innovative course will enable students to achieve this. Three inter-related activities are necessary to improve patient outcomes related to infection control:

### Service management

(i.e. surveillance, clinical governance, outbreak investigation, planning and consultation).

### Education and Research

This programme will provide education and learning that reflect the multiple skills needed to meet the demands of infection control in an ever evolving health care environment.

### Structure

Part-time, two years of one study day per week, followed by the dissertation year.

The course commences in early October 2007. Teaching sessions will take place at St David's Park, Carmarthen. It is a new building with excellent facilities including a full compliment of newly refurbished, high quality lecture, seminar and clinical suites to meet all practice needs. The new site also offers a large IT suite with 50 pc's with full technical support, and a comfortable, well-equipped student common room. Good library facilities are available, with a dedicated health science librarian. St David's Park is easily accessible and just 5 minutes from Carmarthen town centre.

### Content

#### Part 1 - years 1 and 2

#### Year 1 - (part-time, all modules are compulsory)

The first year comprises modules shared with other multi-disciplinary MSc Advanced Clinical practice students. There will be specific tutorials where students will be facilitated by infection control lecturers to apply the content of the module to this area of practice. Furthermore each student will need a mentor in practice who will also guide the student to consider aspects of learning in relation to infection control.

#### ► Clinical Portfolio 1a

The first purpose of the portfolio module is to provide a means of integrating the content of the modules of the programme into a coherent whole and to relate and apply this content to clinical practice. The second purpose is to enable students to demonstrate, through the accumulation of evidence, their achievement in their clinical practice of the M level learning outcomes described above.

#### ► Clinical Supervision

The module is designed to: a) Develop critical awareness of theoretical and organisational perspectives about clinical supervision; b) Provide experience of supervision both as a supervisee and supervisor; c) Enable practitioners to take action to secure clinical supervision for their own practice and as appropriate develop clinical supervision structures for their colleagues in their practice settings.

### ► **Research, Information and Knowledge Development**

The module builds on students' previous knowledge of research and aims to expand their knowledge and understanding of the research process and demonstrate its application to practice. Critical reading of research evidence, reviewing the literature and designing a research proposal are all key areas covered by this module.

### ► **Clinical Decision Making**

This module is designed to develop the student's ability to examine and analyse their decision-making skills and strategies in practice. The module offers a variety of models for decision making and encourages students to experiment and analyse their own practice in the light of the theory covered in the course.

### **Year 2 (part-time, all modules are compulsory)**

#### ► **Infection Control Theory**

This module will provide a broad, in-depth understanding of the theoretical principles and research that informs and underpins infection prevention and control.

The overall goal of this theory module is to facilitate self-directed individuals with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to function efficiently and effectively as practitioners in infection control and community public health. These individuals should be able to function as researchers, as well as middle managers and academic individuals in infection prevention and control within the hospital or community setting.

#### ► **Infection Control Strategy, Policy and Practice**

This innovative module provides a platform for learning, which enables qualified practitioners to develop a discriminating, critical approach to infection control practice, research, policy, management and innovation.

The module will provide a broad, in-depth understanding of the policy and strategic direction of infection control with a specific emphasis on patient care practices and innovative, progressive infection control. Research, will be utilised to inform and direct practice, policy and the management of infection prevention and control.

The overall goal of this module is to move individuals towards the position of thinking critically about the challenges and complexities facing infection control practice, be proactive and participate in the planning, management and strategic development of this aspect of

health care. It will enable practitioners to develop pertinent knowledge, managerial skills and practical skills necessary to function efficiently and effectively as practitioners in infection control and community public health.

### ► **Clinical Portfolio 1b**

The Clinical Portfolio 2 comprises Part 2 of the taught Clinical Master pathway. Students must gain an average of 50% in Part 1 to proceed to this stage of a UWS Modular Master's degree.

### **Part Two – Year 3**

#### **Dissertation:**

Students can choose to undertake a clinical portfolio or a traditional dissertation route.

#### **Clinical portfolio route:**

Students are required to demonstrate expertise in the systematic critical analysis of a specific area of clinical practice. To achieve this, students may incorporate a wide range of methodological and empirical research skills, clinical resources and clinical activities. The account should include detailed discourse on the themes of problem solving, reflection, clinical competence and interpersonal and communication skills. The portfolio must demonstrate the student's dynamic interaction with clinical practice.

#### **Traditional dissertation route:**

Students who decide to adopt the traditional dissertation route will need to adopt a subject area relating to the theory, practice and management of infection control.

Students who achieve 60 credits on the course will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate, those who achieve 120 credits will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma.

Those who complete the full programme obtaining 180 credits will receive the full award.

#### **Who should take this course?**

Much of the private study time expected of students at this level would be with a focus upon the individual's practice. Therefore, this course is appropriate for practising health care professionals, as those not currently working in a clinical area would be unable to meet the learning outcomes.

This course is aimed at qualified health care professionals who work with infection risks and communicable disease, as well as those who would like to widen their knowledge and develop their practice in infection control and public health.



### Entry requirements

An appropriate degree or its equivalent (preferably 2:2 or above) and evidence of recent academic study. Applicants also need to be registered as first level health care professionals with possession of a good professional portfolio.

Alternatively applicants are considered with at least two years experience as a first level health care professional, with possession of a good professional portfolio.

Please note that because of the clinical nature of this course, you will need to be working in clinical practice and the support of your manager is essential.

Deadline for applications - **Tuesday 31 July 2007**

### Contact us

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