



Postgraduate Prospectus

PG Certificate in
Ultrasound for
Anaesthesia and
Critical Care

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INTRODUCTION

The Postgraduate Certificate in Ultrasound for Anaesthesia and Critical Care is designed for qualified healthcare professionals seeking to develop competence and autonomy in the use of point-of-care ultrasound within perioperative, anaesthetic and critical care settings.

Grounded in MQF Level 7 standards, the programme combines academic study with extensive practical training, enabling learners to acquire advanced ultrasound skills that support rapid bedside assessment, procedural guidance and critical clinical decision-making.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No previous ultrasound experience required. Applicants must be registered medical doctors or healthcare practitioners of good professional standing and be proficient in English.

Applicants whose first language is not English may be required to provide evidence of English language proficiency through a recognised qualification such as IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge C1 or equivalent.

Link to Identity Malta's VISA requirement for third country nationals:

<https://www.identitymalta.com/unit/central-visaunit/>

PROGRAMME INFORMATION

MQF Level

Level 7

Accreditation Category

Higher Education Programme

EQF Level

Level 7

Mode of Study

Blended Learning
(60% Online / 40% In-Person)

ECTS

30 Credits

Duration

12 Months (Part Time)

Programme Type

Qualification

DESCRIPTION

The programme covers an introduction to the Fundamentals of Ultrasound Scanning and six valuable applications including:

- > Core Echocardiography and Inferior Vena Cava (IVC)
- > Intermediate Echocardiography
- > Lung Ultrasound
- > Focused Assessment for Free Fluid (FAFF)
- > Ultrasound-Guided Vascular Access and Procedural US
- > Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) Ultrasound

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Module 1

1st Semester

Ultrasound Fundamentals for Anaesthesia
and Critical Care
8 ECTS | 200 hours

Module 2

1st Semester

Clinical Module 1
11 ECTS | 275 hours

Applications:

- Core Echocardiography and IVC
- Lung Ultrasound
- Deep Vein Thrombosis US (DVT)

Module 3

2nd Semester

Clinical Module 2
11 ECTS | 275 hours

Applications:

- Intermediate ECHO
- Focused assessment for free fluid (FAFF)
- Ultrasound-Guided Vascular Access & Procedural US

Total Programme Credits: 30 ECTS

There are three components involved in learning Point-of-Care Ultrasound:

1

SCAN TECHNIQUE

Learning the correct scanning technique to acquire diagnostic quality images and apply strategies to overcome technical challenges and patient-related limitations.

2

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation of ultrasound images to identify normal anatomy and recognise the presence or absence of pathology.

3

INTEGRATION

Understanding how ultrasound findings influence clinical reasoning, diagnosis and patient management within surgical practice.

Scanning technique is primarily learned through mentoring and supervised practice. Skills are first taught during intensive hands-on training sessions with substantial supervised scanning to establish a strong technical foundation.

This is supplemented by work-based clinical practice designed to reinforce correct technique in real-world patient populations. A proportion of scans must be mentored to ensure appropriate progression and competency development.

Throughout the programme, students participate in one-to-one mentor encounters during which they practice applications, receive feedback, address learning needs and review progress towards logbook completion.

Candidates are required to complete a minimum of 200 documented ultrasound examinations and maintain a clinical logbook demonstrating progressive competence.

Interpretation and integration are taught through real-world clinical cases, pathological image review, case-based discussions and clinical decision-making exercises. These activities help learners understand not only how to perform ultrasound examinations but also when and how to apply ultrasound findings appropriately within surgical care.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment consists of:

- > Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) examinations
- > Clinical case-based short answer questions
- > Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs)
- > Clinical logbook completion
- > Formative assessment during mentor-mentee meetings
- > Literature review

GRADING SYSTEM

The Overall Grading will be as follows:

- > Fail <50%
- > Pass 50-59%
- > Pass with Merit 60-69%
- > Pass with Distinction $\geq 70\%$

Students must demonstrate competence in image acquisition, image interpretation and clinical integration across all applications.

Successful completion of the programme leads to the award of the:

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ANAESTHESIA AND CRITICAL CARE

MQF Level 7 | EQF Level 7 | 30 ECTS Credits



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