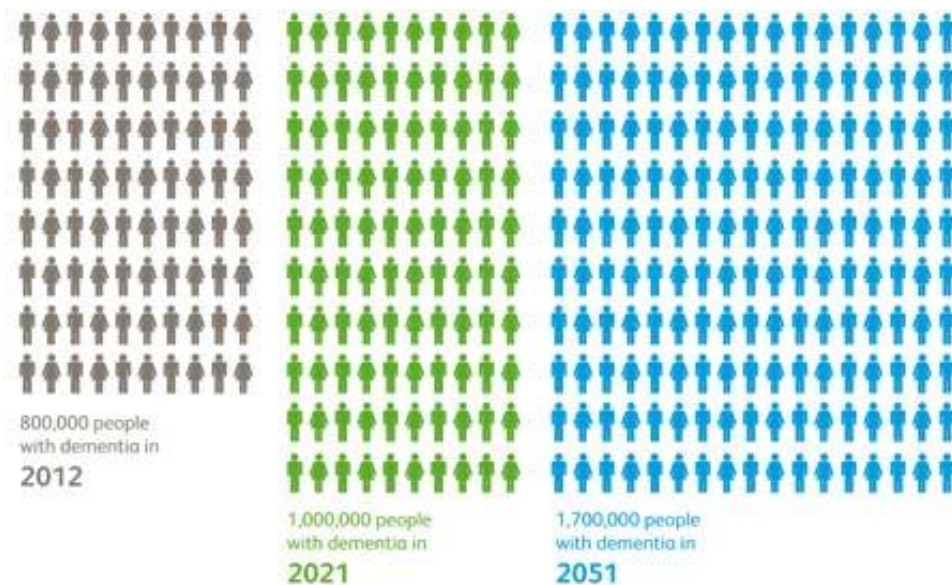


## DEMENTIA STUDIES APPLICATION HANDBOOK



### Courses:

Postgraduate Certificate Dementia Studies

Postgraduate Diploma Dementia Studies

Masters Dementia Studies

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## Introduction

We are delighted to offer this unique and established set of educational initiatives that are designed to enable people to help to improve the quality of life of people with dementia and their supporters by building the skills for us to generate and deliver better care. The Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert), Diploma (PGDip) and the Masters (MSc) in Dementia Studies have been developed as part of the Clinical Specialties Programme within Brighton and Sussex Medical School. The courses are designed for part-time or full-time study to meet the educational needs of all those involved in the health and care of people with dementia. Applications are open to a wide range of professionals including: nurses, doctors, psychologists, occupational therapists, managers and staff in nursing and residential homes, professionals in the voluntary and private sectors. We also welcome applications from those who are experts by experience who are or who have been affected by dementia or who care for someone with dementia.

The academic standard is the same for each of the three awards (PGCert, PGDip and MSc) as they are all taught at Postgraduate (M) level. The difference lies in the number of modules taken and, for the MSc, the completion of a dissertation. Successful completion of the Certificate, Diploma and MSc require 60, 120 and 180 credits, respectively (one module is worth 20 credits). The course has been designed as a multidisciplinary module framework and it is intended that students will share their experiences, thereby enhancing multidisciplinary working and in doing so promote successful inter-professional practice.

## Aims and Learning Outcomes for the Course

### Aims

This course aims to provide advanced education and understanding of dementia for people working with dementia. The goal is to enable people to be the leaders of the future by providing a blend of clinical knowledge with learning in the three key domains of Research, Leadership and Communication & Learning, along with the development of research and publishing skills. The dementia content of the programme provides comprehensive learning to meet the development needs of a wide range of practitioners and others working in dementia.

The course aims are to:

- provide a comprehensive and holistic theoretical and practical framework for understanding dementia;
- enable a broad understanding of the impact of dementia on the individual and society;
- review current management of dementia.

### Learning Outcomes

Graduates from this course will have:

- An understanding of the science (biological, psychological and social) and the clinical presentation of the dementias, along with the ability to use this knowledge to plan, conduct and present a supervised research project;
- Knowledge and understanding of the scientific basis of assessment and treatment (clinical, pharmacological, psychological and nursing) of people with dementia and their supporters including the ability to differentiate between subtypes of dementia;
- The skills to appraise critically current and potential new treatment approaches in dementia;
- In in-depth understanding of psychosocial issues in dementia;
- An understanding of research methods and critical appraisal;
- An understanding of the organisational and policy context and the drivers for change in service provision for dementia to enable participants to contribute more effectively to improving the design, delivery, outcomes and cost effectiveness of services;
- An advanced level of understanding of communication and teaching;
- The ability to analyse and synthesise data from a wide variety of sources to inform evidence-based practice in dementia;
- The ability to research and report on issues using literature searching and empirical research skills.

Upon successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate the following skills:

- An ability to access and search different databases and sources of literature and data;
- The analysis and synthesis of data;
- The ability to use evidence appropriately to inform clinical practice;
- Professional writing and presentation skills;
- Advanced levels of communications in clinical and non-clinical settings;
- Developing and submitting research proposals;
- Negotiating research ethics and governance procedures;
- The ability to relate clinical knowledge and judgment to organisational settings and priorities.
- The ability to communicate with members of different professional groups.

## Entry Requirements

The course is aimed at people who are interested in dementia and in particular who wish to drive improvements to the health and care of people with dementia.

The minimum entry requirements are: EITHER a degree and evidence of a capacity to study at Master's level with a substantial interest and/or experience in an area of health or social care OR evidence of a capacity to study at Master's level and at least two years work experience in an environment related to dementia including lived experience.

Applications are welcomed from International students with appropriate qualifications and experience. Students for whom English is not a first language must demonstrate an acceptable standard of

comprehension and communication in the English Language (IELTS: minimum overall score of 7.0 and 7.0 for the writing element).

Claims for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be considered.

**There will be an Induction Day in September for all successful applicants and you are strongly recommended to attend.**

## Structure of Course

**PGCert students** are required to undertake two dementia content modules and one from the optional list (see table below for further details).

**PGDip students** are required to undertake the three dementia content modules and three professional content modules (see table below for further details).

**MSc students** are required to undertake the three dementia content modules and three professional content modules. In additions students are required to undertake a 12,000 word dissertation and poster. (See table below from further details)

### Postgraduate Certificate in Dementia Studies

<b>Two modules from the following options:</b>	Mandatory (20 + 20 credits)
MDM119 Understanding Dementia	
MDM120 Assessment and Treatment of Dementia	
MDM121 Psychological and Social Perspectives of Dementia	
<b>Plus one module from the following options:</b>	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM119 Understanding Dementia	
MDM120 Diagnosis and Treatment of Dementia	
MDM121 Psychological and Social Perspectives of Dementia	
MDM10 Research methods and Critical Appraisal	
MDM122 Communication, Learning and Teaching in Health and Social Care	
MDM110 Leadership and Change Management in Clinical Services	
MDM76 Quality, Safety and Service Improvement in Clinical Services	

## Postgraduate Diploma in Dementia Studies

Module	Status
MDM119 Understanding Dementia <b>PLUS</b>	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM120 Assessment and Treatment of Dementia <b>PLUS</b>	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM121 Psychological and Social Perspectives of Dementia <b>PLUS</b>	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM10 Research methods and Critical Appraisal <b>PLUS</b>	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM122 Communication, Learning and Teaching in Health and Social Care <b>PLUS</b>	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM110 Leadership and Change Management in Clinical Services <b>OR</b>	Optional (20 credits)
MDM76 Quality, Safety and Service Improvement in Clinical Services	<b>OR</b> Optional (20 Credits)

## Master of Science in Dementia Studies

Module	Status
MDM119 Understanding Dementia <b>PLUS</b>	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM120 Assessment and Treatment of Dementia <b>PLUS</b>	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM121 Psychological and Social Perspectives of Dementia <b>PLUS</b>	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM10 Research methods and Critical Appraisal <b>PLUS</b>	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM122 Communication, Learning and Teaching in Health and Social Care <b>PLUS</b>	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM110 Leadership and Change Management in Clinical Services <b>OR</b>	Optional (20 credits)
MDM76 Quality, Safety and Service Improvement in Clinical Services	<b>OR</b> Optional (20 Credits)
MDM164 Dissertation	Mandatory (60 credits)

## Module Descriptors

### **Understanding Dementia (MDM119)**

The module aims to provide students with an understanding of the science of dementia as well as their clinical presentation. Students will learn the classification of dementia and understand the links between pathology and clinical symptoms and signs. This module should also give students good preparation for choosing and conducting a supervised research project later in the course.

### **Assessment and Treatment of Dementia (MDM120)**

The module will be taught by senior clinicians, experienced in the diagnosis and management of people with dementia. The module ensures students gain a critical understanding of the principles of diagnosis and treatment of dementia and how these can be applied in clinical and other settings.

### **Psychological and Social Perspectives of Dementia (MDM121)**

The experts in the reality of living with dementia are those who have dementia themselves and their supporters. Some of these individuals will contribute to this module. It will involve a systematic and comprehensive exploration of the psychological and social impact of dementia encompassing a range of important topics that affect the individual, those close to them, their relationships and wider society. Topics will cover areas from very early in the illness to end of life. The module is designed to be interactive and engaging.

### **Research Methods and Critical Appraisal (MDM10)**

The module aims to provide students with an understanding of how to use evidence in their specialist area. It aims to provide students with an understanding of research methods in health and social care and the ability to relate appropriate methods to research questions. Students will be equipped to search and critically review the literature, to develop and justify a research proposal, and to anticipate potential ethical issues in their research proposal.

### **Communication, Learning and Teaching in Health and Social Care (MDM122)**

This module aims to facilitate the development of practitioners as communicators and educators, promoting the development of knowledge, skills, attitudes and practices of a competent clinical practitioner.

### **Leadership and Change Management in Clinical Services (MDM110)**

This module aims to provide an overarching understanding of the organisational context for change in health & care service settings to enable managers, practitioners and professionals to contribute more effectively to leading and improving the design of service models and new organisational bodies, and to the delivery, cost effectiveness and outcomes of services.

### **Quality, Safety and Service Improvement in Clinical Services (MDM76)**

This module aims to provide students with a rigorous and comprehensive academic understanding of the theory, principles and practice of quality in care and treatment, including safeguarding and patient safety, with an emphasis on health and care services in the UK.

## Timetable

Provisional module dates for 2023/24 will be made available in Spring 2023.

## Fees

For fee information please contact: [fees@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:fees@brighton.ac.uk) or visit the following link:

<https://www.brighton.ac.uk/studying-here/fees-and-finance/postgraduate/index.aspx>

## Teaching Staff

Academic staff from Brighton and Sussex Medical School and other faculties in the Universities of Brighton and Sussex and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust are involved in the provision of teaching in a modular format, at Masters (M) level. Specialist teaching is provided by consultants, specialists and other clinical staff from Trusts and organisations in and around the region. The extensive contribution of expert practitioners to the teaching of the modules is a distinctive feature of courses at Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

### Core academic staff:

Dr Dorina Cadar	Course Leader, MSc Dementia Studies, BSMS
Prof Naji Tabet	Course Principal, MSc Dementia Studies, BSMS
Dr Malgorzata (Gosia) Raczek	Module Leader (MDM119 and MDM120), BSMS, and Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry, SPT
Dr Tony Coates	Module Leader (MDM121), BSMS, and Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry, SPT

## Teaching and Learning Methods

As with all Masters courses, there is a considerable degree of independent study. Teaching methods encompass lectures, whole group discussions, small group discussions, critical appraisal workshops and individual tutorials. Maintaining employment throughout the course ensures the transfer of knowledge and skills from the course into the workplace.

## Assessment

Most modules require an in-depth evaluation of a topic chosen by the student and agreed with the module leader. It is normally a 3,000 word written assignment.



## How to Apply

Please apply online via the following link:

<https://www.bsms.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught-degrees/dementia-studies.aspx>

If you have any further questions please contact the course administrator via the email address on the cover page.