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POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA (PG)/ MASTER (MSc) IN FAMILY MEDICINE



UNIVERSITY
of NICOSIA | MEDICAL
SCHOOL

THE UNIVERSITY OF NICOSIA MEDICAL SCHOOL OFFERS SIX PROGRAMMES OF STUDY:

Undergraduate Programmes

- MD, 6-year medical degree for high school graduates
- MBBS, 4-year graduate-entry British medical degree awarded by St George's, University of London

Graduate Programmes

- Master of Science in Family Medicine (MScFM) for practising primary care physicians
- Master of Science in Health Services Administration (MHSA) for career professionals
- Master of Public Health (MPH) for career professionals
- Doctorate in Medical Sciences (PhD) for research in all disciplines of medicine



University of Nicosia

The University of Nicosia (UNIC) has pioneered medical education in Cyprus, establishing the first Medical School in the country in 2011. It is the largest academic medical community in Cyprus with staff, faculty and students from more than 63 countries. The Medical School Alumni are working in world-class medical centres around the world evident by the successful 99.8% placement rate for graduates (as of August 2021). The UNIC Medical School has become renowned in Cyprus and abroad for its innovative, quality education, faculty research and community service.

In 2021 THE University Impact Rankings ranked UNIC as the number 32 university in the world in the core area of Quality Education, and among the top 301-400 universities globally in terms of its overall social and economic impact. In International Outlook, UNIC has been ranked 47th globally by THE World University Rankings in 2021.

The 2021 "QS World University Rankings: EECA", places UNIC among the top 4% of universities in the Emerging Europe and Central Asia (EECA) Region, with the University ranking #126 among 3,300 tertiary institutions across 24 countries.

UNIC MEDICAL SCHOOL

CORE VALUES



Student-centred education -We strive to maintain a supportive learning environment that promotes and encourages student interaction and feedback. The student-centred curriculum allows for the early development of clinical skills and reasoning, and promotes collaborative learning, critical thinking and reflection, skills that are essential for a career in medicine.

Excellence in teaching and research -We deliver teaching and conduct research of the highest quality and we equip students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to succeed in their chosen medical career path. This is achieved by means of the most up-to-date and quality assured curricula and assessments, which are implemented in a multicultural and supportive learning environment.

Excellence in patient care -We provide high quality primary care services based on a comprehensive, holistic and evidence-based approach.

Social responsibility -We regularly and actively contribute to society through outreach events, and other initiatives, with the support of our faculty, staff and students.

Professionalism -We adhere to the highest professional standards and we expect our students to demonstrate professionalism, during their studies and beyond.

Equality and diversity -We are committed to the promotion of equality and respect, and embrace the individual, social and cultural diversity of the student community.

International partnerships -We maintain successful partnerships with leading institutions, which enables the sharing of knowledge and expertise in medical education and research, while providing our students with opportunities to gain international research and clinical experience.

Our Vision

The Medical School espouses the holistic concept of One Health, which emphasizes the relationship between the health of humans and animals within a healthy, sustainable environment. We aim to achieve excellence in teaching, research, community service and patient care.

Our Mission

We are committed to the provision of innovative, student-centred and high quality education, which is based on the best available evidence in current medical pedagogy. We are also committed to systematically fostering original research in the basic, clinical, social and behavioural sciences and, to serving and improving the health of the population through outreach, service and patient care services.

We aim to produce competent graduates, committed to life-long learning, who can pursue further training in their field of choice and will be competent and successful practitioners, teachers, administrators and researchers. Our School's graduates make patient care their highest priority.



OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME

Today's healthcare challenges – whether strengthening health systems, improving the quality of our patient care, or enhancing access to healthcare – require strong primary care. Strong primary care in turn requires competent family doctors who are forward-thinking and keen to develop new relationships with patients and other health professionals in primary and secondary care.

To address these global population health challenges, UNIC Medical School offers a Postgraduate Diploma (PG) and MSc in Family Medicine delivered online. It is a structured continuing professional development programme for physicians working as Family Doctors or in the community with a specialist role in internal medicine, paediatrics, or gynaecology.

The minimum full-time duration of the MSc programme in Family Medicine is 18 months (three semesters), with a flexible part-time option of up to 4 academic years.

The first two semesters consist of eight core clinically focused modules. Semester three is primarily research-oriented, offering an opportunity for students to

develop their research skills. Students who do not wish to continue with the third semester can receive a Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine following the successful completion of the first two semesters.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine is an EU degree that has been developed in coordination with the UK Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP).

This distinction is in addition to UNIC Medical School's accreditation by the RCGP to deliver the MRCGP International exam in Cyprus.

Students successfully completing the first two semesters and meeting the RCGP's clinical experience eligibility criteria will be entitled to take the MRCGP[INT] examination in Cyprus.

Alternatively, because the content of the course is aligned with the RCGP curriculum, students are well prepared to take this exam at another RCGP International site.



An EU degree in which curricula and assessments have been developed in coordination with UK Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)



Direct access to faculty: thrive and find support with a personal mentor matched with students from day one



First university in the European Union to earn a 5-Star rating for Online/Distance Learning



Option of full-time or part-time study, depending on your schedule and commitments

“Family medicine is one of the most challenging of all the medical specialties. It involves looking after most of the patients with most of the problems most of the time and therefore needs a really high-quality education. The Postgraduate Diploma at the University of Nicosia Medical School offers high-quality education for people who are going to take on the challenging work involved in primary care family medicine.”



Sir David Haslam

Prof of General Practice

Chair of UK National Institute
For Health and Care Excellence (2013-2019)



Curricula mapped against core competences of a Family Medicine practitioner as defined by:

- the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of FM (WONCA)
- the RCGP UK clinical statements



Courses in all areas of Family Medicine:

- management of chronic diseases and multimorbidities
- mental health
- musculoskeletal health
- child and women’s health and others operations management
- quality improvement
- patient safety

Cutting-Edge Online Learning

The programme is conducted completely online in an e-Learning Environment (Moodle), which includes multiple embedded synchronous and asynchronous learning activities, such as webinars, online chats, discussion fora and wikis. In addition, recorded lectures are designed to enhance student interactivity and active learning by including engaging slides with clickable tabs, interactive quizzes, drag-and-drop activities, matching activities and opinion polls.

The programme follows standardised and validated pedagogical approaches, ensuring constant tutor student interaction (webinars, online chats, discussion fora), student to student interaction (online chats, discussion fora, wikis), and student-material interaction (recorded lectures, additional resources).

E-Learning Excellence

UNIC is a regional leader in distance learning education at the Bachelor and Master level. We use the most up-to-date technologies and state-of-the-art learning design theories to deliver our courses and we are the first university in Europe to have received a triple recognition (5 QS Stars, EADTU, EFQUEL) for excellence in online education. As a testament to the quality of our online programmes, UNIC has been awarded the highest accolades for e-learning and distance learning education excellence.

Moreover, it is the first European university to be awarded a 5-Star rating for Online/Distance Learning and is the 13th university in the world to receive such a distinction. In addition, UNIC received the highest distinction of 5-Stars in Teaching, Facilities, Inclusiveness, Social Responsibility and Internationalisation.



Assessment

Assessments in semester one and two for the MSc in Family Medicine have been accredited by the RCGP. The course assessment is based on the following four pillars:

- a written applied knowledge examination
- a workplace-based assessment portfolio
- the design, implementation, completion and write-up of a research project
- assignments for two elective modules

Students successfully completing the written applied knowledge examination and the workplace-based portfolio will be granted a Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine. This progression path is also seen on page 11 for completion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine should a student not wish to complete the Masters Programme.

MRCGP[INT]

Students successfully completing the first two semesters and meeting the RCGP's clinical experience eligibility criteria will be entitled to take the examination in Cyprus towards becoming an International Member of the RCGP. This exam consists of three components:

- a written applied knowledge examination
- a workplace-based assessment portfolio
- a clinical skills examination

The first two components are shared with the assessments for the Postgraduate Diploma, so only the clinical skills examination is an additional requirement for the MRCGP[INT] in Cyprus.

Because the content of the course is aligned with the RCGP curriculum, students are well prepared to take this exam at another RCGP International site.



“Family medicine has always been one of the most essential pillars of the healthcare system, and it will be even more crucial in the years to come.

The Master of Science in Family Medicine programme reflects that reality, giving doctors the most up-to-date, holistic, and evidence-based training to equip them for a demanding career in primary care.”

Dr Dionysios Vaidakis,
MSc FM Programme Coordinator

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS



A medical degree granted by an institution recognised in the country where it is offered.



Evidence of current registration with the relevant medical council.



You must be involved in clinical practice throughout the duration of your enrolment in the programme.



Evidence of English proficiency is required as follows:

6.5 overall in the IELTS (with 6.5 in writing and a minimum of 6.0 in all other elements)

Or

213 overall in the computer-based TOEFL (550 paper based, 79 internet based),

Or

grade 5 in the GCSE (or B with the old grading system),

Or

a score of 5 in English in the International Baccalaureate Standard Level (SL),

Or

a score of 8 in English in the European Baccalaureate.

Students holding degrees from the UK, USA, Canada (from English speaking provinces), Australia and New Zealand & Ireland are exempt from this requirement.



Two (2) professional reference letters.



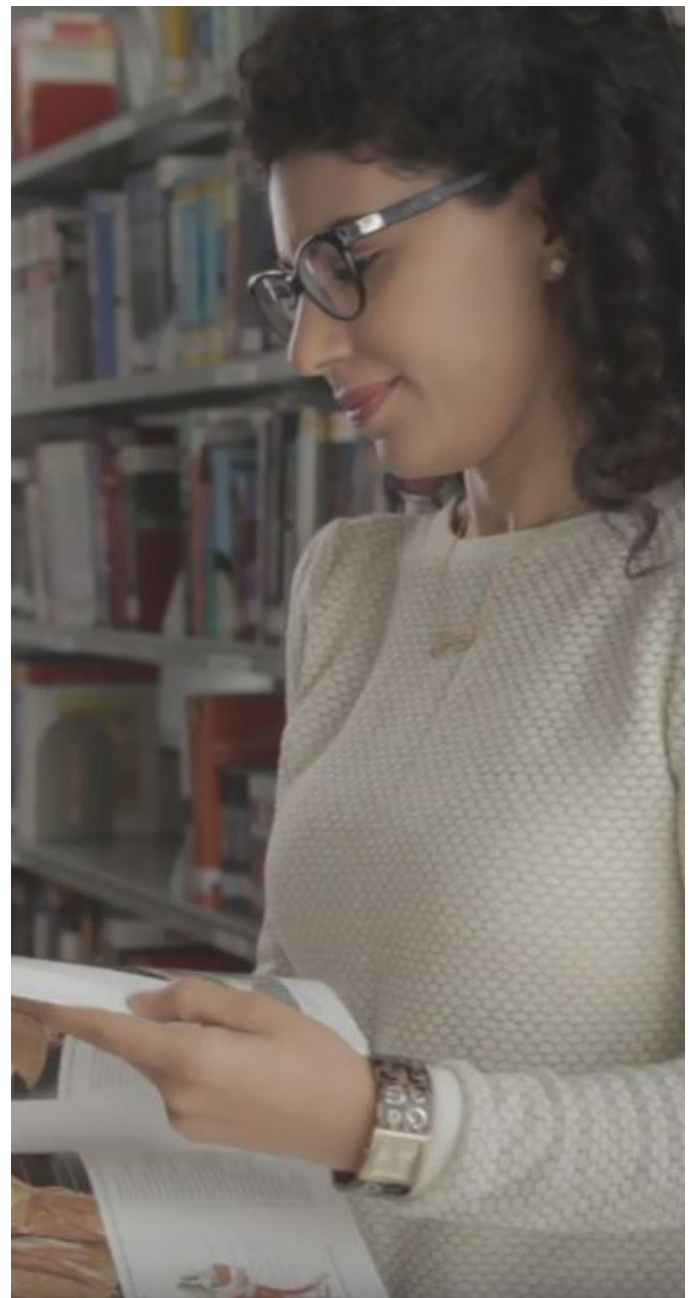
An interview either in person or through video conference, which assesses your professional ability and commitment, empathy, initiative and resilience, communication skills, organisational and problem-solving skills, and teamwork.

TUITION COSTS

A key objective of our Family Medicine programme is to contribute to the improvement of population health across the globe. In support of this goal, scholarships are available to allow access to the course by doctors in a wide range of countries with varying levels of development. Tuition is €12,000 for the PG and €18,000 for the Master in Family Medicine. Scholarships can be awarded up to 45% with total tuition at €6,600 for the PG and €9,900 for the Master's degree.

Our Admissions Advisers can provide more details.

Students may be responsible for the costs of arranging to take their examinations in their country of residence; these could include fees for a venue and invigilation.



TESTIMONIALS



Dr Christos Hadjicostas
MSc in FM, Class of 2019

"The programme was excellent and pursuing; it turned out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made. I unreservedly recommend the MSc in Family Medicine to every GP. I can also say that my practice has increased in volume since I completed the course. Patients today are able to cross-reference information online and are in a better position to realize if their doctor is up-to-date with medical developments."



Dr Intisar Alghurabi
MSc in FM, 2019 cohort

"The Master in Family Medicine is a well-taught distance learning programme by recognised academics delivered at a flexible time, something that suits my busy professional life."

In addition, it gives me the ability to choose my own pathway comfortably and at my own pace. The programme has enhanced my confidence as a doctor and has given me the opportunity to reach my full potential. It is definitely one of the best decisions I have made so far in my career as a doctor."



Dr Daniel Unegbu
MSc in FM, 2019 cohort

"This programme has broadened my scope and has given depth to my understanding of family medicine and its practice. It has helped me develop a reflective, empathetic and structured communication pattern with my patients."

The access to high quality resource materials, the student friendly approach, and the supportive distinguished tutors are only a few of the advantages of this programme."



Dr Maria Avraamidou
MSc in FM, Class of 2016

"The MSc in FM programme has provided me with knowledge and skills to practise medicine using an evidenced based, patient centred approach."

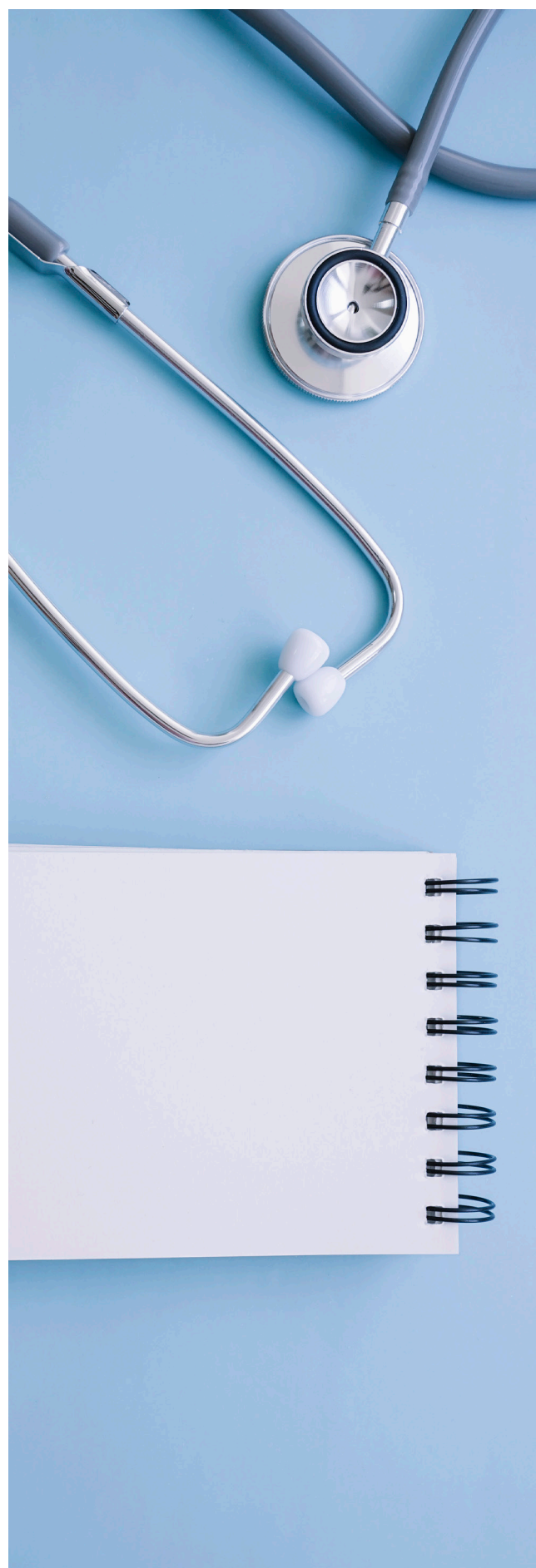
Professional development is an important part of being a doctor. This programme has given me inspiration to reach higher goals as a Family Physician and instilled in me the desire to be a life-long learner."

ACADEMIC PATH

Curriculum mapped to core competences of FM doctor (WONCA and RCGP)

FIRST SEMESTER	
(30 ECTS, all courses required)	
Course code/Title	
FMED-511	Communication and Consultation Skills in Primary Care (teaching is spread out during Semester 1&2)
FMED-533	Managing Adults' Common Diseases and Multi-Morbidity in Primary Care
FMED-521	Evidence-based Practice in Family Medicine
FMED-535	Common Musculoskeletal Conditions in Primary Care
SECOND SEMESTER	
(30 ECTS, all courses required - PG in Family Medicine for those students who do not wish to continue with the MScFM)	
Course code/Title	
FMED-514	Acute Serious Illnesses and Traumatic Conditions in Primary Care
FMED-531	Women's Health
FMED-532	Paediatrics and Child Health Surveillance
FMED-534	Mental Health in Primary Care
THIRD SEMESTER	
(30 ECTS, two required courses + two electives)	
Course code/Title	
FMED-590	Research Methodology in Family Medicine (Required)
FMED-591	Primary Care Research Project (Required)
Two elective courses are chosen from the following:	
FMED-513	Chronic Disease Management in Primary Care
FMED-536	Medical Leadership and Innovation in Healthcare
FMED-537	Learning and Teaching in Healthcare
FMED-512	Epidemiology, Prevention and Health Promotion
FMED-522	Informatics for Primary and Community Healthcare
FMED-523	Implementing Change in Primary Care

*The above structure is based on current delivery in 2021-22. The programme is subject to continuous evaluation and improvement, in consultation with students and lecturers, and in accordance with the regulations and guidelines of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education, and therefore may be subject to change for future cohorts.



PROGRESSION PATH

ONLINE

First semester online

+

Assessment at local test centre

+

Second semester online

+

Assessment at local test centre

↓

Postgraduate Diploma
in Family Medicine

+

Third semester online
(Research oriented)

↓

MSc in Family Medicine

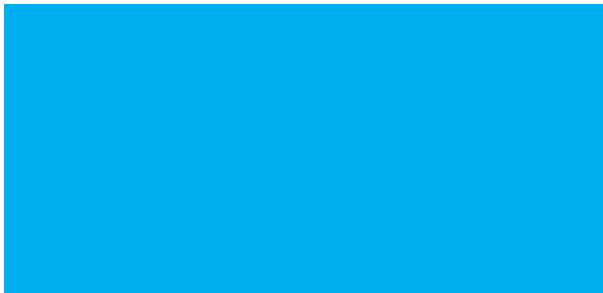
OPTIONAL QUALIFICATION

MRCGP [INT]

- Meet eligibility criteria
- Exam in Cyprus

Disclaimer

Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is correct and accurate at the time of printing (January 2022). In the event of discrepancy between the print version and information provided on the Medical School's website, the web version will apply. The Medical School will make every endeavour to deliver the PG/MSc in Family Medicine as described in this e-brochure. However, changes may be necessary at times. The Medical School reserves the right to make changes to the content or methods of Diploma delivery. The Medical School reserves the right to change, without notice, any information about the services contained in this brochure.



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