Surgical Science and Practice Programme

Advanced, part-time modular study, particularly suited to those in full-time employment.

This programme is designed to prepare more senior surgical trainees for life as an independent specialist, by providing skills and knowledge essential for modern practice.

MSc in Surgical Science and Practice

The aim of the MSc in Surgical Science and Practice is to provide the next generation of surgeons with the tools to build and lead successful surgical units delivering safe, high-quality and high-reliability care. The course provides a foundation in some of the most important skills which future leaders of the profession need to acquire and develop.

The MSc in Surgical Science and Practice is a part-time course designed to be completed within two to four years by full-time surgical trainees and consultants. It offers a flexible modular framework and is structured to enable students to fit study around their work.
Modules

The Programme consists of the following week-long modules with content reflecting the current progress and practice within each specialised field.

- Human Factors, Teamwork and Communication
- Introduction to Surgical Management and Leadership
- Quality Improvement Science and Systems Analysis
- Surgical Technology and Robotics
- The Practice of Evidence-Based Health Care (Surgery)
- Becoming a Medical Educator

Each module consists of a period of preparatory study before five consecutive days of teaching in Oxford which are followed by the submission of a written assignment. The classes include group work, discussions and guest lectures from medical and business professionals. Each module is supported by a regularly updated virtual learning platform which hosts course material and reading lists.

Taught by global experts, all six modules run every year, allowing students some scope to individualise their pattern of study. Please visit our website for this year’s dates - www.conted.ox.ac.uk/ssp.

Dissertation

The dissertation is developed from a relevant research project, which can be work-based, and builds on material studied in the taught modules.

All students receive support and guidance from a dedicated University of Oxford supervisor during the preparation of their dissertation, which is submitted in the final year of study.

Short courses in Surgical Science

Each Surgical Science and Practice module can be taken individually as a stand-alone short course.

The class-based short courses include a period of preparatory study and then a week of intensive lectures and tutorials in Oxford, followed by a period for assignment work (if taken for credit).

Interesting and practical activities are normally provided within the University, including surgical simulators and operating theatres at its hospital sites.

Short courses may be taken for academic credit. Students taking a short course for academic credit who pass their written assignment will be eligible for 20 CATS points (Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme). Students can normally transfer up to two successfully completed short courses taken for credit into the MSc, subject to entry requirements and conditions.

Funding

Details of any funding opportunities, including grants, bursaries, loans and scholarships are available on the course webpage and our Sources of Funding web page: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/students/sourcesoffunding.
The MSc is a fantastic programme and it allowed me to acquire knowledge and skills that will be useful for the rest of my career... Oxford is a world class university. I highly recommend the Master’s in Surgical Science and Practice, and surgical trainees should definitely consider Oxford as a premier place to do a higher degree, and develop themselves further.

Riaz Agha, Plastic Surgery Registrar, Yorkshire and Humber Deanery, UK.

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The MSc in Surgical Science and Practice covers critical aspects of the training of surgical specialists based on competencies. The teachers make you think out of the “doctor’s” box; you are not just becoming a medical specialist, you will also be involved in research, quality improvement, teamwork, organisation, management and education. I would recommend it to every surgical registrar who is looking for a broader perspective on health care.”

Gabie de Jong, Surgical Registrar, The Netherlands.

“The MSc in Surgical Science and Practice has effectively introduced me to the science behind analysing what is done in theatre, and enabled me to pick up a range of collaborative research projects with a national and international group of researchers.

Jon Wells, Paediatric Surgery Registrar, Birmingham Children’s Hospital, UK.

The Oxford Surgical Science and Practice Programme results from a close collaboration between the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences and the Department for Continuing Education.

The Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences is one of largest and most successful academic departments of surgery in the United Kingdom. It has a long tradition of research excellence and hosts a multidisciplinary team of senior clinical academic surgeons, senior scientists, junior clinicians and scientists in training. The Department comprises of major surgical specialties including gastro-intestinal, transplantation, vascular, paediatric, plastic, ENT, neurosurgery and urology. It is currently developing a major focus on surgical oncology and robotic surgery under the Head of Department, Professor Freddie Hamdy. Over the last five years the QRSTU (Quality Reliability, Safety and Teamwork Unit) within the Department has developed internationally recognised expertise in research on the mechanisms for achieving excellence in surgical practice.

The Department for Continuing Education has a long and successful record of providing part-time professional development designed to meet the needs of practitioners in the health and medical sciences as well as many other subject areas.

Mr Peter McCulloch is the Course Director for the Surgical Science and Practice Programme and is Clinical Reader in Surgery at the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, Honorary Consultant in Upper GI Surgery at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and a Fellow of Trinity College.

He is the Director of the QRSTU and is consistently working towards safety and quality in surgery. He is also the co-ordinator of IDEAL, an international network dedicated to improving the scientific evaluation of surgery and interventional therapies.

The Oxford Surgical Science and Practice Programme is delivered by the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences and the Department for Continuing Education.

Other courses in health sciences

We offer a range of short courses and postgraduate programmes in cognitive therapy, evidence-based health care, experimental therapeutics, health research, immunology, nanomedicine, paediatric infectious diseases, stem cells and vaccinology. Further details: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/health.