



## New Masters Modules in Paediatric Dietetics

This is an exciting educational opportunity for paediatric dietitians. The BDA validated paediatric dietetic modules, run successfully by the Paediatric Group for many years, were awarded Masters level credits by the University of Plymouth in November 2007.

We are pleased to let you know that from January 2008 dietitians will have two options for the level at which they wish to study paediatric dietetics and nutrition:

| Option One  | Option Two   |
|---|--|
| British Dietetic Association validated modules<br>80 credited learning hours per module   | University of Plymouth Masters modules<br>20 M level credits for modules 1,2,3<br>30 M level credits for module 4  |
| Pre-course reading and formative short answer questions self-marked<br>4 day taught component<br>Post-course (summative) assessment: short answer questions | Pre-course reading and formative short answer questions self-marked<br>4 day taught component<br>Post-course (summative) assessment: 3 case studies and 1 critical essay |

All students do the same pre-course work and attend the 4-day taught component. It is in the post-course assignment where the two learning paths diverge, as shown in the table above. The content of the modules remains the same:

### **Module 1 - Nutrition and Dietetics in Infancy and Childhood**

Growth and nutritional requirements  
 Infant feeding: breast and formula; weaning onto solids  
 Nutrition in children and adolescents  
 Problems in the early years: faltering growth, gastro-oesophageal reflux, anaemia, rickets  
 Constipation, colic, dental caries, obesity  
 Social and cultural impacts on nutrition  
 Multidisciplinary team working  
 Government initiatives: Sure Start, Healthy Start, food policy in schools, Better Hospital Food

### **Module 2 - Nutrition and Dietetics in Common Paediatric Disorders**

Nutrition for the preterm infant  
 Assessment of children requiring nutrition support  
 Multidisciplinary management of children with special needs and feeding difficulties  
 Gastroenterology and the use of specialised formulas

Food allergy and intolerance  
Cystic fibrosis  
Diabetes mellitus  
Eating disorders and psychological aspects of chronic disease

### **Module 3 - Clinical Dietetics for Infants and Children**

Neonatal surgery  
Gastroenterology, specialised formulas and parenteral nutrition  
Trauma and critical care  
Renal disease  
Congenital heart disease and other cardiothoracic disorders  
Liver disease  
Burns and thermal injury  
Nutrition support in oncology and HIV/AIDS  
Ketogenic diet for epilepsy

### **Module 4 – Dietetic Management of Inherited Metabolic Diseases**

PKU, tyrosinaemia, MSUD, homocystinuria  
Organic acidaemias and urea cycle disorders  
Emergency regimens  
Galactosaemia  
Glycogen storage diseases  
Fatty acid oxidation disorders  
Peroxisomal disorders  
Management of the newborn infant with IMD  
Pregnancy and IMD  
Education of children with IMD and their parents

### **The Masters Option**

Students wishing to undertake Option Two with the University of Plymouth must register and pay an additional fee of £100 on top of the regular course fee. The registration fee covers expenses for administration including library and computing access.

### **APEL (Accredited Previous Experiential Learning)**

For dietitians who have already attended past paediatric modules, there is an opportunity to convert this learning to Masters level credits through the University's APEL process. This requires the completion of an APEL form detailing evidence of attendance at past modules, evidence of relevant work in the field and a CV. You will also have to submit the M level (Option Two) post-course summative assessments. The fee for this process is £100. The university's APEL Programme Administrator is Jane Campbell-Baigrie who can give advice on the APEL process: [J.Campbell-Baigrie@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:J.Campbell-Baigrie@plymouth.ac.uk).

### **Future developments**

The paediatric modules are stand alone short courses at the moment and are not yet part of a validated Masters programme with the University of Plymouth. Future plans are to develop the modules into a Masters programme in Paediatric Dietetics. In the meantime, dietitians may be able to use the credits from these modules as part of other related Masters programmes, e.g. the Masters in Advanced Dietetic Practice at the University of Coventry and University of Wales Institute Cardiff (UWIC), provided they liaise with the Institution provider. Dietitians will need to discuss this possibility with the

Institution of their choice. Further details of the University of Plymouth postgraduate courses can be found at [www.pphi.ac.uk](http://www.pphi.ac.uk)

What to do now

- Decide which module meets your learning needs
- Look out for the announcements advertising the modules in Dietetics Today
- Apply for a place in the usual way as indicated in the announcement
- Choose whether to go for the BDA credited learning hours option or the Masters option
- Full information is provided to all dietitians when they apply for places on the individual modules.

This development has only been possible through the hard work of the course team, generously supported by funding from the Paediatric Group.

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