

MSc

Palliative and End of Life Care

Study modeFull-time
Part-time**Duration**12 months
36 monthsApply by: **11 September 2026**Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

This programme has been developed to enable healthcare and allied professionals, and intercalating medical students, to engage with both theoretical and practice elements in the study of Palliative and End of Life Care at master's Level.

Introduction

This course will encourage you to consider how good practice can be achieved across a number of different practice settings and apply learning to your own practice area. This programme is rooted in the core elements of good practice, engaging clinical, academic, organisational, political and international perspectives on the current and future challenges for Palliative and End of Life Care.

You will be prepared and provided with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to develop into, and engage in senior clinical and/or leadership roles within regional, national and international contexts.

Your learning experiences will promote improvements in the care delivered to patients and families, enhance support provided to colleagues, enable effective team working within and across professions and sectors, and highlight the pressures of organisation structures and resources on service delivery.

Work-based learning placements within specialist palliative care settings will provide you with the opportunity to contextualise learning within the programme. You will also undertake advanced communication skills training, delivered by internationally renowned experts, and is designed to develop and enhance skills to address challenges frequently encountered in practice.

If you wish, you can apply to study a PGCert instead of an MSc, in which case you'll complete the 60 credits in semester one as your whole programme. Several of our modules are also available as individual [Continued Professional Development \(CPD\)](#) courses, for the improvement of your knowledge and skills within your career.

The programme is led by an academic lead and a clinical lead from the School, supported by input from specialist clinicians, senior academics and an international faculty.

Who is this course for?

The course is designed for all healthcare and allied professionals who support patients with life limiting illness (gerontology, respiratory, oncology, cardiology), including doctors, nurses, and physiotherapists, you will develop critical understanding of the evidence that underpins the practice and development of Palliative and End of Life Care services.

What you'll learn

- How to address the challenges encountered in palliative care practice
- Advanced communication skills
- Effective team working
- Leadership skills
- Theoretical and practice elements of palliative care.

^ [Back to top](#)

Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

Semester one

You will learn the core competencies for managing end of life care that are identified following the Shape of Training recommendations and subsequent guidance for Core Medical Trainees and Specialist Trainees in General Practice/Paediatrics/Elderly Medicine/General Internal Medicine.

You will be given the opportunity to critically examine the evidence base and develop and enhance your knowledge for practice in the care of patients, and their families, at the end of life.

If you wish, you can apply to study a PGCert instead of an MSc, in which case you'll complete the 60 credits in semester one as your whole programme.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ADVANCED PRACTICE IN PALLIATIVE CARE (MDSC160)	30

Optional modules	Credits
APPLIED ETHICS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE I (MDSC400)	30
ADVANCED PRACTICE IN PALLIATIVE AND END OF LIFE CARE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (MDSC163)	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Semester two

In Semester two you will be able to develop your research skills, enabling you to develop a critical awareness of the processes required for successful planning and delivery of research.

The 15 credit Ethics module (MDSC418) will enable students to have greater flexibility in their programme. For example, students who do not need to complete the Introduction to Research Methods Module (MDSC701) may replace with this module as an option.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
ADVANCED PRACTICE IN END OF LIFE CARE (MDSC161)	30
ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS: DESIGN AND DATA ANALYSIS (MDSC702)	15
INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH METHODS: DEVELOPING CORE SKILLS (MDSC701)	15

Optional modules	Credits
ADVANCED PRACTICE IN PALLIATIVE AND END OF LIFE CARE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (MDSC163)	30
INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS FOR BIO-SCIENCE AND BIO-ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (MDSC418)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Final project

In Semester three you will undertake and submit a research project.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RESEARCH PROJECT (MDSC406)	60

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

This course uses a blended approach to learning, involving a combination of classroom, practice and online-based activities. The range of educational strategies are used to facilitate learning, including structured reading, experiential learning, formal presentation, clinical observation, reflective practice, student presentation, group discussion and structured critical review.

How you're assessed

You will be assessed through a combination of presentations, coursework and the final research project.

Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

^ [Back to top](#)

Careers and employability

This course will prepare you with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to develop into, and engage in senior clinical and leadership roles, promoting improvements in the care delivered to patients and families, supporting colleagues and ensuring effective team working within and across professions and sectors, whilst understanding the pressures of organisation structures and resources on service delivery.

For clinicians who complete the course, the programme maps directly onto relevant postgraduate training curricula and will directly enhance the career and employment prospects of clinicians in training. The programme will also support the current and future careers of clinicians in other related areas of medicine and allied health professionals.

For intercalating medical students, successful completion of the master's degree will support competitive applications in the UK Foundation Programme through the additional tariff gained by a level 7 qualification. Career development (through a competitive advantage in Academic Foundation posts) will also be supported by completion of the programme.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

^ [Back to top](#)

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

Tuition fees

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £30,000

Part-time place, per year – £15,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a tuition fee deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the additional study costs that may apply to this course.

^ [Back to top](#)

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Postgraduate entry requirements

- All qualified clinicians and allied healthcare professionals must have a degree with a degree award at minimum 2:2
 - For intercalating medical students you should have successfully completed a minimum of 3 years undergraduate training at a recognised medical school
 - For nurses who may have qualified without a degree, examples of an ability to study at level 7 will be required.
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International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MSc, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

IELTS

7.0 overall, with no component below 6.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 100 overall, with minimum scores of listening 21, writing 21, reading 21 and speaking 23. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 5 overall, with 4.5 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

135 overall, with writing not less than 140, speaking and reading not less than 125, and listening not below 120. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 130 overall, with no component below 120.

Pearson PTE Academic

69 overall, with no component below 61

LanguageCert Academic

75 overall, with no skill below 70

PSI Skills for English

C1 Pass in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) - 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards - 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.5 overall, with no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	30 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 4.5	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 7.0 overall, with no component below 6.5, for further details.

[^ Back to top](#)

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