The Postgraduate Certificate in Critical Care is a part-time programme consisting of two 30 credit modules.

The programme is offered to health care professionals who are currently working in or are responsible for a patient case load in a critical care unit in the UK. The programme of teaching and learning facilitates the development of a dynamic and professional health care workforce who have extensive knowledge, expert skills and competence necessary to care for the critically ill patient independently. It is informed by the set of standards and recommendations for post-registration critical care nurse education introduced by the Critical Care National Network-Nurse Leads and, as such, incorporates a specific suite of core competencies applicable to all general critical care units.

The programme also extends to other members of the multi-disciplinary team who work within critical care or whose work provide extensive exposure to critical care.
Module and Course Information

Semester 1 HEAL702 Physiology Critical Care (30 Credits)

This critical care module utilises a systems based approach to help the healthcare practitioner consolidate their knowledge of relevant anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology in this area of healthcare. It prepares the practitioner to develop the appropriate skills to be competent in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of care for patients with health abnormalities, with relevant knowledge of pharmacology and pharmacokinetics and different treatment modalities. The module also helps the practitioner gain confidence in interpreting investigations and in the application of results, coupled with the safe and effective use of equipment, so that they are competent to manage emergency situations.

Semester 2 HEAL703 Management of the Critically III Patient (30 Credits)

This module is designed to develop a holistic critical care practitioner. It advances the practitioner’s ability to demonstrate leadership, management and team skills to ensure care delivery is tailored to the patient’s needs. The importance of the role of practitioner within the multi-disciplinary team when managing the critically ill patient effectively is focused upon and analysed. The module develops the health care practitioner’s analytical skills utilising a specified range of competencies related to critical care practice, to ensure the delivery of safe, effective quality care to critically ill patients. The practitioner will be able to demonstrate the appropriate knowledge and skill to critically reflect upon the application of critical care skills which are theoretically underpinned, critically evaluate evidence based practice in context to critical care practice and critically appraise and apply relevant theory to support clinical decision making within a critical care team setting.

Entry Requirements

12 months experience on a critical care unit and currently working in a critical care unit. Professional health care qualification, registered with Nursing and Midwifery Council or health and Care Professions Council.

Application Process

Application is made through the University’s postgraduate on-line portal

Applications must be supported with: confirmation from your line manager that they support your application, degree/diploma certificate, evidence of any CPD study and ID (passport). You will also need to provide a 500 word supporting statement outlining your career so far and how this course will further your skills as a Critical Care Practitioner.

Tuition Fees

The University’s tuition fees are normally fixed at yearly intervals and follow Government guidelines on minimum levels.

Further details can be found at https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduatetought/finance/