

Postgraduate Programme in Palliative Care (MMedSci/Diploma/Certificate)

- **Academic level**

Masters

- **Length of course**

Two years part-time

- **Intakes**

Every second year in
September (next intake
September 2004)

- **Closing Date**

1 July in the year of entry

- **Day and Sites of delivery**

Fridays at the School of
Nursing and Midwifery,
Bartolomé House, and other
venues in Sheffield

- **Assessment**

Written assignments and
dissertation

- **Entry requirements**

Candidates should have an
appropriate degree in
nursing, medicine or other
health care speciality. Other
applicants will be considered
who have an appropriate
background and can
demonstrate the ability to
study at the required level.

- **Fees**

Available on request from
the contact address below

- **Contact address**

Further information and
application forms:

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The Programme

Our strong commitment to the multi-disciplinary approach in palliative and supportive care is reflected in this Masters programme. The programme will be of wide interest to nurses, doctors, pharmacists, social workers, chaplains and many other health and social care professionals involved in the care of those with life-limiting illness.

The programme provides an opportunity to explore encounters with life threatening disease, the prospect of facing death, and issues of grief, mourning and memorialisation. We work drawing on a variety of perspectives from the clinical disciplines, social sciences and humanities. Classes are participatory and interactive and are led by a team of committed tutors who are experts in the field.

We offer you opportunities to examine up to date research, current ideas in policy and practice and will encourage you to link these to your own professional and work experience. At the end of the programme you will have transferable skills in critical analysis and reflective practice that you will find invaluable in your everyday working life. As a current student observes:

“By increasing my knowledge and critical analysis skills, this course has greatly increased my confidence, both professionally and personally. These developing skills have enabled me to promote and challenge aspects of clinical practice with renewed motivation during my work. Although this course is challenging and ‘hard work’, I would recommend it to all clinicians working within palliative care as the content is not only transferable to practice, but highlights and encourages the importance of providing ‘excellence’ within this aspect of care”.

The unit tutors include:

Sheila Payne (Professor of Palliative Care)

Jane Seymour (Senior Lecturer, Palliative Care)

Rev Mark Cobb (Clinical Services Director and Lecturer, Trent Palliative Care Centre)

Bill Noble (Macmillan Senior Lecturer in Palliative Medicine)

Our programme is modularised and allows students to conduct postgraduate study to the level of Certificate, Diploma or Masters. There are also opportunities to take individual units only, with or without assessment.

Core units

Year 1 – semester 1

❖ Encountering illness and disease: the experience and management of suffering (20 credits)

Aim

- To enable students’ critical awareness of a range of interdisciplinary and inter-professional perspectives related to suffering as an individual, social and societal phenomenon and to enhance their ability to relate insights gained to palliative care practice.

Year 1 – semester 2

❖ Facing dying and death: theories, practices and policies (20 credits)

Aim

- To provide a comprehensive and critical overview of issues and debates relating to the conceptualisation and management of dying and death.



**Palliative and End-of-Life Research
Group**
School of Nursing & Midwifery
University of Sheffield
**(in association with Trent Palliative Care
Centre)**

Year 2 - semester 1

❖ Grief, mourning and memorialisation (20 credits)

Aims

- To explore the nature of grief
- To gain insight into different interpretations of the experience of grief
- To explore the impact of bereavement theory upon the practice of bereavement care

Research Training Unit

❖ Research methodology and study skills (35 credits)

(for those continuing to dissertation or special study unit)

Year 1 - semester 1 and 2

Aims

- To equip students with skills which maximise their ability to study efficiently and aid their familiarity and competence with a range of learning resources
- To facilitate an understanding of the philosophy and history of research methodology, and to develop students' skills in the design, conduct and critical evaluation of research.

Optional Unit

Year 2 - semester 1

❖ Special study unit (25 credits)

(for those not continuing to MMedSci)

Aim

- To undertake a comprehensive study of a chosen aspect of palliative care which critically examines current practice and the relevant published work.

Dissertation

Starts Year 2

(with completion of MMedSci 11 months later)

The aim is to design and conduct a study of palliative care, presented in the form of a dissertation which critically examines the relationship between theory and practice (85 credits). This may take a number of forms including both primary data collection or literature based study. Students doing the dissertation will not do the special study unit.

Teaching methods

Short lectures; workshops and seminars; clinical case and 'vignette presentations drawing on students' own experiences.

There is an emphasis on self-directed learning for certain aspects of the programme, aided by the provision of study guides. This allows students to develop and explore their own interests. Formative assessment takes place throughout the taught programme.

Assessment methods

Each of the units is assessed with written assignments on a subject to be negotiated between student and unit leaders. All assignments are double marked internally and marking is reviewed by external examiners. Dissertations are marked by internal and external examiners.

Student support

All students have a tutor assigned to them for the duration of the programme. A student representative sits on the programme committee.

The University, the Department and the City

Sheffield, Britain's fourth largest city, is conveniently located close to the motorway system and has good cross-Pennine links. It is well served by both bus and rail services.

Founded in 1905, the University of Sheffield has developed into one of the country's leading institutions in higher education. Located to the west of the city, the university is just 15 minutes walk from the station. The university has all the facilities expected from a prestigious institution - including a library with over 905,000 books and periodicals, computer services, sporting and social facilities.

Our research group explores preparation and planning for death; the needs and experiences of those with chronic and life threatening illness; patterns of care and communication; and educational issues for older people,

professionals and family carers. We also identify and evaluate bereavement support services, examine experiences of loss and bereavement.

The body of work produced by our palliative and end-of-life care group has a well-established reputation as first class research of international standing. Through long and close association with the prestigious Trent Palliative Care Centre and regular collaboration with other academic or clinical institutions, our researchers make a major contribution in this area of care to many different communities at local and national levels.

The Trent Palliative Care Centre has an international reputation for its work in the fields of palliative and supportive care and its director is Professor Sam Hjelmeland Ahmedzai, Chair of Palliative Medicine, University of Sheffield.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information given in this leaflet, but the University can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. University programmes are continually reviewed and revised, and there may well be some changes between the date of publication and the time the student embarks on the programme.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery is Committed to Equality through Diversity