University of Manchester MSc in Medical Mycology

This University of Manchester Medical Mycology Masters programme has been specifically designed for graduates who wish to develop their skills as mycologists. The programme aims to result in a significant level of theoretical understanding and practical skills, which will be important for those wishing to follow a career in clinical sciences or academic and industrial research in the UK or overseas.

The Medical Microbiology MSc, Diploma and Certificate are intensive full-time or part-time postgraduate taught programmes encompassing the epidemiological, diagnostic, medical and molecular aspects of fungal disease and immunity to infection. They run in parallel with the MSc Medical Microbiology and MSc in Medical Virology programmes with long traditions and excellent reputation in their fields.

The Manchester mycology programme is unique, because our students spend much of their time actually in the laboratory, learning how to be mycologists. We will provide a number of hands-on practicals linked with each module as well as work experience at the NHS Mycology Reference Centre Manchester (MRCM), clinics and ward rounds. This will ensure that students graduate with the knowledge and practical skills needed to pursue a specialist career in diagnostic, clinical or academic settings, and will provide them with comprehensive skills to set up good quality diagnostic services around the world. We will seek accreditation for our course with IBMS in line with the MMic and MV masters programs.

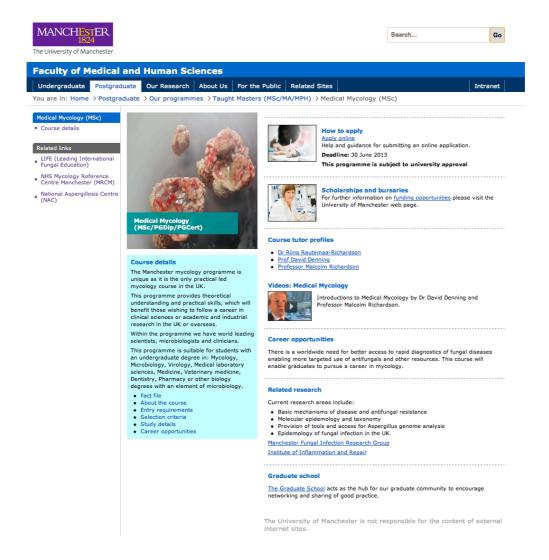
In addition, the faculty for Manchester mycology programme is exceptionally high standard with a number of world leading scientists, microbiologists and clinicians involved. The University of Manchester Fungal Infection Research Group (MFIG) is aligned to the international LIFE (Leading International Fungal Education) initiative (www.lifeworldwide.org) aiming at better awareness of fungal diseases, global access to fungal diagnostics and instigation against fungal infection world wide.

Some of the 3-week Units of the new Manchester MSc will also be offered as independent CPD/CME courses (link) and we will seek for accreditation by the Royal College of Pathologists for these.

The aim of the programme is to provide students with an understanding of the scientific basis and practical skills of traditional and novel microbiological concepts in medical mycology. In addition, you will develop clinical knowledge, specialist practical skills and critical awareness needed to enable graduates to pursue a career in mycology.

The program will contain a high practical teaching element: we will provide a number of hands-on practicals linked with each module as well as work experience at the NHS Mycology Reference Centre Manchester, clinics and ward rounds. This will ensure that students graduate with the knowledge and practical skills needed to pursue a specialist career in diagnostic, clinical or academic settings, and will provide them with minimal skills to set up good quality diagnostic services around the world.

http://www.mhs.manchester.ac.uk/medicalmycology



Training is provided through lectures, bench work and seminars and will cover:

- Technical aspects: choice of media, culture conditions, storage of isolates, molecular diagnosis and identification (PCR, qPCR, sequencing, MALDI-TOF), typing techniques (microsatellite, MLST), antifungal susceptibility testing (CLSI/EUCAST microbroth dilution methods, commercially available tests), antigen/antibody detection and histopathology.
- Practical aspects: Good laboratory practise, standard operating procedures, role of the laboratory in the diagnosis and monitoring of patients, spectrum of antifungal drugs, and limitation and use of public and specific databases for molecular identification
- **Fungal aspects:** genome organization, phylogeny, species identification, resistance mechanisms.
- Medical aspects: epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical presentation, diagnostic criteria for infections caused by yeasts or filamentous fungi, management, treatment guidelines, pharmacokinetics/dynamics of antifungal drugs, and discussion of clinical cases.