



**GRADUATE DIPLOMA / MSC HEALTHCARE
(ACUPUNCTURE)**

**UCD School of Public Health Physiotherapy and
Population Science
University College Dublin
Health Sciences Centre
Belfield
Dublin 4**

PHILOSOPHY OF THE COURSE

The educational processes within the Graduate Diploma / MSc Healthcare (Acupuncture) will be underpinned by adult learning principles.

1. Where possible, a student-centered approach to education will be adopted.
2. Assessment will be based on the stated objectives.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The course aims to:

Teach the theory and practice of acupuncture to internationally accepted standards.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

At the completion of this course the students should:

1. Have the skills in Traditional Chinese Medicine that will equip the healthcare professional with the necessary skills to assess and treat a broad range of acute and chronic conditions.
2. Demonstrate a high level of clinical reasoning by critically analysing information obtained in the examination to make appropriate decisions in selecting and modifying treatment procedures.
3. Be competent in discussing research methodology and critically evaluating relevant literature, and drawing clinical inferences as appropriate.
4. Further develop interpersonal and communication skills.
5. Stimulate scholarly research in the area of Traditional Chinese Medicine.
6. Foster the students' awareness of their professional responsibilities, including legal, ethical and cultural issues.

COURSE DIRECTOR

Dr Brona Fullen; Room A3.10; Tel: 7166516, Email: brona.fullen@ucd.ie

COURSE ADMINISTRATOR;

Ms. Roisin Arthurs: Room A3.02; Tel: 7166505

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Contact Roisin with any administration queries i.e. registration, fees.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

The programme is open to those with a primary degree in Medicine, Physiotherapy, and Nursing, and are eligible for relevant Irish professional body e.g. Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapists. A degree classification of 2:1 is required

No postgraduate physiotherapy experience is required

If English is not your native language, unless you have done your primary degree through English in an English speaking country, an English language qualification is required for all programmes.

<http://www.ucd.ie/t4cms/English%20Language%20Requirements.pdf>

Course Outline

Modules	Credits	Semester
YEAR 1		
Theory of Acupuncture	5	5
Organ Systems	5	1
Point Location	5	1
Clinical Placement I	7.5	2
Rheumatology & Sports Injury	5	2
Safety in Needling Techniques	2.5	2
YEAR 2		
Research methods	5	2
Obstetrics and gynaecology	7.5	1
Diagnosis	5	1
Skin, cardiorespiratory conditions	5	2
Chronic pain patterns	5	2
Clinical placement II	7.5	2
MSc Degrees include: Dissertation	30	3

YEAR 1 MODULES

Module	Descriptor	Learning Outcomes	Assessment
PHTY 40020 – Theory of Acupuncture – Traditional and Modern	This module will introduce the student to the Traditional theory of Acupuncture and its place in Chinese Medicine. It will also introduce modern theory and review research to support theory. It will inform the student of the place of Acupuncture in Physiotherapy Practice.	On completion of this module the student should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have an appreciation of the complexities of Traditional Theory. - Have some understanding of the holistic approach to treatment. - Have some understanding of modern theory and problems of sufficient proof. - Have an understanding for when an individual is suitable for Acupuncture treatment. 	Written 75% ICA (practical) 25%
PHTY 40040 – Safety and Contra-indications in needling techniques	The student will learn International Guidelines for risk factors and contra-indications during needling techniques. Acupuncture is safe but not without side effects. Injuries that might occur will be discussed, and hygiene and infection control considered.	On completion of this module the Postgraduate student should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Know risk factors, contra-indications, risks of infection prior to using needling techniques. -Be in a position to judge when a patient is suitable for Acupuncture treatment. - Plan a safe and effective course of treatment 	Practical Examination – 75%
PHTY 40050 – Organ Systems	The traditional methods of looking at the Physiological functions of systems (Zang Fu). Holistic approach to health and wellbeing will be taught. Body functions described in a traditional way and the student will be prepared for diagnosis of imbalance in these.	On completion of this module the student will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Knowledge of the traditional systems. -Be prepared for diagnosis of imbalance in these traditional systems. -Utilise knowledge of systems to help in diagnosis. 	Written – 75% ICA (Oral) 25%

PHTY 40060 – Point Location	Acupuncture points are well defined areas. The most common points on upper and lower limbs, face, head, back and trunk will be taught. Functions relating to these points will be explained.	On completion of this module the student will: -Have reviewed functional human anatomy. -Have developed an accurate location of points that are a vital component of the course. - Be expected to practise point location. - Know point location and name/number.	Practical Examination – 100%
PHTY 40100 Acupuncture in Rheumatology	This module teaches contra-indications, traditional theory, diagnosis, and treatment plans for Rheumatology & Sports Injury problems usually seen in an Acupuncture Practice.	On completion of this module the students should be able to: - Understand and discuss Rheumatology & Sports injury related pathology. - Determine when patients with Rheumatology & Sports injury conditions are suitable for acupuncture treatment. - Have a knowledge of contra-indications to acupuncture treatment in patients presenting with Rheumatology & Sports injury conditions. - Develop an appropriate treatment plan for patients with Rheumatology & Sports injury conditions using acupuncture.	- ICA (Practical) 25% - End of Semester Written Paper 75%
PHTY 40410 – Clinical Placement 1	During clinics students will undertake the following supervised tasks; observation of Acupuncture, discussion of diagnosis in a clinical setting, needling practice, moxa practice, electro-acupuncture observation will take place. There is an opportunity to experience all pathologies treated by the Acupuncturist.	On completion of this module the student should: - Have become familiar with practice routine and setting. - Be able to discuss differential diagnosis and pain treatment regimes. - Be familiar with techniques of treatment. - Plan a safe treatment plan. - Needle safely.	On going In Course Assessment – 100%

YEAR 2 MODULES

Module	Descriptor	Learning Outcomes	Assessment
PHTY 40080 Acupuncture in Obstetrics & Gynaecology	This module teaches contra-indications, traditional theory, diagnosis, and treatment plans for obstetrics and gynaecological problems usually seen in an Acupuncture Practice.	On completion of this module the students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand and discuss Obstetrics & Gynaecology related pathology. - Determine when patients with Obstetrics & Gynaecology conditions are suitable for acupuncture treatment. - Have a knowledge of contra-indications to acupuncture treatment in patients presenting with Obstetrics & Gynaecology conditions. - Develop an appropriate treatment plan for patients with Obstetrics and Gynaecology conditions using acupuncture. 	2hr written paper
PHTY 40090 Acupuncture in Chronic Pain Patterns, Fibromyalgia, Myofascial Pain.	This module teaches contra-indications, traditional theory, diagnosis, and treatment plans for chronic pain problems usually seen in an Acupuncture Practice.	On completion of this module the students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand and discuss chronic pain related pathology. - Determine when patients with chronic pain conditions are suitable for acupuncture treatment. - Have a knowledge of contra-indications to acupuncture treatment in patients presenting with chronic pain conditions. - Develop an appropriate treatment plan for patients with chronic pain conditions using acupuncture. 	Case presentations 25% Written paper 2hrs 75%
PHTY40030 Diagnosis	Traditional diagnosis will be taught including 5-element & 8-principle diagnostic systems. Case histories will be discussed and treatment plans formulated. Evaluation of body disharmony in traditional & modern acupuncture terms will be discussed.	On completion of this module the student should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Independent in supervised diagnosis. -Be able to design a treatment understanding signs and symptoms in traditional terms -Evaluate outcomes of treatment. 	Case history submissions 100%

<p>PHTY 40110 Acupuncture in Skin Conditions, Cardio- Respiratory Conditions.</p>	<p>This module teaches contra- indications, traditional theory, diagnosis, and treatment plans for skin problems usually seen in an Acupuncture Practice.</p>	<p>On completion of this module the students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand and discuss skin & cardio-respiratory related pathology. - Determine when patients with skin & cardio-respiratory conditions are suitable for acupuncture treatment. - Have a knowledge of contra-indications to acupuncture treatment in patients presenting with skin & cardio-respiratory conditions. - Develop an appropriate treatment plan for patients with skin & cardio-respiratory conditions using acupuncture. 	<p>End of Semester Written Paper 100%</p>
<p>PHTY 40240 Clinical Placement 11</p>	<p>During clinics students will undertake the following advanced supervised tasks; observation of Acupuncture, discussion of diagnosis in a clinical setting, needling practice, moxa practice, electro-acupuncture observation will take place. There is an opportunity to experience all pathologies treated by the Acupuncturist at an advanced level from Clinical Placement 1.</p>	<p>On completion of this module the student should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have become familiar with advanced practice routine and setting. - Be able to discuss differential diagnosis and pain treatment regimes. - Be familiar with advanced techniques of treatment. - Plan a safe treatment plan for all pathological conditions. - Needle safely. 	<p>- Continuous Assessment Throughout the semester 100%</p>
<p>PHTY 40270 Research Methods & Statistics for Health Care Professionals</p>	<p>This core module will teach students the theoretical background that underpins informed research methods, research practice and statistical analysis, provide students with the theoretical and technical expertise to</p>	<p>On completion of the module the student shall be able to:</p> <p>Demonstrate awareness of the aims and philosophy of research. Explain the research process and overall study design. Formulate a research question for the facilitation of comprehensive research. Conduct comprehensive literature searches. Effectively appraise the literature surrounding a research topic. Write and comprehensively evaluate a research proposal.</p>	<p>End of Semester Written Proposal 100%</p>

	produce high quality research theses, advance individual practice of research methods and statistical analysis to a high level of competence and confidence, and facilitate students in undertaking and contributing to multi-disciplinary team and research projects.	<p>Show understanding of the ethics surrounding research.</p> <p>Produce and select high quality measurement instruments for research, including questionnaires.</p> <p>Undertake qualitative, quantitative and randomised control trials as required to suit the research proposal/ study design.</p> <p>1Analyse all of the data obtained comprehensively and systematically with the appropriate statistical tool and apposite computer package.</p> <p>1Demonstrate awareness of the necessity for research-based practice and audit in their particular area of interest.</p> <p>1Refer to current research and implement this in clinical</p>	
PHTY 40120 Dissertation – Acupuncture Students Only	This is a MSc Physiotherapy dissertation module. This module aims to give the student experience in conducting a research project in specialist areas of physiotherapy. The student will plan, conduct, write-up and present a research project.	<p>On completion of this module the student should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set-up a research project - Carryout data collection - Analyse collected data - Draw logical and reasonable conclusions from the results - Present the research project as an oral presentation and in a written format ready for publication 	<p>-Minor Research Dissertation</p> <p>End of Semester submission 80%</p> <p>-Oral Presentation</p> <p>Varies 20%</p>