

# THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

## Postgraduate Diploma in Infectious Diseases (PDipID), 2024–2026

**Quotable qualification under the Medical Council of Hong Kong**

### OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The number of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases has been rapidly increasing in the past decades. Clinical problems arising from this trend have come down to the level of every clinical specialty. Many such problems arise as complications of the patients' underlying medical or surgical illnesses and their treatment. The management of infectious diseases is now more than merely prescribing antibiotics; other modalities of management including active and passive immunization, the use of immunomodulators, and infection control measures, are of increasing importance. Currently, there are no formal postgraduate courses in Hong Kong on this branch of clinical medicine and microbiology, and there are no structured training programmes for postgraduates in clinical infectious diseases. This course aims to foster postgraduate training in the field of infectious diseases and clinical microbiology for all clinicians and health care workers in Hong Kong.

The purpose of the programme is to provide understanding of, and practical experience in infectious diseases management for physicians, surgeons, clinical microbiologists, other clinicians and health care workers who are actively involved in the daily management of infectious diseases. Special emphasis would be put on those infections that are major health problems locally or globally.

The contents of the programme include:

- 1 The clinical approach to bedside problems, the understanding of the pathogenic microbes, and the reaction of the host in the pathogenesis of infectious diseases.
- 2 The laboratory resources used to solve the problems arising from the bedside.
- 3 The epidemiological approach to tackle outbreaks of infectious diseases.

### ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS

The programme is organized by the Carol Yu Centre for Infection with contributions from the Departments of Microbiology, other units in HKUMed, and the Department of Health.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission to the curriculum leading to the Postgraduate Diploma in Infectious Diseases, a candidate:

- 1 Shall comply with the General Regulations.
- 2 Shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula.
- 3 Shall hold the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery of this University, or a degree or other qualifications of equivalent standard from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose.
- 4 Shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.
- 5 For candidates who are seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, they shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to high degrees as prescribed under General Regulations G2(b).

Applications for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

## STRUCTURE

### Duration

The curriculum shall normally extend over two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of four academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

### Curriculum

- 1 Lectures: six 2-day weekend courses (10 hours for each course).

Lectures will cover a wide range of topics in various fields of infectious diseases. The themes of the courses include (topics may be revised in future):

Course 1	Emerging infectious diseases
Course 2	Infectious disease emergencies, indwelling device and surgical infections
Course 3	Common problems in infectious disease.
Course 4	Imaging in infectious disease and sexually-transmitted infections
Course 5	Travel-related infections
Course 6	Infections in immunocompromised hosts

- 2 Clinical attachment.
  - a Two bedside infectious diseases consultations.
  - b One clinical microbiology laboratory round.
  - c Three infectious diseases rounds (ID rounds).

- d Two presentations at the infectious disease rounds (one case presentation + one project presentation).
- 3 Project with submission of thesis.
- 4 Literature review.

### **Medium of instruction**

English

### **Programme fee**

The provisional programme fee for the September 2024 intake is HK\$28,000 (subject to the University's approval).

### **Assessments**

- 1 Format of continuous assessment.

Performance of the Diploma candidates in the quizzes, clinical attachment, literature review and project will be the basis of assessment.

- 2 Clinical attachment.

Each candidate will spend 60 hours of clinical attachment and it would be in the format of the following 4 items.

- a Three Friday ID rounds.

Each candidate has to attend three ID rounds (Conference Room, 17/F, Block T, Queen Mary Hospital; Friday mornings, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM). Attendance can be via Zoom with prior arrangement with the course secretariat.

Link to map:

[https://www8.ha.org.hk/QMH/patient\\_and\\_visitor/transportation/transportation.aspx](https://www8.ha.org.hk/QMH/patient_and_visitor/transportation/transportation.aspx)

- b Presentations.

One case presentation and a presentation on the completed project are required. The presentations will be conducted during the Friday ID rounds. Prior arrangements with the supervisor and course secretariat are required. The soft copy of the presentation file must be sent to course secretariat for record after the presentation.

- c Two bedside infectious diseases (ID) consultations.

Candidates are required to follow 2 sessions of ID consultations with the supervisor. The objective is to familiarize with the clinical skills in managing hospitalized patients with ID. The exact date of bedside consultations will be arranged between the candidates and their supervisors.

- d One clinical microbiology laboratory round.

Each candidate has to attend one clinical microbiology laboratory round. It consists of laboratory tour and demonstration of some commonly used laboratory techniques. This is intended to provide the candidate with exposure to some common tests (e.g. Gram stain, bacterial cultures) conducted in the microbiology laboratory. The exact date of bedside consultations will be arranged between the candidates and their supervisors.

### 3 Project.

A clinical and/or laboratory-based project (at least 2000 words) should be conducted over a period of at least 3 months within the candidate's own hospital or practice so that the candidate can acquire the skills of clinical, epidemiological, or laboratory studies. The supervisors will provide advice and assistance to the candidates on the preparation and execution of the project.

### 4 Literature review of important topics in infectious diseases.

Each candidate is required to submit a literature review on a topic in infectious disease or clinical microbiology. The candidate has to perform a literature search and extensively review all the relevant medical publications and submit review of the topic (at least 1500 words, excluding the reference list).

### **Professional accreditation**

CME point accreditation (subject to approval by individual colleges).

- 1 College of Surgeons of Hong Kong.
- 2 Hong Kong College of Paediatricians.
- 3 Hong Kong College of Pathologists.
- 4 Hong Kong College of Physicians.
- 5 CME accreditation will be applied for other colleges for appropriate topics/courses.