Kirby Laing MSc in Palliative Care Scholarships

Applications are invited for two new scholarships for UK-based students with an interest in conducting research in either dementia or stroke for the MSc in Palliative Care at King’s College London. Eligible applicants can attend the course on either a part-time or full-time basis, commencing January 2018. There will be one dementia and one stroke scholarships for January 2018 entry, which will each fund course tuition fees.

King’s College London is committed to opening doors for gifted and talented students and these scholarships will benefit students who for financial reasons would otherwise be unable to attend.

Study at one of the world’s top 20 universities

King’s College London is listed as one of the top 20 universities in the world by the Times Higher Education Supplement, with a distinguished reputation in research which supports and informs the highest level of teaching. It is also one of the largest providers of healthcare education in Europe. The MSc programme is run by the Cicely Saunders Institute and was developed by King’s College London in collaboration with St Christopher’s Hospice.

The four scholarships are generously supported by the Kirby Laing Foundation through Cicely Saunders International. Cicely Saunders International was established in 2002 and is the only charity dedicated to research, education and support in the field of palliative care. In partnership with King’s College London, Cicely Saunders International built the Cicely Saunders Institute, the world’s first purpose-built institute for palliative care, which is estimated to positively influence the lives of an estimated one billion people within 10 years of opening.

The Course

The MSc in Palliative Care at King’s College London has a national and international reputation attracting students working in palliative care, and related fields, from all over the world. The course is research and evidence based, enabling students to develop the skills and knowledge to take palliative care forward. The course is also multi-professional and international, reflecting the multi-professional nature of palliative care and the diverse cultural contexts in which it is provided. Teaching staff are key academics, practitioners and policy-makers in the field of palliative care. Former students have become consultants, nurse consultants and service directors. An increasing number of former students have continued their studies at PhD level.

The course consists of:

- Core Modules - Research methods and statistics in palliative care; Biology and management of symptoms in advanced disease; Service organisation and policy in palliative care; Psychosocial, cultural, ethical and spiritual issues (assessment is by exam or 3,000 word assignment)

- Optional modules - (two from the following) – Advanced pain and symptom control; Service development and management, Advanced psychosocial, ethical and spiritual care; Applying epidemiology to palliative care (assessment is by 5,000 word assignment)

- Research project based on primary data collection, secondary analysis of existing data sets, or a systematic literature review (15,000 words)
Comments of former students

"The course draws students from a variety of professional backgrounds and differing levels of advancement which lends greatly to the teaching and learning experience."

“The course opened up a completely new world for me. I never thought that I would be so fascinated by research and never anticipated how much the course would change my career.”

“The course was extraordinarily liberating and instructive.”

Application criteria

The MSc in Palliative Care is open to doctors, nurses, and health and social care professionals working with patients with advanced disease who have an upper second class honours degree or equivalent. To apply for the scholarship you must fulfil all the following criteria:

1. You must have a degree in medicine, nursing or dentistry, or a 2:1 degree or equivalent in life sciences or social sciences awarded by a UK or recognised overseas university
2. You must be able to demonstrate experience of working in palliative care or palliative medicine—clinical or social care, or palliative care research
3. You must have an interest in conducting research into dementia or stroke and be willing to conduct your research project in this area, which you will be supported in publishing.

Please apply online for the MSc in Palliative Care at: https://myapplication.kcl.ac.uk/ by 18th November 2017 to be considered for the scholarships.

When you have completed your online application, please forward the following documents directly to us here in the department by 18th November 2017:

- Your CV
- A letter of support from your current employer or clinical supervisor. (Please note that the MSc requires a total of 12 weeks attendance of taught modules over two years)
- Personal statement (500-800 words) in support of your application, explaining your reasons for applying, what you hope to gain from the MSc, your ability to complete the programme of study, and your interest in stroke or dementia.

Please send these documents to Mark Willis, MSc administrator at: mscpallcare@kcl.ac.uk

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries:

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