

# Medical Ethics & Law MA

2018 entry

Duration: full-time: one year, part-time: two years

Study mode: full-time, part-time

[www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/taught-courses/medical-ethics-and-law-ma.aspx](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/taught-courses/medical-ethics-and-law-ma.aspx)



Our Medical Ethics & Law MA course focuses on the ethical and legal questions raised by medical practice and science. These include debates about conflicts between mother and foetus, physician-assisted suicide, psychiatry, the allocation of scarce medical resources, the boundaries of the market in medicine and the law and ethics of medical research. The course was established in 1978 and constitutes an important part of the Centre of Medical Law and Ethics, which is the first of its kind in the UK.

## Key benefits

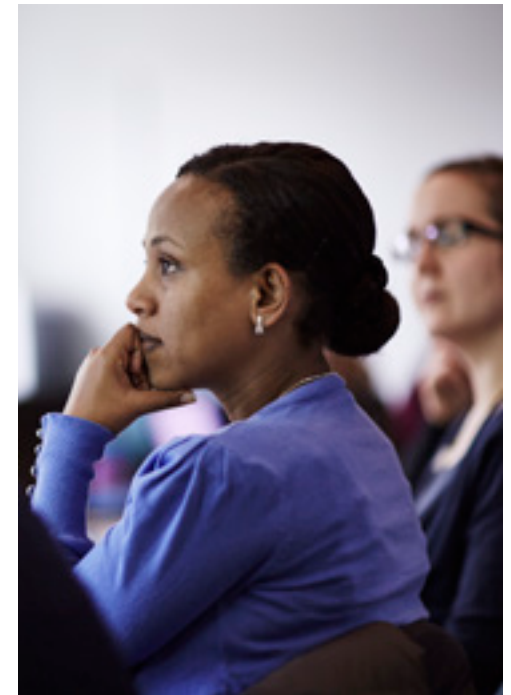
- In-depth philosophical analysis and the most up-to-date legal scholarship applied to a very wide range of medical issues.
- Discusses controversial issues such as euthanasia and abortion with a balanced approach.
- Supported by the UK's first centre of Medical Law and Ethics and its distinguished team of academic staff members.



## Course details

Our Medical Ethics & Law course is designed for medical/legal professionals, graduates of a relevant discipline, those going on to research and for anyone wanting to think about some of the hardest human decisions.

You will study the ethical and legal questions raised in the context of medicine, which include genetics, assisted reproduction, abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia, autism, psychiatric ethics and mental health law, medical research, organ donations and the allocation of scarce resources.



### Teaching

You will largely be taught through seminar-style teaching in sessions of two hours per module per week. The following table will give you an idea of what a typical academic week might look like.

#### Full-time

Year	Lectures, seminars and feedback	Self-study
1	6 (20 credit) taught modules across the year, which makes an average of 3 taught modules per semester, resulting in average formal contact time of 6 seminar hours per week (two hours per module). However, this will vary depending on which modules you choose to take and in which semester they are taught. Note: There will also be (typically) three 1-2 hour group taught sessions relating to the dissertation module.	32-34 hours per week

#### Part-time

Year	Lectures, seminars and feedback	Self-study
1	2-4 hours per week 3 (20 credit) taught modules, which makes an average of 1.5 taught modules per semester, resulting in average formal contact time of 3 seminar hours per week. But note that in reality, in one semester you will probably be studying two modules, with a third in another semester.	14-16 hours per week
2	2-4 hours per week 3 (20 credit) taught modules, which makes an average of 1.5 taught modules per semester, resulting in average formal contact time of 3 seminar hours per week. But note that in reality, in one semester you will probably be studying two modules, with a third in another semester. Note: There will also be (typically) three 1-2 hour group taught sessions relating to the dissertation module, which you would attend in Year 2.	14-16 hours per week

Contact time is based on 24 academic weeks (typically there is 1 reading week per semester), whereas self-study time is based on 31 academic weeks.

The total notional study hours for the MA are 1,800 (typically, one credit equates to 10 hours of work). Notional study hours comprise formal teaching and learning activities, such as seminars, as well as assessments and independent research and study.

### Assessment

Many modules are assessed by coursework, ie one essay, usually of a maximum of 3,500 words. Some modules are assessed by one 2-hour exam.

### Regulating body

King's College is regulated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

### Course structure

Courses are divided into modules. All students will normally take modules totalling 180 credits.

Part-time students complete 60 credits of ethics modules in Year 1 and 60 credits of law modules as well as the dissertation in Year 2.

#### Required modules

You are required to take the following modules:

- Moral Theory & Medical Ethics (20 credits)
- Medical Law I (20 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

#### Optional modules

In addition, you are required to take 80 credits from a range of optional modules, of which 40 credits must be ethics and 40 credits must be law.

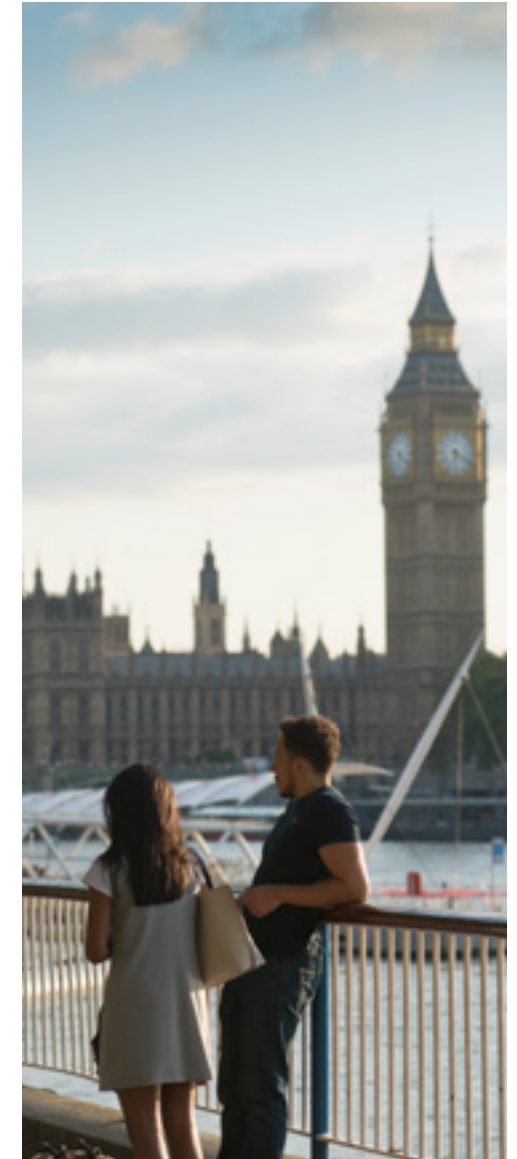
These may typically include:

- Ethics at the End of Life (20 credits)
- Topics in Medical Ethics I and II (20 credits each)
- Mental Health Ethics (20 credits)
- Criminal Law & Mental Disorder: Doctrine & Philosophy (20 credits)
- Mental Health Law: The Civil Context (20 credits)
- Medical Law II: Negligence & Misadventure (20 credits)
- Topics in Medical Law I & II (20 credits each)
- Law at the End of Life I & II, or Law at the End of Life (20 credits each)
- Law & Reproduction (20 credits)

King's College London reviews the modules offered on a regular basis to provide up-to-date, innovative and relevant courses of study. Therefore, modules offered may change. We suggest you keep an eye on the course finder on our website for updates.

### Location

This course is primarily taught at the King's Strand and Waterloo campuses.



## Career prospects

Many alumni go on to work in policy-related positions, which include the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, the Human Tissue Authority, the Nuffield Council on Bioethics and the Department of Health. We also have a number of alumni who have worked or are working in the BMA Ethics Department, for the GMC, Progress Educational Trust, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, the King's Fund, and medical defence societies. A number of alumni are teaching ethics and/or law in medical schools. Students who go on to doctoral-level study also find academic positions in law schools and research centres.

## Fees and funding

### Full-time and part-time tuition fees – UK

The UK tuition fees for the 2018–19 academic year are available on the course web page.

Please note that the tuition fees for subsequent years of study may be subject to increases in line with King's terms and conditions.

### Full-time and part-time tuition fees – EU

Current regulations allow some students to pay UK tuition fees on the basis of their EU citizenship or residency. Until these eligibility criteria are changed, the EU tuition fee will remain the same as the UK tuition fee.

The UK tuition fees for the 2018–19 academic year are available on the course web page.

Please note that the tuition fees for subsequent years of study may be subject to increases in line with King's terms and conditions.

### Full-time and part-time tuition fees – International

The International tuition fees for the 2018–19 academic year are available on the course web page.

Please note that the tuition fees for subsequent years of study may be subject to increases in line with King's terms and conditions.

### Deposit

When you receive an offer for this course you will be required to pay a non-refundable deposit to secure your place. The deposit will be credited towards your total fee payment.

The UK/EU deposit is £500.

The International deposit is £2,000.

For further information, please visit the fees and funding section of our website: [www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees-and-funding/index.aspx](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees-and-funding/index.aspx)

### Additional costs

In addition to your tuition fees, you can also expect to pay for:

- books if you choose to buy your own copies
- library fees and fines
- personal photocopies and/or binding costs
- society membership fees
- stationery
- graduation costs.

### Disclaimer

This PDF was produced in July 2017. Although it was up-to-date at the time it was produced, please make sure you check our website [www.kcl.ac.uk/study](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study) or contact us directly for the very latest information before you commit yourself to any of our courses.

### Contact us

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