



The School of English Studies

in collaboration with the Schools of Nursing and Sociology and Social Policy

MA in Health Communication

(by web-based distance learning)



Communication is increasingly recognised as a vital part of the health care environment. From clinical consultations to health care policy, language plays a vital role in promoting health, facilitating understanding and managing the emotional climate of health care.

Meeting the challenges of communication

The MA programme in Health Communication provides a unique opportunity to investigate language and communication in various health care contexts. The course gives students a thorough grounding in the concepts, theories and research methods used in this area.

The Health Language Research Group, The University of Nottingham

The course is run by the University's Health Language Research Group, which incorporates the Schools of Nursing, Sociology and Social Policy and English Studies, all of which look to communication as a way of making sense of health care. The University of Nottingham has an international reputation for research and teaching in the field of professional communication. The study of health communication is a rapidly expanding field and the distance learning programme has been designed to reflect the growing interest in and importance of health care communication.

The course

The course programme offers detailed and comprehensive coverage of the main areas of health care communication, with the opportunity to specialise in areas according to students' own interests and research. The MA in Health Communication is a distance learning programme and includes the option of voluntary day schools held for participants in Nottingham. Because of its strong emphasis on the analysis and discussion of real-life settings and practical health care contexts, the course is particularly suitable for health care professionals who wish to further their career and professional development, as well as students who wish to continue their studies to PhD level.



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Communication is the dominant activity in health care delivery. With established and new approaches to the study of health care language at Nottingham we aim to advance evidence-based practice in this field. By combining the theoretical and practical in a convenient web-based course, we offer busy practitioners the benefit of flexible, distance learning. The course examines the role of language in a comprehensive and diverse range of health care settings and focuses on established approaches used to analyse and interrogate health care interaction, ranging from narratology and corpus linguistics to conversation and discourse analysis. With such a particular focus on research methodology, this programme also offers a unique opportunity for investigating language and communication from interdisciplinary perspectives.

Entry requirements

Candidates would usually be expected to hold an honours degree at 2:1 level or above. Those whose first language is not English must achieve an overall score on the British Council IELTS test of at least seven or the equivalent TOEFL score (including the writing test). Please note that applicants from non-UK universities may also be asked to supply a sample of their own written work (further details available from the School of English Studies). Applicants with non-standard qualifications or experience may contact the address below to discuss admission with a member of the team. We welcome applications from health care professionals with an interest in health communication.

Course structure: MA, Diploma and Certificate

The MA is completed by part-time study over 24 to 48 months. You can commence the programme at any point throughout the year. The programme is made up of two components – the taught component and the research component. Students will also be invited to attend optional lectures and workshops in Nottingham. For those unable to take advantage of this, selected material will be included on the programme's website.

The following modules make up the taught component of the programme:

- **Research Methodologies for Health Care Communication (30 credits)**
- **The Language of Compliance (30 credits)**
- **Health Care Narratives (30 credits)**
- **Health Care Documentation (30 credits)**
- **Dissertation (60 credits)**

The first module, Research Methodologies for Health Care Communication, is compulsory and must be completed before undertaking further modules. This core research module is designed to provide students with the necessary research and methodological skills to pursue further postgraduate research in this area. You will need to complete 120 credits – i.e. all four modules – before proceeding to the dissertation.

The dissertation is a major piece of advanced independent research, which you complete under the supervision of a specialist in your chosen area. We will provide you with advice and guidance while you select and refine your area of study, and offer close supervision and support as you complete your research and your MA.

Instead of completing the entire MA programme, students who have less time for study may wish to take fewer modules, leading to the awards of: Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits) Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits).

Application procedures and deadlines

Candidates can apply online at any time throughout the year at: <https://pgapps.nottingham.ac.uk/> This webpage also provides links to further information about The University of Nottingham. Paper application forms are also available.

For further information please contact:

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Further information about our Schools is available at:

www.nottingham.ac.uk/english
www.nottingham.ac.uk/sociology
www.nottingham.ac.uk/nursing