

REDEFINE

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



MSc GLOBAL ISSUES IN GERONTOLOGY AND AGEING

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND SPORT
NEW ONLINE PROGRAMME FOR 2017



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WHAT IS THE PROGRAMME ABOUT?

How can over a billion people age well across the world? Globally, the number of older persons is growing faster than the number of people in any other age group, putting pressure on all sectors of society. The core theme of this online postgraduate programme is to bring together two perspectives on ageing: the positive view of healthy, successful and active ageing, and the negative view of illness, vulnerability, disability and frailty.

The MSc Global Issues in Gerontology and Ageing considers experiences of both perspectives from around the world in a range of health, social care and policy contexts. Core modules have been developed for students who would like to specialise in this fast-growing sector. This enables critical awareness of strategies, supports and interventions that facilitate ageing with complex multi-morbidities, frailty and dementia.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Our mission is to strive for excellence in teaching and research that will equip the current and future generation of professionals with expertise in supporting ageing populations. As a student, you will bring your experience of working with older people at a local or national level. The programme is for you as a health or social care/social work practitioner, as an online learner and as someone who has identified the need to make an evidence-informed difference in their practice and service delivery with older people.

REDEFINE AT STIRLING

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

This programme cuts across two key scientific areas. Firstly, studying the process of ageing challenges you to consider how this happens across an individual's lifespan, not just in later years. Secondly, gerontology takes a multidisciplinary approach that brings in cultural, social, cognitive, and biomedical aspects to consider the impact of getting older.

The programme responds to significant current global challenges in supporting an ageing population through module content that addresses both local and national issues. Examples include: the oldest-old, who are the fastest growing group and the most likely to experience frailty; people with dementia who are included from a personal to a global perspective, and consideration of the impact of multimorbidity in an ageing population.

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PROGRAMME DESIGN

During the programme students are supported to:

- develop an advanced understanding of theory about gerontology and approaches to ageing from different perspectives;
- critically analyse research and policy on key gerontological and ageing issues;
- demonstrate awareness of international best practice and interventions that facilitate positive ageing with complex co-morbidities, frailty and dementia;
- become a critical thinker who can reflect on the experiences of older persons globally and apply to a local context;
- develop knowledge and skills in digital learning and collaboration.

TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

The programme is international and online. You can study from the comfort of your own home and interact with students from all over the world. You will be supported to reflect on positive change in your area of expertise based on current research and evidence. To achieve this, the programme incorporates the experience of the older person and their families, clinical and social care/social work staff who provide support, and eminent researchers in the field of ageing, disability and gerontology.

MODULES

GLOBAL ISSUES IN AGEING SOCIETIES (NURP011)

Populations around the world are ageing, presenting challenging and complex issues for society, policy makers and for older people and their families. The module is designed to challenge and extend knowledge and understanding of experiences of the older person. Students are supported to critically review cultural and bio-psychosocial influences and global policy drivers that impact on ageing populations around the world.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA (NURP012)

Dementia is a global priority with over 30 countries in Europe, and over 70 countries worldwide, having adopted national dementia strategies or plans. This module reflects on the changing face of dementia care and provides the underpinning knowledge and evidence-base from which to deliver twenty-first century dementia health and social care in a range of contexts.

MULTI-MORBIDITY IN THE OLDER PERSON (NURP013)

Multi-morbidity means the presence of two or more co-occurring diseases. People are living for longer with multiple conditions which presents complex challenges for global healthcare needs. This module provides students with the knowledge to develop a critical understanding of public health and asset-based approaches to multi-morbidity, and to understand the impact at individual and societal levels.

AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO FRAILTY (NURP014)

Frailty is the most common condition leading to death among the population of people aged over 80. Yet, we know that frailty is not an inevitable consequence of ageing and can be delayed or prevented. This module will enable students to understand the experiences of the frail older person in a range of cultures and contexts and to reflect on assessment, prevention and enabling interventions.

SKILLS FOR KNOWLEDGE ENQUIRY (NURP002)

The module will provide participants with an opportunity to consider the theory and practice of healthcare research. Students will be supported to demonstrate the acquisition of key research skills such as literature searching and apply those skills to their own area of practice.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS (NURP004) OR QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS (NURP006)

Qualitative Research: This module provides an advanced introduction to qualitative research methods, which are widely applicable and transferable to a range of occupational settings. Students are introduced to the basic concepts that underpin qualitative approaches, provided with an overview of data collection methods and given practical training in qualitative analysis.

OR

Quantitative Research: The module aims to develop students' understanding of the theoretical ideas behind quantitative research and applicability of these methods to their own work. It also provides practical experience of organising and using quantitative data in a manner that will enable critical use of these approach.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DISSERTATION (NURP051)

This module spans two semesters: autumn and spring in year 3 of the MSc programme. Students do not conduct empirical research. The dissertation takes the form of a detailed research proposal using either a qualitative or a quantitative methodology on an issue affecting the health and wellbeing of older people. The title is agreed with a dissertation supervisor before the end of year 2.

WHY STIRLING?

In the most recent Research Excellence Framework, the Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport came first for health research in Scotland and was ranked 12th in the UK showcasing our commitment to produce world leading research that improves health and reduces health inequalities.

Stirling is one of only two UK universities ranked in the top 50 by the QS World University Rankings, for Universities under the age of 50 years. This recognises universities who have established a strong position in international ranking tables in an impressively short period of time.

The University of Stirling holds the UK Student Nursing Times Award for Pre-Registration Nurse Education Provider.

AWARDS

It is possible to achieve:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Global Issues in Gerontology and Ageing (60 credits – 3 modules)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Global Issues in Gerontology and Ageing (120 credits – 6 modules)
- Master of Science in Global Issues in Gerontology and Ageing (120 credits plus dissertation of 60 credits)

WHAT IS THE CREDIT LEVEL?

National Qualification Framework	Level
Scottish Credit Qualification Framework (SCQF)	11
European Qualifications Framework (EQF)	7
Qualifications and Credit Framework England/Northern Ireland (QCF)	7
The National Framework of Qualifications for Ireland (NFQ IE)	9

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of a second class Honours degree (2.1 preferred) or equivalent in a relevant subject. Applications without these formal qualifications but with significant relevant work/life experience are welcome to contact the Programme Director to discuss further. IELTS: 6.5 with 6.0 minimum in each skill

FUNDING

For information on possible sources of funding, visit www.stir.ac.uk/scholarships

PROGRAMME START DATE

Part-time: 3 years, online only, September start, Any of the modules may be taken individually for continuing professional development

GET IN TOUCH

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