



DISTANCE LEARNING IN PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY

www.bpna.org.uk/DL

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The British Paediatric Neurology Association's distance learning course is designed as a teaching package to complement clinical training. The course is divided into 12 units, each involving 48 hours study. The course is constantly updated, offering a comprehensive theoretical background in paediatric neurology for trainees and an opportunity for established consultants to update themselves on a particular topic as part of their Continuing Professional Development.

- Unit 1: Introductory Unit
- Unit 2: Embryology, disorders of neuro-embryogenesis, hydrocephalus and neonatal neurology
- Unit 3: Development and Learning
- Unit 4: Central motor deficits; congenital and acquired spinal cord disorders
- Unit 5: Development and function of the peripheral nervous system and neuromuscular disorders
- Unit 6: Membranes, channels, epilepsy and paroxysmal disorders
- Unit 7: Cerebrovascular disease, trauma and coma
- Unit 8: Inflammation and infection of the nervous system
- Unit 9: Metabolic, Nutritional and Systemic Disease
- Unit 10: Vision, Hearing and their Disorders
- Unit 11: Oncology
- Unit 12: Psychological Development, Psychiatric Disorder, Communication, Learning Disability and Service Networks

KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY ONTO THE COURSE

We are keen that you are fully supported in your studies and would really like you to have the support of the national paediatric neurology Association in your country before you begin the course. We would advise you to contact your Association as a link may already have been established.

You will also require:

- 1. An Educational Supervisor.** Continuing support is through your Educational Supervisor, who will be a Consultant Paediatric Neurologist. He/she will meet up with you regularly to discuss the Unit you are working on and your progress. Some of the activities you are asked to undertake specifically ask you to discuss aspects of cases etc with your Supervisor. At the end of each Unit there is an appraisal form for your Supervisor to sign confirming that you have completed the Unit satisfactorily.
- 2. Regular access to paediatric neurology clinics.** The distance learning course is designed as a teaching package to complement the clinical training. The course relies on you seeing adequate clinical material, indeed many of the activities you will be asked to complete involve reflecting on and reviewing cases you have seen and using experience gained in clinics. For most students this means you need to be a trainee on a neurology service.

It is up to you to identify a local Supervisor before making your application. There is more information specifically for Supervisors available at www.bpna.org.uk/DL/overseas_edsupinfo.pdf. There is an introduction to the course for Supervisors available on the distance learning website – access to this can be requested at anytime, please email diane@bpna.org.uk.

3. **Funding.** Many distance learning students have all or part of the course costs met by their hospital and some are sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. However, this can take some time to arrange so please apply for funding at the earliest opportunity. Please see below for the cost of the course where you work.

DELIVERY OF THE COURSE

The course is divided into 12 Units, each containing 48 hours of work. Course materials are accessed via the web. Your username and password to the website will be provided when you are accepted onto the course. The website will allow you to download and print out each unit so that you can work on a hard copy. We would hope that you would work through it at a rate that is right for you, maintaining a balance between momentum and enjoyment. Therefore, students will complete the course at differing rates depending on their personal circumstances however you should aim to complete the whole course in 2-4 years. Discuss and plan how long you would like to take to complete the course with your Educational Supervisor. You will probably have a better idea about this when you have started the course.

MEMBERSHIP OF YOUR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

It is not a requirement that you are a member of your national Association, however as you wish to become a paediatric neurologist you may wish to consider joining your professional group.

COURSE COSTS

Course costs vary according to World Bank classifications:

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Egypt, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Macedonia, FYR, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan	Total = £590.00 (GBP)
Chile, Croatia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Turkey	Total = £1100.00 (GBP)
Australia, Canada, Gulf States, New Zealand, United States of America, Western Europe	Total = £1850.00 (GBP)

Payments are made in four instalments over a 2 year period. You will be sent an invoice for the first instalment when you are accepted onto the course. Payment may be made monthly by direct debit for those with UK bank accounts. Payment for the first instalment must be received before access to the course is made available.

TO APPLY FOR THE BPNA DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE

Please download and complete the application form from www.bpna.org.uk/DL/appform.doc and return to diane@bpna.org.uk.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please contact Philippa Rodie at the BPNA Secretariat in the UK at info@bpna.org.uk or by telephone: +44 (0)1204 492888.