



UK Pre Application Information

The BPNA distance learning course is designed as a teaching package to complement the clinical training provided by our Training Centres. 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.

KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY ONTO THE COURSE

1. **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 would mean being an SpR on a neurology service.
2. **Have an Educational Supervisor.** Ongoing 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.

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/infoedsup.pdf

3. **Funding.** Many distance learning students have all or part of the course costs met by their Trust. However, this can take some time to arrange so please apply for funding at the earliest opportunity. The total cost of the course will be £1,850.
4. **Attend the Introductory study day.** This will be held at the Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, Edinburgh on Tuesday 25 January 2011 from 2pm-7pm. The cost of this study day is included in your course fees.

DELIVERY OF THE COURSE

The course is divided into 12 Units, each containing 48 hours of work. The course materials are accessed via the web and you can download the course materials so that you can print it out and work on a hard copy if you choose. Your username and password to the website will be provided at the Introductory course. One unit will be 'opened up' for you to access every two months. 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 the time you wish to complete the course over with your Educational Supervisor. You will probably have a better idea about this when you have started the course.

In addition to the initial residential course, various other study days are held. One is usually held the day before the BPNA Trainees' Meeting held annually in autumn (see www.bpna.org.uk/training/trainees.html).

PAYMENT

The course fees for students working in the UK are £1,850. We will send you an invoice for £500 to be paid by cheque or credit card by 18 January 2011. The balance is payable by direct debit in 18 monthly instalments of £75.00. Alternatively, if your fees will be paid by your employer or a pharmaceutical company, we can invoice them directly either for the full amount or in two instalments over 2 years, 50% per year.

BPNA MEMBERSHIP

It is not a requirement that you are a member of the BPNA, however as you wish to become a paediatric neurologist you may wish to consider joining your professional association. Details can be found at www.bpna.org.uk/membership. Applications will be considered at the AGM on 26 January 2011.

BPNA CONFERENCE

You are very welcome to attend the BPNA 2011 conference, taking place at the Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, Edinburgh from Wednesday 26 to Friday 28 January 2011. Please go to www.bpna.org.uk/2011 for further details and booking form etc. Reduced rates are available for trainees who book before 31 October 2010.

TO APPLY FOR THE BPNA DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE COMMENCING JANUARY 2011

Please download and complete the application form from www.bpna.org.uk/DL/UKappform.doc and return to diane@bpna.org.uk. The closing date for applications is 31 October 2010. You will be notified by the end of November whether or not your application has been successful.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please contact Philippa Rodie at info@bpna.org.uk or by telephone on 01204 492888.