



**L-Università
ta' Malta**

Master of Science in Surgical Skills

Course overview:

This unique joint programme offered by the University of Malta and Queen Mary University of London brings to the region the best educational standards in medical training that both institutions have to offer. The programme has been designed to offer a new curriculum of technology enhanced learning as a flexible mode of study allowing the programme to be studied alongside the surgical and gynaecological training in Malta for both local and international students.

In the current era of evidence-based medicine, the programme originators have developed a competency-based training curriculum that will provide participants with hands on training for developing surgical skills using latest surgical simulation technology, thus enabling them to improve the surgical skills that are essential for building confidence in clinical practice and improving patient welfare.

In this fourth digital industrial revolution the landscape for surgical education is changing. Surgery is technically demanding, and the surgical skills required for proficiency are difficult to acquire for both open and laparoscopic surgery. Proficiency in operative technique requires time, repetition, and deliberate practice, and this M.Sc. programme provides participants with an opportunity to distribute training over several months. The students' engagement is increased by using immersive digital platforms for higher knowledge retention and shorten the learning curve to globalise and fast-track surgical training.

In addition to surgical skills, students will gain a clear understanding of the research methodology for critically appraising literature and designing a research project for conducting research and academic writing of the dissertation.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the programme of study, you will be able to:

a) Subject Knowledge and Understanding:

1. Describe the discipline and principles guiding surgery;
2. Explain basic and laparoscopic surgical techniques;
3. Discuss the process for trouble shooting in surgical techniques;
4. Discuss non-surgical aspects of surgical procedures;
5. Discuss the interpretation of surgical complications;
6. Explain the surgical anatomy of the pelvic organs, the pelvic floor and the perineum;
7. Describe the peri-operative care, the indications/contraindications of gynaecological surgeries;
8. Explain how gynaecological surgery can influence sexual function and psychosexual outlooks; and
9. Describe the various surgical procedures commonly undertaken in the management of gynaecological conditions.

b) Intellectual Development:

1. Explain the discipline of surgery for doctors who would like to embark on a surgical career;
2. Appreciate and interpret of surgical research; and
3. Appreciate of personal development in surgical and non-surgical techniques.

c) Key/Transferable Skills:

1. Demonstrate surgical skills in suturing including knot tying;
2. Demonstrate how to set up laparoscopic equipment and use of surgical instruments;
3. Demonstrate tissue handling and cutting skills;
4. Make informed decisions in surgical management;
5. Explain potential complications in surgical operations and develop a strategy of how to avoid them;
6. Analyse critically and interpret surgical literature;
7. Write a research proposal and dissertation on a surgical topic;
8. Apply surgical skills into practice during clinical placements;
9. Maintain effective communication with the gynaecological patient and her relatives.

d) Other skills relevant to employability and personal development:

1. Discipline
2. Rapid and informed decision-making
3. Communication skills
4. Psychological preparation for surgery
5. Ethos