Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Medicine (Conducted for lawyers and judges)

1. Introduction

The Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya is a leading center for the study and practice of forensic medicine in Sri Lanka, engaged in advanced research, expert medicolegal services, and the professional training of both undergraduate and graduate students.

Postgraduate Diploma in Forensic Medicine is a postgraduate programme conducted for lawyers and judges by the Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Peradeniya. The programme addresses those aspects of Forensic Medicine which are most frequently the subject of expert testimony in courts. This programme, which was initiated by Dr. Induwara Goonarathne, a former Senior Lecturer in this department, commenced in 2009 with the intention of teaching the basics of Forensic Medicine to legal processionals.

This diploma has a strong practical orientation which is reflected by the conduct of seminars, presentations, discussions and observation of clinical/autopsy procedures and also requires students to give critical scientific opinions on case material. This is a part time course of one year duration.

The primary aim of the course is to impart knowledge on how medical knowledge, especially forensic medicine, can assist in the administration of justice of legal issues in criminal and civil courts.

2. Eligibility criteria

A bachelor's degree from a recognized University/Institution in the field of law,
OR
A professional qualification in law acceptable to the Faculty Board and the Senate of the University of Peradeniya.

3. Programme fee

Application fee Rs. 1,000
Registration fee Rs. 5,000
Course fee

Single payment	Rs. 140,000.00
Two installments	Rs. 150,000.00 (Rs. 75,000.00 × 2)

Examination fee Rs. 5,000

- The university reserves the right to revise the fee.
- The course fee can be paid in two installments (50% at registration and 50% within three months of registration.)

- These should be paid according to the procedure stipulated by the University of Peradeniya.

4. Programme learning outcomes

The diplomate should;

(1) possess knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable a holistic approach to medicolegal issues
(2) be able communicate appropriately with all medical experts
(3) be aware of the limitations of knowledge and skills and be prepared to seek expertise where indicated
(4) be able to work in a team and provide expertise in crime investigation
(5) be able to assess evidence both as to its reliability and relevance and appreciate that medicolegal conclusions are reached by logical deduction
(6) be able to continue self-directed learning and contribute towards the progress of forensic medicine
(7) be able to communicate effectively with fellow practitioners, medical experts, the aggrieved party and the judiciary

5. Structure of the programme

The programme is part-time and conducted over one year on weekends, with both online and on-site sessions. It consists of six courses of which 3 are conducted in the first semester and 3 in the second. Each course is assessed by assignments and quizzes within the semester in which it is taught.The final examination is held at the end of the academic programme, which includes an overall evaluation of all courses conducted.

In order to successfully complete the programme, students are expected to conduct a research project under supervision.

During the ongoing programme, students are provided the opportunity to observe autopsies under the guidance of consultant forensic pathologists. Arrangements are also made for students to visit hospital wards to observe the role of the forensic physicians during clinical examination of patients for medico legal purposes.

In order to provide an opportunity for smooth transition of students who have limited knowledge in biological sciences, facilities such as lectures in human biology, cadaveric dissections and access to a museum of human bone and soft tissue specimens are provided.

Course	Semester	Credits	Assessments
DFM 01 Introduction to forensic medicine, basic sciences	1	4	Assignment 01
DFM 02 The autopsy and traumatology 01	1	4	Quiz 01
DFM 03 Traumatology 02	1	3	Quiz 02
DFM 04 Forensic pathology, identification, sexual offenses and vulnerable groups	2	4	Assignment 02
DFM 05 Medical ethics, professionalism, and health care rights	2	2	Assignment 03
DFM 06 Specialized applications in forensic practice	2	4	Quiz 03
DFM 07 Research project	1 and 2	4	Proposal presentation Final report
DFM 08 Clinical appointment	1 and 2	1	Reflective note
DFM			End programme evaluation comprises SAQ , essay , MCQ

6. Course content

1. Introduction to forensic medicine and basic sciences

1.1 Biological sciences including human anatomy, biochemical and physiological processes.
1.2 Introduction to forensic medicine, branches, scope and the need
1.3 Death, death related issues, changes after death and time since death.
1.4 Postmortem artifacts

2. The autopsy and traumatology 01

2.1 Disposal of a dead body
2.2 Inquest
2.3 Routine autopsy and special dissection technique 2.4 Examination of persons for medicolegal purposes
2.5 Introduction to basic injuries and injury patterns.
2.6 Burns
2.7 Regional injuries
2.8 Asphyxia
2.9 Scene of crime

3. Traumatology 02

3.1 Transportation injuries
3.2 Firearms and explosives
3.3 Mass disaster
3.4 Torture and deaths in custody
3.5 Excavation and exhumation
3.6 Medico-legal documents
3.7 Classification of injuries for legal purposes

4. Forensic pathology, identification, sexual offenses, and vulnerable groups

4.1 Identification
4.2 Sexual offenses
4.3 Child abuse
4.4 Starvation and neglect
4.5 Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and infanticide
4.6 Maternal death and criminal abortion
4.7 Sudden death of an adult

5. Medical ethics, professionalism, and health care rights

5.1 Health care rights of patients and professional ethics
5.2 Medical ethics

5.3 Medical negligence
5.4 Medical malpractice and Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC)

6. Specialized applications in forensic practice

6.1 Forensic toxicology
6.2 Alcohol and drug abuse
6.3 Laboratory tests in forensic practice
6.4 Role of the Government Analyst
6.5 Application of DNA in forensic practice
6.6 Forensic psychiatry
6.7 Forensic photography
6.8 Forensic radiology
6.9 Forensic odontology

7. Research Project

7.1 Research methodology and dissertation writing

8. Clinical Appointment

8.1 Introduction to routine Autopsy and techniques
8.2 Clinical examination for medico-legal purpose

7. Eligibility criteria to sit the final examination.

- A minimum of 80% attendance at all teaching learning activities.
- A minimum mark of 40% for each assignment and quiz with an overall average of 50%
- Successful completion of clinical appointment.

Final Examination

- The final examination will be held at the end of the academic programme.
- All components of the final examination should be completed in one and the same attempt.
- If a student is unable to sit the final examination and has provided an excuse acceptable by the faculty board, he/she may be allowed to sit the next available examination.

Criteria for the award of Diploma

- Successful completion of dissertation (a score of over 50%).

AND

- Successful completion of final examination (a score of over 50%) within four consecutive attempts.

Discontinuation

- In the event that a student is not able to complete the programme, the student will be given a single opportunity to complete the relevant component/s with the next intake.
- In the event that the programme is discontinued by the university, a single additional programme will be conducted at the end of which a single additional examination will be conducted for those who have not completed.

Acceptance of medical certificates

- The procedure approved by the University of Peradeniya for the acceptance of medical certificates submitted by students for work and examinations would apply to this course.

Regulations relating to examination procedure, offenses & punishments.

- Regulations made by the Senate of the University of Peradeniya and approved by the council shall be applied to this programme.

The universities act and its amendments, rules, regulations, by-laws governing the University of Peradeniya shall be applied in any other matter which has not been specifically mentioned in this document.

8. Resource panel

1. Prof. Amal Vadysinghe (MBBS, DLM, MD (Col.), D-ABMDI (USA), FCFPSL), Professor in Forensic Medicine, Head of the department, Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Peradeniya
2. Prof. Dinesh Fernando (MBBS, MD, DLM, DMJ(Lond.), FCFPSL), Senior Professor in Forensic Medicine, Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Peradeniya
3. Prof. Sarathchandra Kodikara (MBBS, MD, DLM, Attorney at law), Chair and Senior Professor of Forensic Medicine, Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Peradeniya
4. Prof. Deepthi Edussuriya (MBBS, MPhil, PhD), Professor in Medical Education (Forensic Medicine), Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Peradeniya
5. Dr. Chathula Wickramasinghe (MBBS, MD, DipRc Path [UK]), Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Peradeniya
6. Dr. Kasun Ekanayake (MBBS, CTHE, DAS), Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Peradeniya
7. Dr. Jayampathi Dissanayake (MBBS, MPhil), Senior Lecturer, Department of Anatomy, University of Peradeniya
8. Dr. D. P. P. Senasinghe (MBBS, MD, DLM), Consultant J.M.O., National Hospital, Kandy
9. Dr. R. P. Jayasooriya (MBBS, MD, DLM, CM-USA), Consultant J.M.O., Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya
10. Dr. Kalana Senarathne (LL.B, LL.M, PhD), Department of Law, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya
11. Prof. S. M. H. M. K. Senanayake, Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka
12. Dr. Chittahari Abhayanayaka, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, National Hospital, Kandy
13. Dr. Prabath Senasinghe, Consultant J.M.O., National Hospital, Kandy
14. Mr. A. Welianga, Government Analyst (Retired), Government Analyst Department, Colombo
15. Dr. Ajith Jayasena, Consultant J.M.O., Base Hospital, Kuliyapitiya

16. Prof. A. K. S. Arambewatta, Director, Centre for Forensic Odontology, Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya
17. Prof. H. R. D. Peiris, Professor in Anatomy, Department of Basic Sciences, Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya
18. Prof. R. D. Jayasinghe, Chair Professor of Oral Medicine and Periodontology, Department of Oral Medicine & Periodontology, Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya
19. Prof. B. G. T. L. Nandasena, Professor in Dental Anatomy, Department of Basic Sciences, Faculty of Dental Sciences, University of Peradeniya
20. Dr. Nandika Perera, Head of DNA Typing and Senior Scientist, Genetech, Sri Lanka

9. For further information

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