

**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PALLIATIVE MEDICINE
(PAEDIATRIC OPTION)- 2024
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**



Paediatric Palliative Care (PPC) is a rapidly developing new approach to care, organised in some places as a specialty, to improve the care of children with life threatening or life limiting conditions. It is the science and art of lessening physical, psychosocial, emotional and existential suffering by multi-disciplinary teams that mobilize existing resources around the patient and family.



The University of Cape Town offers a Paediatric Option to the Diploma in Palliative Medicine. This is a one-year diploma that includes distance learning through UCT's Vula platform and contact time in Cape Town. It is open to any Postgraduate student with an undergrad/postgrad degree relevant to the field. This includes general practitioners/medical officers working in paediatrics, specialists (Paediatricians, Paediatric sub-specialists, Oncologists, Intensivists), nurses, allied health practitioners, social workers, clergy, psychologists etc.

The Diploma is divided in to two courses. The first semester course covers the basic principles and practice of palliative care relevant to all professionals and includes topics such as communication, ethics, basic pain management, teamwork and self-care. The second semester course is more clinical, and students learn how to apply the palliative care principles in the care of children with life-threatening and life limiting illnesses within their scope of practice and in the context of a team.

The Diploma entails:

- **2 contact weeks in Cape Town: January and June**
 - **January week: 22 – 26 January 2024**
 - **June week: 24 – 28 June 2024**
- **Forum discussions through Vula (UCT e-learning platform)**
- **8 assignments**
- **1 portfolio**
- **Written and oral examinations (communications assessment): 5 & 6 November 2024**

Students must be proficient in English and have access to the internet. International students are also able to apply (includes non-SADAC region for Africa).

For further information on how to apply please contact Debbie Moodie at Debbie.Moodie@uct.ac.za

Please also cc the paediatric course convenor Dr Michelle Meiring at ma.meiring@uct.ac.za