

# Professional Diploma in **Infectious Diseases** Online



**WELCOME PACK**

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## Welcome

This Royal College of Physicians of Ireland Professional Diploma in Infectious Diseases, delivered by iheed, is a 9-month online learning program, designed specifically to cater for busy healthcare professionals. The program draws on the expertise of national and international experts in Infectious Diseases, with the overall aim of equipping learners with the necessary knowledge and skills for the treatment, management, and referral of infectious diseases cases.

The objective of this Postgraduate Diploma is to enable participants to develop clinically focused diagnostic skills using interactive patient cases. It enhances the skills required to identify important clinical features to develop diagnostic skills in a highly engaging format.

Under the guidance of clinical tutors, you will study online using a combination of practical content and case-based learning. Throughout the program you will receive strong support from the faculty, led by senior clinicians, medical educators and from the iheed team who will guide you through each step of your studies. Should you have questions at any stage, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.



Clodagh Conway

Director of Academic Affairs iheed

## Program Delivery

The program is divided into **three modules**:

**Module 1:** Infection and the Host (10 weeks)

**Module 2:** Systems based Infectious Diseases (9 weeks)

**Module 3:** Public Health and Social Aspects of Infectious Diseases (10 weeks)

Typically, a week will follow this structure:

-**Each week** will cover a particular topic. In **Canvas**, the online learning environment, learners will review the content for that topic as well as engage in interactive reflective questions, case studies, and interactive multimedia.

-Learners will also contribute to the **discussion forum**, where each week there will be a case study associated with the topic. Learners will review the case study and then answer the questions about the case. Your group tutor will moderate the discussion, and from the replies posted, your tutor can gauge how to structure/pitch the tutorial at the end of the week.

-The week then ends in the **one-hour tutorial with your tutor and your group**. Along with your tutor and peers, you will discuss the case and the content, highlighting any crucial aspects of the case in terms of presentation, diagnostics and treatment.

## Program Induction

The first week of the program will be an induction week. During induction week, you will:

-**Receive** your login details for Canvas (**week commencing Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October**), which is the online learning environment where you will find the content for each module, the discussion forum, and the links for your tutorials. You will also be assigned to your tutorial group

-**Attend** a live induction session on Zoom. There will be two live induction sessions on Zoom. These will take place on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October**. This session will give an overview of Canvas, discuss the scheme of assessment, and advise you of the supports available. You don't need to attend both sessions (both sessions will be the same), please choose the time that suits you. If you can't attend at all, a recording will be made available

-**Participate** in the introductory session in the discussion forum on Canvas. Here, you can introduce yourself to your peers and tutor.

## Induction Week Timetable

This timetable details the structure of the induction week, and the times for the live induction sessions. Induction sessions will take place at **11am** and **7pm** (UTC + 0), but we have provided the equivalent times in your time zone too. The link to join the live induction week sessions is:

<https://iheed.zoom.us/j/94120990236?pwd=2DaXLgUBn7j4Foaks7B0hEaAnVutqI.1>

This link will also be available in your **Canvas Calendar**

Tuesday 29th October	Access to the iheed Online Learning Environment	Access provided by email during the day.	
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Live Induction Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curriculum</li> <li>Program Delivery</li> <li>Structure</li> <li>Assessment</li> <li>Using Canvas</li> </ul>	<b>11:00 Dublin (UTC+0)</b> 14:00 Riyadh/Doha (UTC+3) 16:00 Islamabad (UTC +5) 16:30 New Delhi (UTC+5.5) 19:00 Kuala Lumpur (UTC+8) 22:00 Sydney (UTC + 10)	<b>19:00 (UTC + 0)</b> 20:00 Paris (UTC + 1) 20:00 Stockholm (UTC + 1) 15:00 Port Au Prince (UTC-4) 22:00 Riyadh/Doha (UTC+3) 23 :00 UAE/Oman (UTC+4)
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Discussion Forum – Group introduction  Open Office hour	Self-paced Not a live session  The ID Support team will be available throughout the day to answer any questions you have on programme delivery, regulations, supports, use of the online platform etc. An Open Office hour will also take place at 11am GMT, where you can join a Zoom link to meet with the programme manager one to one and ask any questions that you have: <a href="https://iheed.zoom.us/j/92301550500">https://iheed.zoom.us/j/92301550500</a> (this link will also be in your Canvas calendar)	

**Program Syllabus** (\*Monday date shown indicates week commencing, tutorials will be scheduled Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays)

<b>Module 1</b>	
Monday 28 October 2024	<b>Programme Induction Week</b>
Monday 4 November 2024	Introduction to Infectious Diseases
Monday 11 November 2024	Clinical Bacteriology and Gram Positive Infections
Monday 18 November 2024	Bacteriology: Gram Negative Infections
Monday 25 November 2024	Virology
Monday 2 December 2024	Mycology & Parasitology
Monday 9 December 2024	<b>Communication Skills Assessment (Formative)</b>
Monday 16 December 2024	<b>Christmas &amp; New Year Break</b>
Monday 23 December 2024	<b>Christmas &amp; New Year Break</b>
Monday 30 December 2024	Maternal Infections
Monday 6 January 2025	Introduction to Childhood Infectious Diseases
Monday 13 January 2025	Childhood Infectious Syndromes
Monday 20 January 2025	Sepsis - Pathogenesis, guidelines
Monday 27 January 2025	Introduction to HIV
Monday 3 February 2025	<b>Reading Week</b>
Monday 10 February 2025	<b>Module 1 Exam (100%)</b>
Monday 17 February 2025	<b>Week off</b>
<b>Module 2</b>	
Monday 10 February 2025	Central nervous system (CNS) infections
Monday 17 February 2025	Gastrointestinal/hepatobiliary (GI) infections
Monday 24 February 2025	Renal infections
Monday 3 March 2025	Skin & Soft tissue
Monday 10 March 2025	Bone
Monday 17 March 2025	<b>Video Assessment (20%)</b>
Monday 24 March 2025	<b>Week off</b>
Monday 31 March 2025	Viral Respiratory Infections
Monday 7 April 2025	COVID 19
Monday 14 April 2025	Bacterial Respiratory Infections
Monday 21 April 2025	Sexual Health
Monday 28 April 2025	<b>Reading Week</b>
Monday 5 May 2025	<b>Module 2 Exam (80%)</b>
<b>Module 3</b>	
Monday 2 June 2025	Public Health
Monday 9 June 2025	Global Health
Monday 16 June 2025	Vaccines and prevention
Monday 23 June 2025	Travel health
Monday 30 June 2025	Antimicrobial stewardship
Monday 7 July 2025	<b>Video Assessment (20%)</b>
Monday 14 July 2025	<b>Week off</b>
Monday 21 July 2025	Special populations I: Social Exclusion, Homelessness and Addiction
Monday 28 July 2025	Special populations II: Migrants, Women and Children
Monday 4 August 2025	Tropical infections I: The Americas and Africa
Monday 11 August 2025	Tropical infections II: Asia and Oceania
Monday 18 August 2025	HIV Prevention & Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
Monday 25 August 2025	<b>Reading Week</b>
Monday 1 September 2025	<b>Module 3 Exam (80%)</b>

## Program Assessment

	Module 1 (10 ECTS)		Module 2 (10 ECTS)		Module 3 (10 ECTS)	
Delivery Structure	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6
Topics	<b>Week 1.</b> Introduction to Infectious Diseases	<b>Week 6.</b> Maternal Infections	<b>Week 11.</b> Central Nervous System (CNS) Infections	<b>Week 16.</b> Viral Respiratory Infections	<b>Week 20.</b> Public Health	<b>Week 25.</b> Special Populations I: Social Exclusion, Homelessness and Addiction
	<b>Week 2.</b> Clinical Bacteriology and Gram-Positive Infections	<b>Week 7.</b> Introduction to Childhood Infectious Diseases	<b>Week 12.</b> Gastrointestinal (GI) and Hepatobiliary Infections	<b>Week 17.</b> Respiratory Infections (COVID 19)	<b>Week 21.</b> Global Health	<b>Week 26.</b> Special Populations II: Migrants, Women and Children
	<b>Week 3.</b> Bacteriology: Gram-Negative Infections	<b>Week 8.</b> Childhood Infectious Syndromes	<b>Week 13.</b> Renal Infections	<b>Week 18.</b> Bacterial Respiratory Infections	<b>Week 22.</b> Vaccines and Prevention	<b>Week 27.</b> Tropical Infections I: the Americas and Africa
	<b>Week 4.</b> Virology	<b>Week 9.</b> Sepsis	<b>Week 14.</b> Skin & Soft Tissue Infections	<b>Week 19.</b> Sexual Health	<b>Week 23.</b> Travel Health	<b>Week 28.</b> Tropical Infections II: Asia and Oceania
	<b>Week 5.</b> Mycology & Parasitology	<b>Week 10.</b> Introduction to HIV	<b>Week 15.</b> Bone Infections		<b>Week 24.</b> Antimicrobial Stewardship	<b>Week 29.</b> HIV Prevention and Pre – Exposure Prophylaxis
Assessment	Video Assessment	Module 1 Exam	Video Assessment	Module 2 Exam	Video Assessment	Module 3 Exam
Weighting	Formative	100%	20%	80%	20%	80%

## Scheme of Assessment

Assessment is as follows:

-In each module, you will be expected to:

- 1) Submit a Communications Skills Assessment (due after the first block of each module)
- 2) Complete an exam at the end of each module

The table below shows the weighting of each assessment/exam in each module:

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3
Communications Skills Assessment (formative)	Communications Skills Assessment (20%)	Communications Skills Assessment (20%)
Module 1 Exam: 100%	Module 2 Exam: 80%	Module 3 Exam: 80%

Please note that the passing grade for each Communications Skills Assessment/ End of Module exam is **50%**. There will be an opportunity to repeat the exam if your grade is less than 50%.

RCPI regulations state **repeat assessments are automatically capped at the pass mark of 50%.**

***\*A failed resubmission/repeat will result in a participant's removal from the course.***

## Communication Skills Assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to examine how you communicate with a patient, and your history taking skills:

- Learners will be provided with a scenario and patient history
- You will need to find an actor to play the role of the patient (this can be an adult family member or friend).
- Using the patient history provided, learners **will record themselves** taking a medical history
- Learners will be graded against a standardized rubric and will be assessed on criteria such as the rapport that they develop with the patient, the language that they use to communicate with the patient, the type of questions that they are asking, as well as how sensitively they deal with the patient's concerns.

The video recording can be done on a mobile phone/tablet/PC and should be 5-7 minutes in duration. Instructions on how to upload the video recording will be provided.

***\*Note: The first Communication Skills Assessment in Module 1 is formative but is still mandatory to complete. The Board of Examiners will be advised of students who fail to submit a video.***



## Exams

Exams will take place at the end of each module and will be made up of multiple choice/single best answer questions.

Typically, each question will consist of a case/scenario, there will be a question(s) related to the case and you will need to select the correct answer from five possible answers.

Each exam diet will focus on a range of topics within the relevant modules with all learning outcomes assessed across the exam diets.

### Exams – Things to Note:

- End of Module exams will be **online**. A third-party online platform called **Examity** will be used to supervise the exams
- You access Examity from the **Resources** page of your Canvas account. To use Examity, you will need to **create a profile** (instructions will be given on how to do this)
- When you have your profile created, you will then need to **schedule** your exam. Exams will be scheduled to take place over a **48-hour period**. There will be a list of available times, and you select the time that suits you
- When it's time to do the exam, you will **first log into Examity** from the Resources page of your Canvas account and then there will be some security questions (you will have created these already when creating your profile)
- After the security questions, you will be directed to **share your screen**. You will then be connected to a supervisor who will supervise your exam
- The supervisor will ask you to show your ID (again, you will have uploaded an image of your ID when creating your profile), and then the supervisor will ask you to do a **360 degree pan** of your room, they need to see that you're alone, that there are no visible notes or aids, and that your desk is clear. Make sure that there are no shelves behind your desk with notes, or if there are shelves, please cover these up. Once the supervisor is satisfied with your exam space, they **will release the exam to you**

Remember:

1. You must do the exam on a **laptop - you cannot use a phone or tablet**
2. A practice exam session will held in advance of the real exam so that learners can get used to the platform

## Mitigating Circumstances

If you have submitted an assessment or completed an exam, you have declared yourself **“fit to sit”** the assessment/exam and it will be marked accordingly.

If you experience a problem with an exam, video submission, attendance, or any aspect of your studies, please get in contact with the Infectious Diseases Support team ([infectiousdiseasesupport@iheed.org](mailto:infectiousdiseasesupport@iheed.org)) as soon as possible to discuss the options available to you.

Life events may sometimes overtake us, we understand. If there are **mitigating circumstances** (MC) that prevent you from meeting a deadline, or which you feel may have affected your performance in an exam, you may submit a claim of mitigating circumstances to iheed.

This must be submitted prior to your results being released and needs to be **evidenced by supporting documentation**. Claims need to be timely, relevant and severe and beyond the scope of normal life events. The mitigating circumstance will be considered at the next available Board of Examiners meeting and, if successful, you may be granted an exceptional third attempt at the examination.

Results are typically released 3-4 weeks after an exam session.

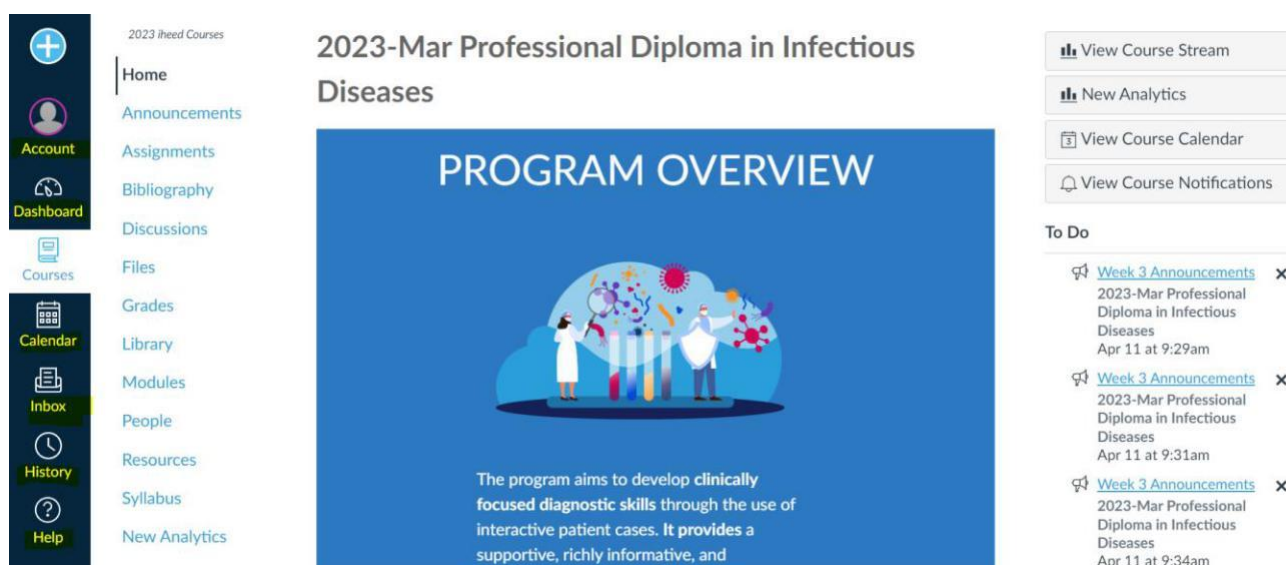
***\*Please note that all results are provisional until ratified and confirmed by the Board of Examiners.***

## Introduction to the Online Learning Environment

All the course content, as well as the Zoom links for your tutorials, can be found in the iheed Online Learning Environment (OLE) – **Canvas**.

You will each receive your log in details (username and password) for Canvas at the start of your Induction Week. Once you receive these, you can log into Canvas.

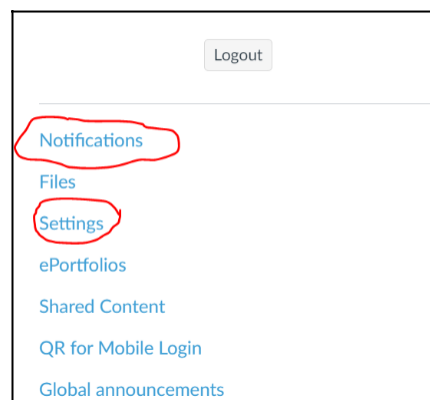
Once you log in, you will come to the **Homepage** (below):



On the very left-hand menu (highlighted in yellow) you can see *Account*, *Dashboard*, *Courses*, *Calendar*, *Inbox*, *History* and *Help*.

**Account:** Here, you can upload a **profile picture**, switch on your notifications (circled in red) and edit your settings (circled in red). This includes **setting your time zone\***, and changing your password and preferred contact methods.

***\*You can set the time zone to your local time, this will ensure that your calendar shows your tutorial time accurately***



**Dashboard** and **Courses** will bring you to the same page – providing a breakdown of module topics and the content for each week.

The screenshot displays the Blackboard user interface. On the left is a dark blue navigation sidebar with icons and labels for 'Account', 'Dashboard', 'Courses', 'Calendar', 'Inbox', 'History', and 'Help'. The main content area is titled 'Home' and lists various course topics. Each topic has a green document icon and a completion status indicator (a green checkmark or an empty circle).

Topic	Status
Infection and the host	✓
Transmission and infection	✓
Colonization	✓
Summary for infection and the host	○
Practical skills	○
Examination and diagnostics	○
Management	○
Antimicrobial stewardship	○
Summary for practical skills	○

Each week there will be a series of **Learning Outcomes**, and throughout the course material you will be introduced to Reflective Questions, Case Studies, and Interactive Multimedia.

The **Calendar** is where you will see your tutorials scheduled, along with the Zoom link for each tutorial. Due dates for **Communications Skills Assessments** and dates for **exams** will also be scheduled here. It's important to change your time zone in Settings (as explained earlier), to your local time zone. This means that the time of your tutorial in your calendar will display in your local time.

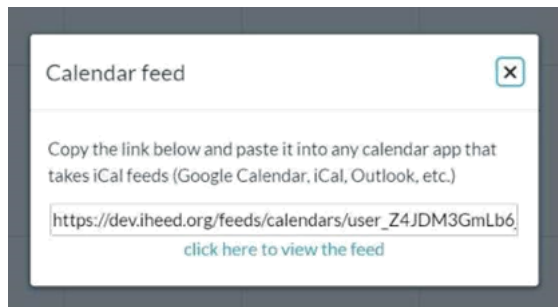
The screenshot shows the Blackboard calendar interface. The main calendar grid is for February 2020, with days of the week (MON to SUN) as columns and dates as rows. The date 10th is highlighted. To the right of the main calendar is a sidebar with a smaller calendar view and a list of calendars. Below the calendar list is a section for 'UNDATED' events, with a yellow highlight on the 'Calendar feed' link.

**CALENDARS**

- Test student
- Diploma in Paediatrics

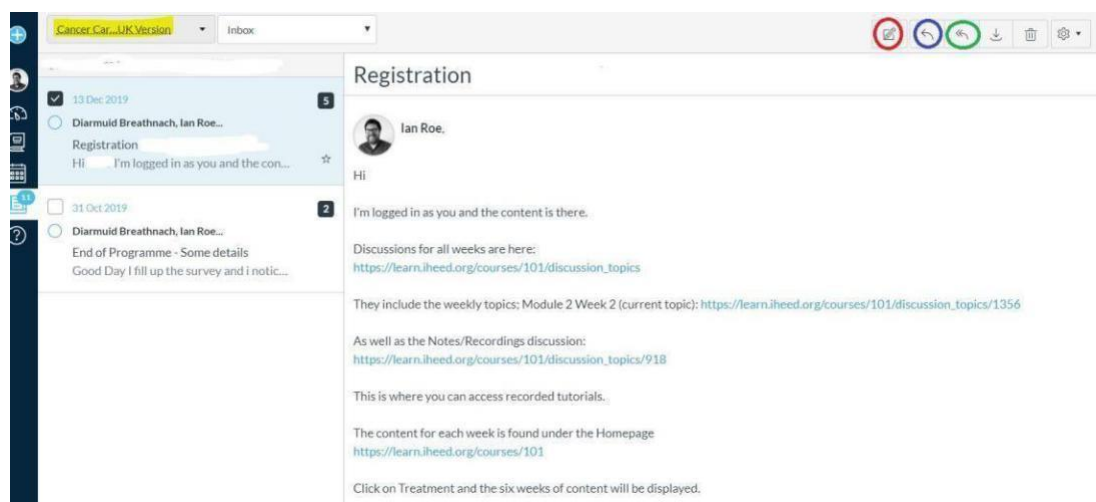
**UNDATED**

- Calendar feed



You can also sync the Canvas calendar to any calendar you use (iCal, Outlook etc) by clicking on **Calendar Feed**. You simply go to Calendar feed, copy the link and paste this into your own personal calendar. Your Canvas calendar should now sync with your own calendar.

The **Inbox** allows you to contact your tutor, the Infectious Diseases Support team, or any fellow participants. Your Canvas messaging is synced to your preferred contact email as chosen in your **Settings**.



The name of your course will be highlighted in the top-left corner, and all emails are displayed on the left. To compose an email, click on the pencil (highlighted in red). To reply to an email, click on the single arrow (highlighted in blue). To reply all, select the double arrow (highlighted in green).

The **Help** button (F) is for technical issues – if there is an unresponsive page or a broken link, you can let the IT team know here. Please note that for more general queries, always contact the Infectious Diseases Support team ([infectiousdiseasesupport@iheed.org](mailto:infectiousdiseasesupport@iheed.org)).

With the secondary navigation menu, the important ones to pay attention to are:

- Home
- Discussions
- Grades
- Announcements

**Home** will always bring you to the default landing page. From here you can navigate to the section of the course that you need to get to for any given week.

**Discussions** is where you will find the discussion cases for each week (see page 4)

**Grades** will be the space in Canvas where you can find your results

**Announcements:** Information for the whole group will be posted in the Announcements. Typical information might be a tutorial rescheduling, some information about exams, etc.

## Online Tutorials: Using Zoom

For the tutorials, we will be using an online video conferencing app called **Zoom**. This can be used on laptops, desktops, phones and tablets. The first step is for you to install the Zoom app on your desktop, which you can do from the link below:

<https://zoom.us/download>

- Install Zoom Client for meetings on your desktop
- Install the appropriate Zoom mobile app

You can also attend the tutorials on your phone or tablet. You will need to get the Zoom app from Google Play or the Apple app store.

The Zoom links are unique for each group, and you will find your link in the **Canvas Calendar**. Click on the link to launch the Zoom room.

## Zoom house rules

<b>Audio</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use headphones</li><li>• Limit background noise</li><li>• Mute your microphone until you wish to speak or ask a question</li></ul>
<b>Visual</b>	<p>Camera on. Please ensure that your name is clearly visible (this helps when taking attendance)</p> <p>Unless bandwidth is low and affecting Zoom performance, please keep your cameras on and remain engaged for the duration of the session</p>
<b>Chat</b>	Use chat to ask questions if you are more comfortable with this format
<b>Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unmute your microphone and ask your question</li><li>• Use the chat feature in Zoom</li><li>• Post in the weekly discussion</li></ul>
<b>Recording</b>	Tutorials are recorded for student purposes and can be found under <b>Resources</b> . You simply go to <b>Tutorial Recordings</b> , select your group, and then you will find your list of tutorial recordings