

# **Master of Science in Advanced Professional Practice in Paediatric Dietetics at the University of Plymouth, UK**

**Project: 533**

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The University of Plymouth is one of the largest Universities in the South West of England and the first and only opportunity for paediatric dietitians to attain a post-graduate qualification in their chosen clinical area. The Master Course is delivered in partnership with a professional body – the British Dietetic Association (BDA).

Entry requirements for the Master Course are a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics, a professional registration with the regulatory body as well as at least two years of working experience in the field of paediatric dietetics. Once the enrolment has successfully been confirmed, two routes are available to choose from: 1. Full-time route (one year) or 2. Part-time route (two to max. five years).

The paediatric-focused Master Course is modularly constructed and composed of three paediatric specific BDA modules, two Plymouth core modules, a leadership module and the research dissertation to finalise the program.

Depending on interest and study focus, the three paediatric BDA modules can be freely chosen from five offered courses which are held by leading experts from all over UK. All Research Modules are taught in an interdisciplinary setting at Plymouth University what allows an interesting exchange with Master students from different medical backgrounds.

The module structure includes a preparation period of three weeks (reading assignments and literature research reviewed by a subsequent self-assessment test), followed by a 4-day intensive lecture block. A subsequent reflective essay of 4,000 words completes the module and includes a critical appraisal of a chosen topic's evidence.

The entire master's program in Paediatric Dietetics at the University of Plymouth is equivalent to 90 ECTS credits. Each module represents a workload of 200-300 hours and 10 ECTS credits. The final research dissertation is awarded 30 ECTS credits and implies a workload of 800 hours.

My research project which completed my master course compares sugar contents of portioned sweet children snacks between Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The project is titled: "Sugar content of portioned sweet snacks retailed to children in Switzerland and the United Kingdom - A comparative market survey of an EU and non-EU country.

My sincere thanks go to the Swiss Foundation for Nutrition research whose generous contribution enabled me to take out the time and space needed to finalise my research dissertation and thus successfully completing my studies.