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# **New home for pioneering mountain medicine diploma**

## **UCLan increases its portfolio of medical programmes with qualification aimed at those working in a mountain context**

High-flying health professionals will soon be given the opportunity to climb to the very top thanks to a pioneering medical programme which has been unveiled at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan).

The Diploma in Mountain Medicine, a programme previously run by the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care within the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd), is to transfer to UCLan's National Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine (NCRRM) based at the University's Westlakes campus in West Cumbria.

The course is a practical qualification for doctors and members of the allied medical professions operating in a mountain context or advising patients who will be in a mountain environment. It is a combination of distance learning plus 4 week-long residential blocks of teaching in Wales, Scotland and the Swiss Alps which focus on developing knowledge and skills in the mountain environment.

The relocation of the programme represents a significant opportunity for the course to be based in an environment dedicated to the development of this specialised area of medicine. The university is currently validating an extension to the programme offering students the opportunity to progress to Masters.

UCLan's Professor Stuart Maitland-Knibb, Director of NCRRM, said: "The University is actively increasing its portfolio of medical programmes to offer students greater choice and opportunities. By taking on the new ownership of this course we will

offer students the full range of academic services and resources available, which will enhance their journey through the diploma programme.

“The course is a great fit for us. A key aim of NCRRM is to deliver medical education programmes that increase the numbers of students and doctors in remote areas, potentially improving recruitment and retention of medical professionals in the rural environment.”

Professor David Lockey, Chair, Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care within RCSEd, added: “This represents a significant step forward for the Diploma in Mountain Medicine and will provide students with dedicated resources designed to enhance the student experience and opportunities for future career paths. We would like to thank the Mountain Medicine Faculty for their support whilst the programme has been with us and know that the University of Central Lancashire staff are well equipped to take this programme into the future.”

The academic content and placement elements of the course will remain the same with existing students seamlessly transferring to the UCLan-validated programme while new applicants could be enrolling as early as September 2021.

For more information, visit our website <https://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/msc-mountain-medicine.php>

### **Notes to Editor**

Further details on UCLan’s National Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine can be found here: <https://www.ncrrm.co.uk/>

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) is a leading modern university with thriving campuses in Preston, Burnley, Westlakes (Cumbria) and Cyprus.

Founded in 1828 as the Institution for the Diffusion of Knowledge, UCLan now has a staff and student community approaching 38,000 and an employment-focused course portfolio containing over 350 undergraduate programmes and nearly 250 postgraduate courses.

As well as being a national leader in the number of student and graduate start-up businesses it supports, UCLan is also Lancashire’s largest provider of graduate level qualifications, supplying highly skilled graduates into the workforce. The University also has established links with global businesses, police constabularies, NHS trusts and more than 1,000 regional enterprises across a variety of sectors.

Internationally the University now enrolls students from more than 100 countries and has partnerships with 125 institutions from across the globe.

The University has an established research reputation with world-leading or internationally excellent work taking place within the areas of Business, Health, Humanities and Science. UCLan is also ranked in the top 6.5 percent of universities worldwide in the 2020-21 Centre for World University Rankings, as well as holding the maximum 5 QS stars for the quality of its teaching.

With a strong focus on continually improving the student experience, UCLan is currently undertaking a £200 million project to redevelop its Preston Campus. The vision is to create an attractive and inviting, world-class environment helping to create jobs, kick-start regeneration and attract inward investment into the city and North West region.

University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) website: <https://www.uclan.ac.uk/>

**Chris Theobald**  
**Strategic Communications Manager University of Central Lancashire**  
**T: 01772 894424 E: [ctheobald@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:ctheobald@uclan.ac.uk)**