



Which academic level is right for you?

The main focus of all Education for Health modules is the development of key clinical knowledge and skills to enable you to deliver high quality evidence based care for people with long term conditions. Education for Health modules are offered at two different academic levels, Diploma and Degree level.

Where a subject is offered at more than one level the clinical content and focus will be broadly similar at both levels and will enable you to deliver sound evidence based care. Degree level modules usually include more focus on the strategic issues involved in the delivery of care and so may be more appropriate than diploma level if you are working in a position where you are responsible for managing a team or for the development and running of services.

The main difference however, is in the academic level as shown below;

Level 5 Diploma level:

Equivalent academically to the level of work expected of a second year undergraduate student in a conventional three year degree course.

Through activities in the learning materials and through the assessment process you will develop the skills to understand where and how to access good quality clinical evidence and how to apply appropriate guidelines and research to your practice. As a successful student you will be able to do more than simply repeat information from books or other sources but will be able to make relevant links between what you have read in order to use it appropriately in different clinical situations or areas of practice.

Level 6 Degree level:

Equivalent academically to the level of work expected of a third year undergraduate in a conventional three year degree course.

Activities in degree level modules require more independent thought and more critical evaluation of information to enable you to form your own opinions and come to your own conclusions. In assessments a greater proportion of marks are allocated to the ability to evaluate different options including having new ideas or interpreting old ideas in a new and different way and based on this critical appraisal to make appropriate recommendations for practice. For example at diploma level you would be expected to know what current guidance recommends and to apply it appropriately but at degree level you would be expected to draw on a range of sources of evidence, to debate their relevance and as a result to provide a clear rationale for adopting particular recommendations in practice.

In order help you decide which academic level might be best for you, have a go at our simple Quiz at: http://www.educationforhealth.org/data/files/academic_quizAug11.pdf