Course Content:
The module has been designed to enable the student to analyse the role of history taking, respiratory assessment and examination in the diagnosis of respiratory conditions. Students will advance their knowledge and understanding of the assessment process to consider the complex interrelationships between patient and practitioner and to evaluate the appropriate use of investigations and clinical examination, enabling them to work through the diagnostic process systematically, using reasoned deduction. The module contributes to the development of knowledge and understanding of clinical examination and the principles which underpin respiratory assessment and diagnosis. During the module, students will develop skills in the classroom and in practice using a structured format to prepare them for the summative assessment. This comprises of a classroom-based observation and practical workshops in which the student will develop practical skills and apply theoretical principles to reach informed conclusions towards a differential diagnosis in a safe and supportive environment. This course is validated by the University of Hertfordshire with 30 CATS points at Academic Level 7

Knowledge and Understanding:
Successful students will typically be able to:

1. Synthesise the approach taken in consideration of a patient presenting with clinical features of respiratory symptoms and demonstrate complex analysis and synthesis of the assessment process to inform the clinical examination and predict the patient responses based upon accepted norms and pathophysiological principles.

2. Build upon their existing knowledge of the assessment process to critically analyse the importance of history taking in selecting appropriate investigations in order to identify the differential diagnosis of individuals with respiratory conditions.

3. Evaluate the contribution that appropriate communication skills add to the holistic assessment of an individual with respiratory symptoms and analyse the limitation of clinical examination findings in isolation.

Skills and Attributes:

1. Competently demonstrate skills of clinical examination.

2. Clinically examine patients whilst recognising their own limitations and the importance of appropriate referral to members of the multi-disciplinary team.

3. Utilise skills of advanced reasoning to interpret the significance of findings and demonstrate how these elements guide clinicians in establishing a diagnosis.

4. Demonstrate conceptual understanding of the assessment process to formulate an investigation plan.