

# AN INTRODUCTION TO COUNSELLING SKILLS IN GENOMICS

Duration	5 days of face-to-face teaching plus self-directed learning
Cost:	£1250. If you are an NHS employee, full funding is available through Health Education England
Tutors:	Ms Elizabeth Winchester – St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Genetic Counsellor Ms Kelly Kohut – St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Lead Genetic Counsellor
Location:	St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and St George's University of London



**This module will provide you with an introduction to general communication skills and specific counselling skills used in genomic medicine. You will be taught how to communicate and provide appropriate support to individuals and their families.**

**Development of counselling skills will be achieved via theoretical and practical sessions through the use of role play within an academic setting. You will learn the importance of a family history and communication of pathogenic and/or uncertain results.**

## AIMS

Provide you with an introduction to the knowledge, communication and counselling skills and appropriate attitudes and behaviours to support individuals and their families whose care will be influenced by genomic investigations.

## ASSESSMENT

On successful completion of the module, students should be able to:

- Justify the importance of and application of informed consent in the field of genomic medicine generally
- Explain the different purposes of genomic testing in patients with rare inherited diseases, cancer and infectious diseases
- Discuss the concepts of genetic and genomic predispositions to illnesses
- Explain genomic results in terms of diagnosis prediction and uncertainty
- Evaluate and apply the skills necessary to support individuals who have genomic results that affect their care including the underpinning evidence base and patient perspective
- Discuss the consequences of genomic test results on the patient and the wider family including incidental findings drawing on the published evidence base and personal experiences of patients, carers and the wider family
- Evaluate and apply the communication and counselling skills needed to engage and communicate effectively in a compassionate manner with patients, their carers and the wider family
- Critically evaluate current and potential future ethical, legal and social issues (ELSI) of genome testing and whole genome sequencing.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should have a lower second class degree (2:2) in a subject that offers an appropriate grounding in genetics or healthcare. Alternative professional qualifications may be considered. Recommended other modules from our Genomic Medicine portfolio that would form appropriate pre-learning include the Fundamentals of Human Genetics and Genomics and The Genomics of Common and Rare Disease module.

## PREREQUISITES

We offer Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) which you can study online to deepen your understanding. We suggest the following courses:

The Genomics Era: the Future of Genetics in Medicine

These courses are available at: [www.futurelearn.com/partners/sgul](http://www.futurelearn.com/partners/sgul)

More information at [kcl.ac.uk/genomicmedicine](http://kcl.ac.uk/genomicmedicine)  
Apply via [sgul.ac.uk/genomics](http://sgul.ac.uk/genomics)