

Beyond Campus Curriculum – The International Graduate Course on Humanistic and Socialistic Medicine for Healthcare Providers for Medical and Nursing Students

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Humanism stands as the foundational principle in healthcare, with humanistic medicine dedicated to enhancing comprehension of the scientific and ethical framework of medical practice [1]. This commitment seeks to enhance health outcomes by prioritizing patient autonomy, integrity, empathy, compassion, altruism, and respect [2]. This practice of humanistic and socialistic medicine that prioritizes equitable access to healthcare for all, emphasizing social justice, empathy, compassion, and collective well-being, resulted in higher job satisfaction and personal satisfaction [3]. But despite the introduction of the Competency-Based Education curriculum in India, the training for medical and nursing students in bioethics and professionalism is only at its nascent stage [4]. The densely packed medical and nursing curriculum often emphasizes more scientific and technical content, leaving little room for formal and in-depth training to foster compassion, empathy, professional conduct, and personal well-being. The absence of well-rounded training in these critical areas can lead to a sub-optimal understanding of complex ethical issues and humanistic practices in healthcare. This is the root cause of ethical lapses, unprofessional behaviour, patient harm, moral distress, legal complications, reduced public trust, and hindered collaboration and innovation in healthcare settings [5-6]. This affects patients and the healthcare setting and contributes to increased stress and burnout among health professionals [7]. To promote humanistic and socialistic medicine by equipping future healthcare providers with the essential ethical and professional skills required in their practice and their own welfare, we designed a beyond-campus curriculum for medical and nursing students.

The International Graduate Course on Humanistic and Socialistic Medicine for Healthcare Providers is a Beyond Campus Curriculum by the Department of Education, International Chair, Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto, Portugal that incorporates The Foundation Course on Moral Values, Bioethics, Professionalism, and Personal Wellbeing into the medical and nursing curriculum. This emerges as a ground-breaking initiative that provides formal education in moral values and bioethics to future health professionals, cultivating a profound understanding of bioethical principles, professionalism, and their critical application in clinical practice.

The course has been meticulously designed to offer a comprehensive and multi-year training on Moral Values, Bioethics, Professionalism, and Personal Wellbeing journey for medical and nursing students, beginning from their day 1 of medical and nursing education. Hence, this foundational course ensures the integration of critical topics and renowned speakers across the

globe for a well-rounded education that addresses the wide spectrum of ethical issues and personal well-being essential for the holistic development of future healthcare professionals. This thoughtfully designed curriculum provides students with a strong foundation, equipping them to make ethically sound decisions, prioritize patient care, and uphold the highest standards of professionalism in their medical and nursing careers.

Distinguished by its student-centred approach, this beyond-campus curriculum fosters experiential and contextual learning and encourages students to take control of their educational journey. The curriculum has been meticulously crafted by incorporating all humanistic and socialistic medicine, including bioethical, professional, and well-being aspects related to patients and healthcare professionals, to deliver holistic, humanistic, and empathetic care. This beyond-campus curriculum incorporates four face-to-face contact sessions (yearly once) and weekly virtual live synchronous interactive webinars featuring distinguished speakers from the USA, UK, Canada, Europe, Australia, and other parts of the world who address medical and nursing students. During each webinar, the speakers delve deep into the bioethical concepts with case discussions, short activities, and reflections from students at the end.

This dynamic learning environment equips students with valuable insights and strategies to navigate these complex challenges effectively. Through active participation in discussions, students are encouraged to articulate their views and enhance their confidence, creativity, and critical thinking abilities. To ensure accessibility and flexibility, all lectures are recorded and made available on a dedicated Google Classroom, allowing students to revisit the material at their convenience. To ensure that the intended learning objectives have been achieved, formative and summative assessments will be conducted to evaluate students on the content taught and obtain their perceptions and feedback for continuous quality improvement.

In addition to its comprehensive focus on humanistic and socialistic medicine, this beyond-campus curriculum emphasises research as a cornerstone of the educational experience. The integration of a robust research component not only serves to distinguish the curriculum's purpose but also establishes its contextual relevance in the ever-evolving field of healthcare. The curriculum encourages students to delve into evidence-based practices, fostering a deep understanding of the scientific and ethical landscape and encouraging high-quality scholarly output.

The evaluation and assessment of the Beyond-Campus curriculum are comprehensive, addressing different facets to ensure its quality and effectiveness. Participants' perceptions are gauged through online surveys, capturing their subjective views and expectations on a Likert scale. Satisfaction is assessed using questionnaires, delving into various aspects of the course experience. Participants' feedback is collected through online questionnaires, allowing them to share insights on the course's strengths and areas for improvement. An end-of-course assessment, comprising formative and summative evaluations are conducted to test participants' knowledge and application skills, ensuring they have acquired the necessary competencies. These evaluation mechanisms are vital for continuous improvement, customization, and accountability, contributing to the course's success in fostering ethical decision-making and professionalism in healthcare.

This beyond-campus curriculum comprising the International Graduate Course on Humanistic and Socialistic Medicine for Healthcare Providers holds profound implications. It serves as a beacon of ethical enlightenment and professionalism for the next generation of healthcare practitioners to practice humanistic and socialistic medicine, nurturing their ability to make ethically sound decisions and prioritize patients' welfare. Furthermore, it places a significant emphasis on the well-being of students themselves, instilling a deep understanding of personal values and self-care, which in turn contributes to a more compassionate and self-aware healthcare workforce. This visionary beyond-campus initiative is not just about education; it is a pathway towards creating a more ethical, empathetic, humanistic, and socialistic healthcare sector.

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