

MSc in Advanced Gynaecological Endoscopy

The MSc in Advanced Gynaecological Endoscopy is run through a partnership between the British Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy (BSGE) and the University of Surrey. The programme provides gynaecologists with with a firm theoretical background in diagnostic and operative gynaecological endoscopy, in combination with the development of clinical competence in operative laparoscopy and hysteroscopy.

The programme is aimed at gynaecologists in the UK and overseas, with experience in gynaecological endoscopy. It is a part-time study, minimum 24 months and maximum 60 months.

I was the fourth Norwegian gynaecologist who completed this study. I began the program in September 2010, after being chosen by a written application and a Skype-interview in May, 2010.

The program has given me more knowledge and confidence so that I can increasingly perform more advanced laparoscopy. Most of all it has given me a theoretical and practical confidence in being able to provide the knowledge to other colleagues.

The modules are dealing with most important topics within benign gynaecology, from pathophysiology and management of everyday problems as ectopic and adnexal diseases to uterine diseases and advanced endometriosis. Everything was taught with emphasis on evidenced based medicine, very useful to implement in every day practice.

Because the course is organized as a part-time course is quite common to combine the program with full clinical practice, which I also had. Before starting the MSc it is important to be aware of the high amount of work; nine modules with mandatory assignments, a logbook of 17 clinical cases with edited videos. It is a hard time-schedule as you are supposed to start with a project for your dissertation alongside the other modules, and a full-time clinical job as a consult gynaecologist. However it is possible to finish after four modules and get a Post Graduate certificate, or skip the dissertation and obtain a Post Graduate diploma. We were 27 MSc students starting out in my Cohort in October 2010. My thesis was "Impact of over-night shifts on laparoscopic skills and cognitive function among Norwegian gynaecologists", finishing with Viva in February 2013. The Graduation Ceremony was in April 2013, and that was very English, very special to be part of as a Norwegian. It was a great ending after more than two years of hard work.

I would warmly recommend this MSc program to other colleagues. But before starting out, I would recommend anyone to get a firm agreement with employers to reduce work hours at times to get the time to work well with the assignments, and not only use the late night hours.

I would like to thank NFOG for economical support. Good luck to others who want to go on this journey that I will never regret!