

# ICTQual AB



## Qualification Specification

# ICTQual AB Level 7 Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Nutrition (PgD Clinical Nutrition)



**Website**  
[www.ictqualab.co.uk](http://www.ictqualab.co.uk)

**Email:**  
[support@ictqualab.co.uk](mailto:support@ictqualab.co.uk)

# ICTQual AB's

## Level 7 Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Nutrition (PgD Clinical Nutrition)

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## Qualification Specification about

# ICTQual AB Level 7 Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Nutrition (PgD Clinical Nutrition)

### About ICTQual AB's

ICTQual AB is a distinguished awarding body based in the United Kingdom, dedicated to fostering excellence in education, training, and skills development. Committed to global standards, ICTQual AB's provides internationally recognized qualifications that empower individuals and organizations to thrive in an increasingly competitive world. Their offerings span diverse industries, including technical fields, health and safety, management, and more, ensuring relevance and adaptability to modern workforce needs.

ICTQual AB's delivers high-quality educational solutions through a network of Approved Training Centres worldwide. Their robust standards and innovative teaching methodologies equip learners with practical knowledge and skills for personal and professional growth. With a mission to inspire lifelong learning and drive positive change, ICTQual AB's continuously evolves its programs to stay ahead of industry trends and technological advancements.

### Course Overview

The ICTQual AB Level 7 Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Nutrition (PgD Clinical Nutrition) is an advanced qualification designed to equip students with comprehensive, evidence-based knowledge and specialized skills in the field of clinical nutrition and dietetics. This program focuses on the application of nutritional science to the prevention, management, and treatment of diseases across various clinical settings and life stages. It bridges the gap between foundational nutritional understanding and advanced clinical practice, preparing graduates to function as competent and informed nutrition professionals. The course structure typically involves in-depth study of disease-specific nutritional interventions, advanced assessment techniques, and the critical appraisal of scientific literature.

#### Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the PgD Clinical Nutrition, students will be able to:

- Evaluate and synthesize complex, current, and evidence-based nutritional science related to human health, disease pathogenesis, and metabolism.
- Apply Advanced Clinical Skills to accurately assess the nutritional status of individuals and patient populations using a variety of anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, and dietary methods.
- Develop and implement effective, tailored nutritional care plans and interventions for the management of acute and chronic diseases (e.g., cardiovascular disease, diabetes, renal failure, gastrointestinal disorders).
- Critically Analyze the ethical, psychological, and social factors that influence dietary behaviour and adherence to nutritional recommendations in a clinical context.

## Aims:

The core aims of the ICTQual AB Level 7 Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Nutrition are to:

- **Foster Professional Expertise:** To develop highly skilled, competent, and ethical clinical nutrition professionals capable of making significant contributions to patient health outcomes.
- **Promote Evidence-Based Practice:** To instil a rigorous, evidence-based approach to clinical decision-making, ensuring that nutritional advice and interventions are founded on the latest scientific research.
- **Cultivate Critical Thinkers:** To encourage students to critically evaluate complex scientific information, challenge conventional practices, and solve advanced clinical nutrition problems.

## Targeted Audience:

This postgraduate qualification is ideally suited for:

- **Healthcare Professionals:** Registered nurses, physicians, pharmacists, and other allied health professionals seeking to specialize and advance their roles in clinical nutrition.
- **Nutrition and Dietetics Graduates:** Individuals holding a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent Level 6 qualification) in Nutrition, Dietetics, Food Science, or a related biomedical science who wish to pursue a specialization in clinical practice.
- **Academics and Researchers:** Those involved in teaching or research within the health and science sectors who require a deeper, specialized understanding of clinical nutrition for their professional development.
- **Public Health Practitioners:** Professionals working in public health or health promotion who need advanced knowledge to design nutrition-focused intervention programs for disease prevention.

## Certification Framework

Qualification title	ICTQual AB Level 7 Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Nutrition (PgD Clinical Nutrition)
Course ID	N&D0097
Grading Type	Pass / Fail
Competency Evaluation	Coursework / Assignments / Verifiable Experience
Assessment	<p>The assessment and verification process for ICTQual AB's qualifications involves two key stages:</p> <p><b>Internal Assessment and Verification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Conducted by the staff at the Approved Training Centre (ATC) to ensure learners meet the required standards through continuous assessments.</li><li>✓ Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) is carried out by the centre's IQA staff to validate the assessment process.</li></ul> <p><b>External Quality Assurance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Managed by ICTQual AB's verifiers, who periodically review the centre's assessment and IQA processes.</li></ul> <p>Verifies that assessments are conducted to the required standards and ensures consistency across centres</p>

## Entry Requirements

To enrol in ICTQual AB Level 7 Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Nutrition (PgD Clinical Nutrition), learner must meet the following entry requirements:

- ✓ **Age Requirement:** Learners must be at least 21 years old at the time of registration.
- ✓ **Educational Background:** A relevant Level 6 qualification (or equivalent) in nutrition, dietetics, health sciences, biomedical sciences, or a related discipline is required. Degrees in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, or allied health fields may also be considered appropriate.
- ✓ **Work Experience:** While not mandatory, prior work experience in healthcare, nutrition, or clinical practice is strongly recommended, as it will enable learners to contextualise their knowledge and apply advanced concepts effectively.
- ✓ **English Proficiency:** As the qualification is delivered in English, learners must demonstrate proficiency in the language. This can be evidenced through an IELTS score of 6.0 or above (or equivalent), or prior education completed in English.
- ✓ **Additional Requirement:** Learners are expected to demonstrate motivation, analytical skills, and a commitment to professional development. Access to relevant case studies, healthcare settings, or research materials may be required to support applied learning and assessment.
- ✓ **Centre Requirements:** Centres delivering this programme must ensure they have qualified and competent staff, appropriate learning resources, and the necessary facilities to support high-quality training and successful learner outcomes.

## Qualification Structure

This qualification comprises 6 mandatory units. Candidates must successfully complete all mandatory units to achieve the qualification.

Mandatory Units	
Unit Ref#	Unit Title
N&D0097-01	Advanced Principles of Clinical Nutrition
N&D0097-02	Nutritional Assessment and Diagnostic Approaches
N&D0097-03	Diet Therapy and Management of Clinical Conditions
N&D0097-04	Research Methods in Nutrition and Health Sciences
N&D0097-05	Public Health Nutrition and Policy Development
N&D0097-06	Leadership and Professional Practice in Clinical Nutrition

## Centre Requirements

To ensure quality training delivery, centres must adhere to the following standards:

### 1. Centre Approval

- ✓ Centres must be formally approved by ICTQual AB's before delivering this qualification.
- ✓ Approval involves a review of facilities, policies, and staff qualifications.

### 2. Qualified Staff

- ✓ **Tutors:** Must hold a Level 7 or higher qualification (Master's or equivalent) in Clinical Nutrition, Dietetics, or a related field, with an ideal requirement of three years of clinical experience in medical nutrition therapy.
- ✓ **Assessors:** Must hold a recognized assessor qualification (e.g., CAVA, AVRA) or equivalent)
- ✓ **Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs):** Must hold a recognized IQA qualification (e.g. Level 4 Award in the IQA and Level 4 Certificate in Leading the IQA) and experience to oversee assessment standards.

### 3. Learning Facilities

#### Centre must offer:

- ✓ Private study areas and internet-enabled workspaces (for blended or physical delivery)
- ✓ Academic and pastoral support for learners
- ✓ Administrative support must be available to manage enrolment, tracking, and learner queries efficiently

### 4. Health and Safety Compliance

- ✓ All training facilities must comply with health and safety regulations.
- ✓ Centres must conduct regular risk assessments for practical activities.

### 5. Learning Resources

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[support@ictqualab.co.uk](mailto:support@ictqualab.co.uk)

- ✓ **Course Materials:** Approved textbooks, study guides, and digital content must align with the qualification standards.
- ✓ **Assessment Tools:** Templates and guidelines must be provided to ensure standardized evaluation processes.
- ✓ **E-Learning Support:** Centres offering online or blended learning must implement an effective Learning Management System (LMS).

## 6. Assessment and Quality Assurance

- ✓ Centres must ensure assessments meet ICTQual AB's competency standards.
- ✓ Internal quality assurance (IQA) must be conducted to maintain consistency.
- ✓ External verifiers from ICTQual AB's will review assessment and training practices.

## 7. Learning Support

- ✓ **Qualification Guidance:** Support for coursework and assignments.
- ✓ **Career Pathway Assistance:** Information on progression opportunities in sustainability and energy sectors.
- ✓ **Accessibility Support:** Accommodations for learners with disabilities or language barriers.

## 8. Policies and Compliance

Centres must uphold the following policies in accordance with ICTQual AB's standards:

- ✓ Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy.
- ✓ Health and Safety Policy.
- ✓ Safeguarding and Learner Protection Policy.
- ✓ Complaints and Appeals Procedure.
- ✓ Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy.

## 9. Reporting Requirements

- Centres must provide ICTQual AB's with regular reports on learner registrations, progress, and certification outcomes.
- Assessment records must be maintained for external auditing and quality assurance purposes.

## Support for Candidates

Centres should ensure that materials developed to support candidates:

- ✓ Facilitate tracking of achievements as candidate's progress through the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.
- ✓ Include information on how and where ICTQual AB's policies and procedures can be accessed.
- ✓ Provide mechanisms for Internal and External Quality Assurance staff to verify and authenticate evidence effectively.

This approach ensures transparency, supports candidates' learning journeys, and upholds quality assurance standards.

## Assessment

This qualification is competence-based, requiring candidates to demonstrate proficiency as defined in the qualification units. The assessment evaluates the candidate's skills, knowledge, and understanding against the set standards. Key details include:

### 1. Assessment Process:

- ✓ Must be conducted by an experienced and qualified assessor.
- ✓ Candidates compile a portfolio of evidence that satisfies all learning outcomes and assessment criteria for each unit.

### 2. Types of Evidence:

- ✓ Observation reports by the assessor.
- ✓ Assignments, projects, or reports.
- ✓ Professional discussions.
- ✓ Witness testimonies.
- ✓ Candidate-produced work.
- ✓ Worksheets.
- ✓ Records of oral and written questioning.
- ✓ Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

### 3. Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria:

- ✓ **Learning Outcomes:** Define what candidates should know, understand, or accomplish upon completing the unit.
- ✓ **Assessment Criteria:** Detail the standards candidates must meet to demonstrate that the learning outcomes have been achieved.

This framework ensures rigorous and consistent evaluation of candidates' competence in line with the qualification's objectives.

## Unit Descriptors

### N&Do097-01- Advanced Principles of Clinical Nutrition

This unit provides an in-depth analysis of macro- and micronutrient metabolism within the context of disease. Students critically evaluate the molecular and cellular mechanisms underpinning nutritional pathophysiology, including bioenergetics, nutrient-gene interactions (nutrigenomics), and the role of the gut microbiome. The focus is on understanding how altered nutritional status contributes to the development and progression of chronic diseases. Learning involves integrating biochemistry, physiology, and pathology to form a sophisticated understanding of advanced nutritional science for clinical decision-making.

#### Learning Outcome:

#### Assessment Criteria:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the biochemical and physiological foundations of human nutrition.</b></p> | <p>1.1 Critically appraise the molecular mechanisms of nutrient-gene interactions (nutrigenomics) and their clinical significance.</p> <p>1.2 Evaluate advanced metabolic pathways and their dysregulation in complex chronic disease states.</p> <p>1.3 Synthesise the physiological roles of the gut microbiome in nutrient utilisation, immunity, and health.</p> <p>1.4 Justify the selection of advanced physiological and biochemical markers for robust assessment of nutritional status and risk.</p>   |
| <p><b>2. Analyse the role of macro- and micronutrients in maintaining health and preventing disease.</b></p>               | <p>2.1 Systematically analyse the current evidence regarding optimal macronutrient ratios for diverse clinical populations, including controversial areas.</p> <p>2.2 Critically evaluate the protective mechanisms of specific bioactive compounds and their function in disease prevention.</p> <p>2.3 Compare and contrast the evidence base for various micronutrient supplementation strategies in high-risk patient groups.</p> <p>2.4 Examine the dose-response relationship of selected nutrients in both deficiency and toxicity scenarios.</p> <p>2.5 Propose evidence-based dietary modifications to critically modulate chronic inflammation and oxidative stress pathways.</p> |

- 3. Evaluate advanced theories and current research on nutrition in clinical and healthcare contexts.**
  - 3.1 Critically evaluate the methodological quality and internal validity of recent landmark clinical nutrition trials.
  - 3.2 Compare the theoretical models underpinning major, competing dietary recommendations, assessing their limitations.
  - 3.3 Synthesise complex research findings to establish their applicability and relevance in diverse clinical settings.
  - 3.4 Propose modifications or extensions to existing nutritional theories based on a critical review of emerging evidence.
  - 3.5 Analyse the translational gap between fundamental nutritional science and current clinical practice guidelines.
  - 3.6 Justify the choice of a specific theoretical framework to guide a nutritional intervention strategy in an unpredictable context.
  
- 4. Apply evidence-based approaches to complex nutritional challenges in professional practice.**
  - 4.1 Integrate complex evidence from multiple sources to autonomously formulate an intervention plan for a patient with multiple co-morbidities.
  - 4.2 Justify the professional decision-making process when evidence is conflicting or inconclusive.
  - 4.3 Develop a robust risk management strategy for implementing novel or less-established nutritional therapies.
  - 4.4 Critically reflect on the impact of evidence interpretation on specific patient outcomes and service delivery.

## N&Do097-02- Nutritional Assessment and Diagnostic Approaches

This unit focuses on developing advanced skills in comprehensive nutritional assessment. Students master the application and interpretation of various methods: anthropometry, biochemical markers, clinical examination, and detailed dietary analysis. It covers the use of validated diagnostic criteria for identifying malnutrition and specific nutrient deficiencies across different patient populations. Emphasis is placed on the critical appraisal of assessment tools for reliability and validity, and integrating findings to accurately formulate a nutritional diagnosis and care plan.

### Learning Outcome:

### Assessment Criteria:

**1. Utilise advanced tools and methods to assess dietary intake, anthropometry, and biochemical data.**

- 1.1 Select and justify the most appropriate advanced tool (e.g., stable isotopes, DEXA) for a given clinical or research scenario based on its validation data.
- 1.2 Demonstrate proficiency in executing complex nutritional data collection and interpretation protocols.
- 1.3 Critically analyse the inherent limitations and potential biases of chosen assessment methods.
- 1.4 Evaluate and apply appropriate correction factors to improve the accuracy of raw biochemical or intake data.
- 1.5 Utilise specialist software to autonomously process and integrate large datasets from multiple assessment domains.

**2. Interpret clinical indicators to identify nutritional deficiencies, imbalances, and risks.**

- 2.1 Synthesise clinical, biochemical, and physical findings to critically differentiate primary nutritional deficiencies from secondary imbalances.
- 2.2 Critically evaluate patterns of clinical indicators to identify sub-clinical or emerging nutritional risks.
- 2.3 Interpret complex laboratory results (e.g., acute phase reactants, hormone profiles) in the context of disease-related malnutrition.
- 2.4 Predict potential clinical complications resulting from unmanaged nutritional imbalances in acute care settings.
- 2.5 Justify a prioritised list of nutritional diagnoses based on the interpretation of integrated assessment data.
- 2.6 Design a targeted follow-up monitoring protocol based on the severity and complexity of identified risks.

**3. Design comprehensive nutrition assessments tailored to diverse populations and clinical settings.**

- 3.1 Develop a validated assessment protocol suitable for a specified vulnerable population (e.g., critically ill, geriatric patients).
- 3.2 Justify the inclusion and exclusion of specific assessment components based on the clinical setting's resource constraints and patient needs.
- 3.3 Ensure the designed assessment is culturally sensitive and ethically sound for the target population.
- 3.4 Create a comprehensive assessment workflow that maximises efficiency without compromising data quality.

**4. Critically appraise diagnostic techniques for accuracy, reliability, and ethical application.**

- 4.1 Compare and contrast the sensitivity, specificity, and predictive values of competing diagnostic tests.
- 4.2 Critically evaluate the ethical implications and patient consent requirements for advanced diagnostic procedures.
- 4.3 Determine the clinical utility and cost-effectiveness of novel diagnostic biomarkers versus established methods.
- 4.4 Appraise studies reporting on the inter-rater reliability and technical accuracy of practical diagnostic tools.
- 4.5 Propose quality assurance measures to maintain the high standard of diagnostic data collection in a clinical setting.

## N&Do097-03- Diet Therapy and Management of Clinical Conditions

This unit explores the evidence-based application of medical nutrition therapy (MNT) for preventing and managing a wide range of acute and chronic conditions. Coverage includes diabetes, cardiovascular disease, renal failure, GI disorders, and critical care nutrition. Students learn to design, implement, and evaluate personalized therapeutic diets and feeding regimens (enteral and parenteral). The unit emphasizes translating complex nutritional requirements into practical, safe, and effective interventions within a multidisciplinary healthcare setting.

### Learning Outcome:

### Assessment Criteria:

**1. Apply advanced dietetic principles in the prevention and management of chronic and acute diseases.**

- 1.1 Apply advanced pathophysiological knowledge to select appropriate Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) for complex disease presentations.
- 1.2 Design nutritional strategies to mitigate inflammation and manage oxidative stress in chronic disease.
- 1.3 Critically evaluate the indications and use of specialised nutritional support (enteral/parenteral) in acute clinical scenarios.
- 1.4 Justify modifications to standard dietetic guidelines based on individual patient response and disease progression.
- 1.5 Develop preventative nutrition programmes tailored to populations identified as being at high risk for major chronic diseases.
- 1.6 Analyse how pharmacological treatments interact with and critically modify the effectiveness of nutritional interventions.

**2. Formulate and evaluate individualised diet therapy plans for conditions such as obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and gastrointestinal disorders.**

- 2.1 Formulate a detailed, integrated MNT plan for a patient with multiple co-morbidities (e.g., diabetes and heart failure).
- 2.2 Evaluate the success of a given diet therapy plan against pre-defined biochemical and quality-of-life outcomes.
- 2.3 Justify the necessary adjustments to a plan based on non-adherence or adverse patient response.
- 2.4 Design culturally appropriate educational materials to support the implementation of complex diet therapy.

- 3. Integrate clinical evidence, patient needs, and cultural considerations into dietary interventions.**
  - 3.1 Systematically integrate the patient's values, beliefs, and preferences into the formulation of the dietary plan.
  - 3.2 Critically select and adapt intervention strategies to ensure they are appropriate for diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.
  - 3.3 Analyse patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) to tailor the intervention to specific needs and priorities.
  - 3.4 Propose a framework for negotiating complex dietary changes with reluctant or non-compliant patients.
  - 3.5 Justify necessary compromises between optimal scientific intervention and the requirements for patient adherence.
  
- 4. Monitor and assess the effectiveness of nutrition care plans within clinical settings.**
  - 4.1 Develop a robust set of relevant and measurable monitoring indicators (process and outcome) for a complex care plan.
  - 4.2 Critically evaluate data collected from monitoring activities to determine the necessity of intervention modification.
  - 4.3 Implement formal audit processes to assess the effectiveness of nutrition care provided within a specific clinical unit.
  - 4.4 Justify the discontinuation of nutritional support or a specific intervention based on pre-defined exit criteria.
  - 4.5 Document the entire monitoring and re-assessment process clearly and concisely for multidisciplinary use.
  - 4.6 Measure the impact of the intervention on healthcare resource utilisation (e.g., length of hospital stay, readmission rates).

## N&Do097-04- Research Methods in Nutrition and Health Sciences

This unit equips students with the knowledge and skills to critically evaluate and conduct rigorous research in nutrition. It covers key methodologies, including RCTs, systematic reviews, epidemiological studies, and qualitative designs. Students learn about ethical considerations, study protocol development, data analysis using statistical software, and scientific report writing. The primary aim is to enable students to become informed consumers of research, capable of applying evidence-based practice and contributing to the body of nutritional knowledge.

### Learning Outcome:

- 1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies.**
  
- 2. Design, plan, and conduct independent research projects relevant to clinical nutrition.**

### Assessment Criteria:

- 1.1 Compare and contrast the epistemological foundations of major qualitative and quantitative research designs.
- 1.2 Critically justify the selection of a specific research methodology for a given clinical question.
- 1.3 Evaluate the threats to internal and external validity and reliability inherent in different research designs.
- 1.4 Apply advanced sampling and data collection techniques appropriate for rigorous research.
  
- 2.1 Formulate a novel, feasible, and relevant research question that addresses a significant gap in clinical nutrition knowledge.
- 2.2 Develop a comprehensive, ethical research protocol, including detailed data management and analysis plans.
- 2.3 Manage the research process autonomously, demonstrating sophisticated problem-solving capability in data collection and recruitment.
- 2.4 Secure ethical approval by demonstrating a deep understanding of governance and participant protection principles.
- 2.5 Produce a well-structured research report or dissertation that adheres to recognized academic standards.

**3. Analyse and interpret data using appropriate statistical tools and techniques.**

- 3.1 Select and justify the use of advanced statistical tests appropriate for the nature of the data and the research question.
- 3.2 Demonstrate proficiency in executing data cleaning, transformation, and management procedures using statistical software.
- 3.3 Interpret and report complex statistical outputs, focusing on effect size, confidence intervals, and clinical significance.
- 3.4 Critically evaluate the assumptions of the chosen statistical models and the impact of assumption violations.
- 3.5 Propose alternative data visualisation strategies to effectively communicate research findings.
- 3.6 Derive meaningful, evidence-based conclusions that directly address the original research question.

**4. Critically evaluate scientific literature to inform professional practice and decision-making.**

- 4.1 Apply systematic appraisal tools to rigorously assess the internal and external validity of published scientific papers.
- 4.2 Synthesise findings from multiple critically appraised sources to develop a definitive clinical recommendation.
- 4.3 Identify sources of bias (e.g., funding, author conflict) and critically assess their likely impact on study conclusions.
- 4.4 Critically assess the generalisability of research findings to local patient populations and practice.

## N&Do097-05- Public Health Nutrition and Policy Development

This unit examines nutritional issues from a population perspective, focusing on the determinants of health and disease within communities. It explores principles of nutritional epidemiology, surveillance, and health promotion program planning. Students will critically analyse the development, implementation, and evaluation of national and international food and nutrition policies (e.g., food fortification, dietary guidelines). The unit aims to develop skills in advocating for policy changes that address major public health nutrition challenges, such as obesity and food insecurity.

### Learning Outcome:

- 1. Assess the impact of nutrition on public health outcomes at community and population levels.**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. Evaluate national and international nutrition policies, guidelines, and frameworks.**

### Assessment Criteria:

- 1.1 Utilise epidemiological data and models to quantify the burden of nutrition-related diseases in a target population.
  - 1.2 Critically evaluate the social, economic, and environmental determinants of population-level nutritional status.
  - 1.3 Assess the effectiveness and coverage of existing community nutrition programmes using established evaluation frameworks.
  - 1.4 Identify and justify priority public health nutrition issues based on severity, prevalence, and feasibility of intervention.
  - 1.5 Analyse the inter-sectoral links between nutrition status and broader public health outcomes (e.g., education, productivity).
- 
- 2.1 Critically compare and contrast the structure and objectives of major national and international nutrition policy frameworks.
  - 2.2 Evaluate the ethical and political factors that influence the development and implementation of food and nutrition policies.
  - 2.3 Analyse the intended and unintended consequences of specific regulatory nutrition policies (e.g., taxation, food labelling).
  - 2.4 Propose evidence-based modifications to existing policy documents to enhance their effectiveness and equity.
  - 2.5 Justify the choice of policy evaluation metrics based on their ability to measure long-term population impact.
  - 2.6 Assess the process of policy adoption, focusing on stakeholder engagement and political feasibility.

- 3. Design and advocate for evidence-based nutrition programmes and interventions that address public health needs.**
  - 3.1 Develop a comprehensive public health nutrition intervention plan, complete with a budget, timeline, and resource allocation strategy.
  - 3.2 Justify the theoretical model underpinning the proposed intervention design.
  - 3.3 Create a persuasive advocacy brief targeting key decision-makers for the funding and implementation of the programme.
  - 3.4 Integrate health literacy and communication theory into the design of programme materials.
  
- 4. Demonstrate the ability to influence policy through research, education, and advocacy.**
  - 4.1 Develop a clear, evidence-based position paper designed to persuade policymakers on a specific nutrition issue.
  - 4.2 Adapt communication strategies to effectively present complex research findings to a non-expert political audience.
  - 4.3 Critically analyse the mechanisms and channels available for professional engagement in policy development.
  - 4.4 Propose a strategy for coalition building and partnership development to maximise policy influence.
  - 4.5 Evaluate the long-term potential for sustained policy change resulting from a specific advocacy campaign.

## N&Do097-06- Leadership and Professional Practice in Clinical Nutrition

This unit focuses on the advanced professional skills required for leadership and effective practice in clinical settings. It covers topics such as interprofessional communication, ethical and legal considerations, quality improvement, and clinical governance. Students will develop competencies in reflective practice, complex case management, and supervision. The unit emphasizes the role of the clinical nutritionist as a leader and advocate, capable of driving change and demonstrating high standards of professional accountability and continuous professional development.

### Learning Outcome:

### Assessment Criteria:

**1. Exhibit advanced leadership and management skills in clinical and multidisciplinary teams.**

- 1.1 Demonstrate the ability to initiate and lead a complex nutrition-focused project within a multidisciplinary team.
- 1.2 Apply advanced change management theories to autonomously drive improvements in clinical nutrition service delivery.
- 1.3 Critically analyse and resolve complex inter-professional conflicts related to patient care planning.
- 1.4 Justify decisions on the allocation and management of substantial resources (human, financial, equipment) within a clinical unit.
- 1.5 Implement effective strategies for delegating tasks and mentoring junior staff within the team.
- 1.6 Evaluate different leadership styles and their effectiveness in motivating diverse clinical teams.

**2. Apply professional, ethical, and legal standards in clinical nutrition practice.**

- 2.1 Critically resolve a complex ethical dilemma (e.g., end-of-life feeding, non-consensual care) using an established ethical framework.
- 2.2 Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of relevant data protection and patient confidentiality legislation.
- 2.3 Justify decisions related to scope of practice and professional accountability in ambiguous situations.
- 2.4 Develop protocols to ensure clinical practice adheres to current national legal and professional standards.

**3. Communicate complex nutritional concepts effectively to healthcare professionals, patients, and policymakers.**

- 3.1 Present complex scientific data to non-specialist healthcare professionals in a clear and actionable format.
- 3.2 Design and deliver patient education sessions that effectively translate advanced nutritional science into understandable, patient-centred advice.
- 3.3 Critically adapt communication style and message content based on the audience's existing knowledge and context.
- 3.4 Prepare formal reports and proposals that advocate for clinical nutrition services to management and policymakers.
- 3.5 Effectively use advanced digital and media platforms to disseminate nutritional information to a wider audience.

**4. Reflect critically on personal development and engage in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for long-term career growth.**

- 4.1 Conduct a systematic, critical reflection on a significant professional decision or outcome, identifying underlying assumptions and biases.
- 4.2 Develop a comprehensive, evidence-based CPD plan that aligns professional goals with organizational and field needs.
- 4.3 Justify the choice of specific development activities based on a gap analysis of current competence.
- 4.4 Analyse the barriers and enablers to engagement with CPD and propose strategies for overcoming them.
- 4.5 Document and critically evaluate the impact of recently completed CPD on clinical practice and patient outcomes.
- 4.6 Demonstrate self-directed learning by independently exploring and mastering an advanced, emerging topic in clinical nutrition.

## ICTQual AB

Yew Tree Avenue, Dagenham,

London East, United Kingdom RM10 7FN

+447441398083

[support@ictqualab.co.uk](mailto:support@ictqualab.co.uk) | [www.ictqualab.co.uk](http://www.ictqualab.co.uk)

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