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**UPDATING THE CURRICULUM OF AN ADVANCED MASTERS COURSE IN  
MEDICAL STATISTICS**

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The MSc in Medical Statistics at the University of Leicester, UK, has been successfully running for nearly 30 years. Last year we undertook a major review of the course to update the curriculum; the first for many years. Over the years the course had retained the same structure and updates been introduced only where possible in the existing modules. In making provision for this update, we considered the career destinations of the graduates, employers were consulted, along with researchers in the areas of medical statistics and the teaching staff.

As a result the core modules were revised and a new core module was introduced on computationally intensive statistical methods, which included statistical programming, fitting splines and fractional polynomials, bootstrapping, simulation, imputation techniques, Bayesian methods, MCMC and WinBugs. New option modules were introduced to allow students to opt to specialise in either Modern Epidemiology (with two options in Genetic Epidemiology and a relevant project) or Health Technology Assessment (options in Decision Modelling and Advanced Evidence Synthesis and a relevant project).

These changes should take the course forward so that it remains a highly respected pathway into the role of medical statistician in industry, research or academia. The students will be informed by up-to-date methods and in key application areas. Feedback generally and choices of options and specialisation is currently being monitored.