

# MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES (MOOCs) UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA



## UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

Do you want to learn from leaders in the field of dementia research, education and care?

Are you interested in engaging with the international community to discuss the major issues surrounding dementia?

Join the *Understanding Dementia* FREE online course.

### COURSE OVERVIEW

*Understanding Dementia* is designed to be accessible and appealing to people from diverse backgrounds including:

- Health Professionals
- Community and residential facility support staff
- Health policymakers
- Social scientists
- People in the early stages of the disease, their families and carers
- Individuals with a general interest in dementia

The course draws upon the expertise of Neuroscientists, Clinicians and Dementia Care Professionals from the UTAS Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre.

*Understanding Dementia* addresses the foremost issues surrounding dementia, providing avenues for discussion and rich global networking opportunities to engage with this major international health issue.

The course imparts knowledge to improve quality of life across the trajectory of dementia for people with the condition, their families and carers.

*Understanding Dementia* provides an opportunity to engage with the perspectives of an international community, without requiring exams or assignments.

The course is divided into three units.

- The Brain
- The Diseases
- The Person

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Are there any pre-requisites for the course?**

No, you do not need any prior level of knowledge.

#### **Who would benefit from doing this course?**

Anyone, from carers to health professionals and others interested in dementia

#### **How long does the course go for?**

The course runs for 11 weeks.

#### **How many hours a week will I need to dedicate to the course?**

Approximately 3 hours/weekly

#### **How often does the course run?**

The *Understanding Dementia* MOOC will be released three times annually.

#### **Do I receive a certificate of completion?**

Yes, if you complete the entire course (3 units), you may request a free certificate of completion/participation.

#### **Are there exams or assignments?**

There are no exams or assignments. However, we do have weekly quizzes for you to gain insight into your learning.



## WHAT IS A MOOC?

MOOC is an acronym for Massive Open Online Course – a recent development that has been embraced by key universities and learning institutions around the world. MOOCs offer free online learning opportunities, with institutions such as UTAS sharing their expertise and knowledge in an open environment that is accessible to any and all interested parties.

Whether you wish to pursue a formal education at university level, or just want to find out more about a particular topic of interest, a MOOC is an ideal way to access our expertise and build your own knowledge.

## UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA: UNIT GUIDE

### UNIT 1

**'THE BRAIN'** provides a background on basic nervous system anatomy and function, followed by a discussion of the disease that causes dementia, current dementia research and future directions.

- Nervous system anatomy
- Anatomy with body central
- Pathology of dementia
- Future directions of research

### UNIT 2

**'THE DISEASE'** explores the difference between normal ageing and dementia, risk factors, symptoms of dementia, the issues surrounding diagnosis, as well as medical management.

- Difference between normal ageing and dementia
- Risk factors for dementia
- Domains of dementia
- Diagnosis of dementia
- Symptoms of advanced dementia
- Medical management

### UNIT 3

**'THE PERSON'** addresses the difficulties in recognising symptoms, living with dementia, progression and staging, palliation, behaviours, management and alternative therapies.

- Insidious onset of dementia
- Living with dementia
- Dementia progression and staging
- Dementia palliation
- Dementia behaviours
- Alternative therapies

## COMPLETION OF THE UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA MOOC CAN BE RECOGNISED ACADEMICALLY

If you complete all three units of the *Understanding Dementia* MOOC, you may request a free certificate of completion.

However, if you wish to receive evidence of your learning, that is recognised by the academic community internationally, you can enrol at the University of Tasmania in the '*Negotiated Studies in Understanding Dementia*' (CAD110) unit from November 2013. Your MOOC work will be formally assessed as part of this internationally available, fully-online unit.

Further information about the '*Negotiated Studies in Understanding Dementia*' (CAD110) unit, fees and enrolment processes, as well as the option for extending your qualifications with the University of Tasmania's Associate Degree in Dementia Care, will be made available in the near future.

## UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA



[www.utas.edu.au/wicking/understanding-dementia](http://www.utas.edu.au/wicking/understanding-dementia)

**WICKING**  
DEMENTIA RESEARCH  
& EDUCATION CENTRE

