The Institute of Healthcare Associated Infection (IHAI) is a research institute within the School of Health, Nursing and Midwifery of the University of the West of Scotland, in a joint venture with NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs) are infections acquired in hospital or other healthcare settings. The impact of HAIs include prolonged hospital stays; long term disability; increased resistance of micro-organisms to antimicrobials, and incur significant costs to patients, their families and healthcare organisations. Preventing and controlling HAIs – such as MRSA, *Clostridium difficile/CDAD* and norovirus - is a global priority. More recently, the healthcare quality agenda has emerged as a priority to support the delivery of high quality healthcare services. This programme provides students with the opportunity to enhance their learning in an important area of professional practice.

The IHAI is pleased to offer a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in Healthcare Associated Infection (HAI) Improvement, a 60 credit, SCQF level 11 programme, available from September 2014.
**Who should consider studying the PGCert HAI Improvement?**

This programme is designed for:

- health and social care professionals working to generate healthcare associated infection improvement at (or supported at) a senior practitioner/ middle management level
- academics from healthcare-related disciplines.

**What does the PGCert HAI Improvement offer?**

The programme offers students the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in infection control/ healthcare associated infection and quality improvement approaches in health and social care settings. Students will also have opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills attained to design and implement a small scale change project, thereby facilitating HAI improvement.

**What does the PGCert HAI Improvement cover?**

The programme comprises of three modules (two core modules and one option module) at SCQF level 11, and will normally be completed within one year.

Core modules are:

- **Quality Improvement in Healthcare** which develops practitioners’ knowledge, understanding and application of models of quality improvement
- **Leading Infection Control Improvement** which provides an in-depth and critical understanding of contemporary infection control issues at local, national and international levels

One of two available option modules:

- **HAI Improvement in Practice** which facilitates the application of learning to practice to support HAI improvement within the local context and framework of HAI or
- **Independent study (HSCE)** where students are supported to customise their HAI-focused learning through individually negotiated learning activities, assessment criteria and assessment procedures.

**How is the programme delivered?**

The programme will be delivered on a part time basis. Students will study one module per trimester across the academic year, normally completing the programme within one year.

The programme will be delivered online, offering flexibility in when and how students study and there will be no requirement to attend a university campus.

For further information, including costs, please contact HAI@uws.ac.uk