

Course Rationale

Dementia is a word we give to describe a set of symptoms that affect memory, thinking, behaviour and ability to perform everyday tasks. Dementia is caused by different brain illnesses and slowly gets worse over time. Although dementia mainly affects older people, it is not a normal part of ageing. The number of people living with dementia is steadily increasing. Currently, there are 47 million people living with dementia worldwide, with this number predicted to reach 132 million by 2050 if no action is taken. Dementia has become a significant public health problem, and there is still no cure. Scientists all over the world are looking for new ways to tackle dementia and to uncover what triggers dementia. However, the most important problem is that the changes in brain behind dementia take place over many years before the first symptoms emerge. So, the question is, how we could predict and potentially prevent dementia?

This course will teach you how to think, talk and write like a scientist whilst learning about the symptoms and causes of dementia, how dementia affects the brain function and what are the risk factors that increase likelihood of developing dementia. By the end of the tutorials, you will be able to assess scientific evidence to form your own conclusions on the prediction of dementia and you will complete a university-style essay combining your scientific skills and knowledge to conduct a literature review on risk and protective factors for dementia.