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Graham, C.J. orcid.org/0000-0002-1144-7970, Lim, J.J. orcid.org/0009-0008-5213-9334 and Cheetham, L. orcid.org/0000-0002-9489-6965 (2024) The value of Master's and PGCert qualifications in health professions education. *The Clinical Teacher*, 21 (6). e13802. ISSN 1743-4971

<https://doi.org/10.1111/tct.13802>

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Title:**The value of Master's and PGCert qualifications in Health Professions Education****LETTER TO THE EDITORS**

We thank O'Callaghan and colleagues for their scoping review of the value (and barriers to obtaining value) of Master's Degree Programmes in Health Professions Education (MHPE).¹ Despite restricting to English language articles, the 19 included studies represent international MHPEs using different modes of delivery and students/graduates from these diverse MHPEs reported similar 'value'. However, there is no standards regulation (of the programme or faculty) or consistent standardisation of MHPEs nationally or internationally. Although subjective improvement in pedagogical knowledge, confidence and credibility is documented, there is a lack of objective and longitudinal evidence of benefit to MHPE students.¹

High financial costs of MHPEs is a well-recognised barrier,² which may cause differential attainment. Additional barriers to applying to, studying, and succeeding at MHPEs may include caring responsibilities, neurodiversity, language barriers, and health needs. To ensure a diverse health professions education (HPE) workforce, accommodations should be made and support provided to MHPE students as appropriate.

For many, a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) can offer a more affordable and accessible qualification than MHPE, yet PGCert students should similarly develop pedagogical knowledge (particularly relating to design and delivery of education), confidence, and credibility.¹

A 'value' of MHPE not identified in this scoping review¹ is additional recognition through professional membership, which can boost career prospects. For example, if certain membership (or indeed, a PGCert) is required for applying for a HPE role. An accredited PGCert grants Academy of Medical Educators Membership³ and Advance HE (formerly Higher Education Academy) Fellowship⁴, for example.

References

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