

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY MASTER OF BREAST PATHOLOGY UPDATE

UNIV. A DISTANCIA DE MADRID

The First Edition of the International Master's Degree in Breast Pathology (hereinafter referred to as the Master) is an initiative of the Umberto Veronesi Academy (UVAC), initially called Umberto Veronesi Alumni Club. UVAC, a non-profit organization founded by former students of the late Professor Veronesi, died in Milan, Italy, aged 91 on November 8, 2016.

The Master is specifically designed so that the students can face on the one hand the demands of medicine in a permanent state of change, renovation and innovation and on the other, a society that requires doctors to apply in their daily clinical practice the latest advances in diagnosis and treatment available.

The objective of the Master is to provide specialists in breast disease with a continuous and updated training that allows them to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for the development of their clinical activity. The Master is designed in a way that allows the doctor to coordinate his or her daily professional work with an education adapted in time and form to his needs.

The Master was created and coordinated by the UVAcademy, following an idea and initiative of Umberto Veronesi, its first Scientific Director, who was also the Founder and Scientific Director Emeritus of the European Institute of Oncology (IEO), Milan Italy. The IEO is one of the leading cancer centers in Europe and will be one of the headquarters where the students of the Master can choose to carry out their week of practical activities.

The Master is taught by internationally renowned medical specialists who have contributed their lectures on breast cancer.

Each of the modules is coordinated by specialists from their respective disciplines.

FOR WHOM IS THE MASTER? TO WHOM IS IT TARGETED?

The Master is aimed at medical specialists who deal directly with patients with breast cancer. The medical-surgical specialties to which the master is destined are the follows:

- MASTOLOGISTS
- GYNECOLOGISTS
- GENERAL SURGEONS
- PLASTIC SURGEONS
- MEDICAL ONCOLOGISTS
- INTERNISTS
- RADIOTHERAPY PHYSICIANS
- ANATOMO-PATHOLOGISTS
- RADIOLOGISTS
- NUCLEAR MEDICINE PHYSICIANS

For specialists already working in the field of breast pathology, the master acts as a tool to update their knowledge as it covers content of each of the above. Mentioned specialties. In exceptional cases, it will be considered the enrollment to the master of doctors without any of the mentioned specialties, if they prove that during their daily clinical activity they attend patients suffering from breast cancer. In this case, upon completion of the master's degree the doctor will obtain an overview of mammary pathology and, during the course of it, they will be able to explore in depth, the aspects considered more interesting to acquire an optimum professional development. The organization of the Master offers the student an orientation service that allows the non-specialized student to deepen their understanding the subjects and their basic knowledge of this complex pathology.

The training/educational project of the Master is developed in two stages:

- The first theoretical, distance learning (FAD), on-line. It occupies most of the time of the Master.
- The second practice and face-to-face: One-week stay in an institution of recognized international scientific prestige.

The organization of the Master establishes contacts with oncological centers to carry out internships during this period: The Istituto Europeo di Oncologia, founded and created by Umberto Veronesi, has been serving for years as a visiting and internships center for Spanish and Latin American doctors. For those students who can not carry out the week of Practical Training outside their place of work, the practical week will be validated in a Breast Unit (Unit previously approved in writing by the UVAC).

1. Distance training

The distance training program has an introductory purpose and it provides for knowledge dissemination without specific territorial connotation. The language of the master's degree

will be in a first phase in Castilian, aimed towards Latin American and Spanish doctors. The distance training represents the majority of the master, finding the content in the specific Web site. The didactic material will consist of filmed lectures, with the corresponding slides, the theoretical material suggested by the coordinators and the main international abstracts on the subject, of recent publication.

2. Clinical training stays

The second part of the master's degree consists in minimum stay of one week in an institution of recognized international scientific prestige. The administration will provide all the necessary information to the student for their acceptance in the chosen center. In Europe, in principle, the European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy is the selected center and eventually other European or North American centers could be selected in the future. This part of the Master consists of a one-week stay of a practical nature, in which the student will attend and visit the different Divisions that make up a Breast Unit, which include: surgery (Operating theatre), pathological anatomy, radiology, radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, medical oncology, etc.

It is important to emphasize that in accordance with Italian law (similarly in other countries) foreign doctors can not have direct contact with the patient, neither in the office nor in the operating room; in other words, they can not perform clinical or surgical activities. One can only observe, to assimilate as best as possible the medical conduct of the mastologists of the center.

The master's degree is designed so that the student undergoes two academic years. During the first year the student will complete a total of 5 modules, with a final exam covering the content of those modules. During the second year the student will complete the remaining 5 modules, with their respective final exam.

Furthermore, it is required that during the last year the student carries out the work of master's and previous acceptance of the same by the coordinator of the module.

The internship week may be held in any week of the year within two academic years of the master's degree. The secretary's office in Milan will coordinate these activities. Each student must enroll in a week of practical activities and do so at least three months in advance.

The **total number of credits is 60**, distributed as follows:

- 10 theoretical modules: 50 credits.
- Internship in a specialized breast cancer center: 5 credits.
- Master's final work: 5 credits.

The instructional materials available for the student consists of:

1. Theory content: within each of the modules of which the Master is composed. This content provides a knowledge base on each of the subjects that are part of mastology. It is fundamental for any doctor specializing in Breast Pathology to have a general knowledge on any aspect of the disease, in order to understand the pathology and to offer the patient the finest care possible.
2. Audio-Visual Lessons: The master's degree consists of more than 200 fully updated lessons presented by doctors of recognized international prestige in the field of Breast Pathology. New lessons will be introduced annually with updated content.

3. Recent scientific material: The student will be provided with scientific material related to breast cancer in the form of abstracts, papers, and newsletters with content published during the three years prior to the beginning of each of the Master's Editions. The coordinators of each of the modules of which the Master is composed will select material from all the scientific publications they consider most interesting and suitable to achieve the objectives of each module.

The online system of teaching allows the student to access all the previously mentioned... material 24 hours a day, without any limit, so that each student can adapt their study time to their work rate and free time. Furthermore, there is a forum created for each of the modules in which the student can leave questions or comments and establish a connection link between the other participants and the coordinators.

The master's degree final project must be submitted for evaluation to the coordinator responsible for module 11 before the end of the second year of the master's degree. The student can opt for any subject related to mammary pathology, after the approval of the coordinator of the Master's projects. You can assign one or another coordinator according to the subject chosen by the student.

The following final master projects are considered valid: systematic reviews of literature or meta-analysis on any field of mammary pathology, retrospective studies. The publication (by the doctor working towards their Master's) during the period of the master or review articles published in journals indexed with Impact Factor may be used as research work, provided that the student is among the first three authors. The organization of the Master's program provides the student with a student orientation service on the research project, so astohelp help to decide the best work adapted to the student's knowledge.

In general terms the objectives that the student must reach after completing each of the modules are:

1. Acquire knowledge and a global vision of breast pathology at a clinical and scientific level, educating them in all branches of pathology to be able to optimally develop their professional career.
2. Update knowledge about breast pathology with the highest level of scientific evidence, based on the latest published clinical guidelines and the latest advances and available information.
3. To stimulate interest in students for basic or translational scientific research applied to breast cancer and self-learning based on current available tools.

The subjects and conferences that constitute the Master's program comprise all of the specialties that treat patients diagnosed with breast cancer. Therefore, the theoretical content of the subjects ranges from prevention (before the onset of cancer) to the cure of breast cancer (treatment and control):

- Available preventive measures
- Early diagnosis of breast cancer
- Diagnostic imaging
- Cyto-histopathological diagnosis
- Surgical treatment

- Neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapy: Chemotherapy, hormonal therapy,
- Radiotherapy
- Applications of nuclear medicine.

With this, the student achieves a global vision of the disease from different perspectives and gains access to fully updated material with the latest studies and advances published to date.

As it is an Online Master's degree that is aimed at doctors from Latin America and Spain, the calendar has been adapted to the academic year of the respective countries of the students.. From the start date of the Master, the student will have 24 months to complete the 10 theory modules, submit the research paper and take the two annual exams.

During the first school year the student must complete modules 1 to 5 and take the final exam of the first year. During the second academic year the student must complete the remaining 5 theory modules and take the final exam of the second year.

The subject of the research work must be accepted by the coordinator of the corresponding module if possible during the first school year. It is the responsibility of the student to have the subject selected for the research work 6 months before the end of the Master, which is considered adequate time to carry out a project with an optimal scientific quality.

Example of Academic Calendar:

First Year =

- January 2017-December 2017: - Complete first 5 theory modules
- Choose the topic for the research work
- December 2017: - Take **final exam** of the first year (whose content covers the first 5 modules). The basic text of the exam will be the theoretical content sent (not the abstracts)

Second Year =

- January 2018-December 2018: - Complete the last 5 theory modules
- Prepare the subject for the Master's degree research work.
- Submission of research work.
- December 2018: - Take **final exam** of the second year (whose content covers the last 5 theory modules). The basic text of the exam will be the theoretical content sent (not the abstracts).

Obtaining a favourable evaluation (see point 15: Evaluation) provides the student with access to the Master's Degree of the Madrid Distance University.

DEGREES AND DIPLOMAS:

*** GRADUATED in MASTOLOGY: obtained at the end of the first year, certified by the Madrid Open University.**

*** MASTER in MASTOLOGY: obtained at the end of the second year, certified by the Madrid Open University.**

*** *Diploma and Certificate from the European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy, headquarter of the practical activities***

*** *Diploma and Certificate of the Umberto Veronesi Academy (UVAC)***

The Master's program final grade is composed of a three-part evaluation:

- ➤ **Theoretical content (TC): 60% of the grade. It is necessary to have a minimum grade of 5 points out of 10 to obtain the Master's degree = Maximum of 6 points.**
- ➤ **Master's final research work: 20% of the grade. The submission of the research work is a necessary requirement in order to be evaluated. Maximum of 2 points. Refer to module 11, which indicates the maximum grade that is chosen depending on the type of work performed = 2 points maximum.**
- ➤ **Practices of the Master (PM): 20%. The internships can be carried out in centres authorized by the organization of the Master. For the students who are unable to perform the week of practical training outside their country, the practical week will be validated in a Breast Unit (previously approved in writing by the UVAC) = Maximum of 2 points.**

Note CT + Note research work + Note PM = Maximum grade 10 points. A minimum of 5 points is required to get the Master's Degree.

The final score will be communicated to each participant and kept in reserve.

The name of the Doctor who obtains the highest score at the end of all the activities from the two years will be published.