

# Becoming a University Hospice: From shared values to innovative practice and research

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St Columba's Hospice Care was officially recognised as the first University Hospice in the east of Scotland, following its pioneering agreement with Queen Margaret University (QMU).

A person-centred ethos and shared values underpin this University Hospice partnership and all aspects of work. The partnership is multi-layered consisting of higher education programmes in palliative care and numerous practice development and research initiatives.



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Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)  
University Hospice partnership launch, April 2022

**Person-centred ethos and shared  
values underpin the University  
Hospice partnership**

... commitment to high quality person-centred palliative care

... recognition of equality and diversity underpinning  
the development of palliative care services that lead to  
people with palliative care needs and their families  
having the best quality of life possible

... innovation and willingness to take risks,  
challenge convention and be creative

... desire to generate new knowledge that is  
co-produced and has immediate impact



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# Examples of work influenced by our University Hospice partnership

[click on the links below for details](#)

[Research strategy](#)

[Graduate and Masters programmes in person-centred palliative care](#)

[Virtual reality research](#)

[Reaching for the rainbow: Person-centred practice in palliative care](#)

[Enabling person-centred care](#)

[Arts in palliative care symposium](#)

Hospices are uniquely positioned to serve as centres of excellence in palliative care within their local context and hold the potential to spearhead practice, research and education initiatives in the field nationally and internationally.

Hospices need to embed excellent learning and teaching as well as research within their strategic and operational structures.

The St Columba's Hospice Care and QMU partnership illustrates how such formal partnerships can enable and support a hospice towards becoming a centre of excellence, as well as enhance and support palliative care education and research within a University.

# Looking ahead

