

25 May 2020

Dear Colleagues

INFORMATION FOR SOPH APPLICANTS

The UWC School of Public Health (SOPH) welcomes your interest in its Postgraduate Programme. The flexible, modular programme use text-based and e-learning as its medium of teaching, with optional contact sessions in Cape Town in February/March and June/July every year.

The information contained in this letter – is critical for your application and will guide you through the process. **Please read it carefully – as you will also be alerted about other documentation that we require you to submit as part of your application.**

We would like to say at the outset that SOPH can regrettably only admit a limited number of students in 2020.

1. Process of Application

- **The first step you need to take is to apply online through the UWC website: <https://www.uwc.ac.za>.** Applications are now open and will close on **Wednesday 30 September 2020.**
- Once you have made this online application through the UWC website, you will receive an acknowledgement from Ms Janine Kader (SOPH). She will then provide you with a link to the SOPH online application form and the SOPH application task which we require all applicants to complete.
- **Applicants should start the UWC (general) and SOPH (specific) online application process as early as possible in order to have enough time** to be able to complete the necessary application forms, the application task and to gather all the necessary and certified documentation together (including leaving time to apply for SAQA clearance certification for all non-South African qualifications).
- Your application to the University of the Western Cape (general application) *and* your application to the School of Public Health (specific application & task), must be completed on or before the **30 September 2020 deadline**. This includes the uploading of all relevant documentation onto both the UWC and SOPH e-application sites. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Please do not email your documentation to the SOPH – all applications have to be completed and uploaded through our e-application platform.

PLEASE NOTE:

Applicants who have non-South African qualifications need to apply to the [South African qualifications authority \(SAQA\)](#) for clearance and will have to submit this SAQA clearance with all of your relevant documents. Please start engaging with SAQA immediately as the SAQA clearance process takes quite a long time to complete.

PLEASE NOTE:

You are not allowed to be registered for another academic qualification whilst you are studying at UWC, without prior permission from UWC.

2. Important Background Information

We would like to **encourage you to take a look at the SOPH website** to find out more about the programmes we offer and the focus of our public health research.

You will find the website here: <http://www.uwcsoph.co.za/>, and you might want to specifically look at our most recent annual report which you will find here: <http://www.uwcsoph.co.za/index.php/about/annual-reports>

We have also developed **a set of frequently asked questions (FAQS) about the PGD and MPH programmes** which we suggest you also take a look at before you proceed with your application.

3. Structure & Requirements for our Programmes

The School of Public Health will offer the following postgraduate programmes in 2020.

- Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (Honours level) - NQF 8
- Master in Public Health - NQF 9 (Course work & Mini Thesis)
- Master in Public Health – NQF 9 (Full Thesis)

Please note that information about the PhD programme is available on the SOPH website here: <http://www.uwcsoph.co.za/index.php/academic-programmes/phd-in-public-health>

Further enquires about the PhD programme specifically can be directed to Ms Corinne Carolissen (Email: ccarolissen@uwc.ac.za).

Please read the Admission Requirements below to check whether you qualify for the programme that you are interested in:

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Purpose of the Programme

By the end of this Programme, the students should be able to:

- a. Deepen and strengthen knowledge and understanding of the Public Health field for application to current Public Health practice.
- b. Act as change agents in the health system.
- c. Quantify, analyse and prioritise the health problems and needs of communities/health service users.
- d. Plan and implement programmes which promote health and prevent disease.
- e. Undertake effective management at facility, district or higher levels of the health system including health information management and financial management.
- f. Plan and implement research to monitor and evaluate Public Health programmes.
- g. Employ critical reading and higher level numeracy skills required for practice in the field.

Accreditation

The qualification is on NQF Level 8 and carries 120 credit points. SAQA Field(s) in which the programme

falls: Field 09: Health Sciences and Social Services

Admission Requirements

Unless otherwise determined by Senate:

- i. A candidate must have obtained a three year Bachelors degree, or its equivalent in any relevant discipline.
- ii. A minimum of one year of relevant experience in the health or welfare sector.
- iii. A candidate may be admitted with an equivalent qualification, prior learning and relevant experience, in accordance with rule A2.1.4 and approval of Senate.
- iv. Additional supporting documents may be required by the University of the Western Cape from time to time.

Duration

The six distance learning modules may be taken in one year, equivalent to full-time study, or two years, equivalent to part-time study. Students must apply to the Senate in order to enrol for a third year.

Composition of Curriculum

(All six modules are compulsory).

	Module Title	<i>Credits</i>
Module 1	Introducing Public Health: The Priorities and Scope of Public Health [Core]	20
Module 2	Descriptive Epidemiology [Core]	20
Module 3	Population Health and Development: A Primary Health Care Approach [Core]	20
Module 4	Health Promotion for Public Health I [Core]	20
Module 5	Management Strategies for the Public Health Services I [Core]	20
Module 6	Monitoring and Evaluation for Health Services Improvement I [Core]	20
Total		120

Assessment

Formative assessment takes place through practice tasks embedded in the modules, in the course of tutoring and through continuous assessment; summative assessment is achieved through continuous assessment.

Promotion

- i. To proceed from one year of study to the next, the student must obtain at least 40 credits.
- ii. To complete the qualification, the student must complete 120 credits i.e. six modules.
- iii. Students who do not comply with the requirements for completion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health in the maximum time of two years, must obtain permission from Senate for readmission for a third year of study.
- iv. Change of Rule during a student's registration
Where the rules governing a curriculum are amended, and Senate does not decide otherwise, a student who registered under the old rules and who has attended the University without interruption, may, unless the amended rules otherwise provide, elect to proceed with his/her studies either in terms of the old rules or in terms of the new rules, provided that:
 - a) (s)he may not elect to proceed partially in terms of the old and partially in terms of the new rules;
 - b) (s)he shall be bound by his/her choice; and
 - c) her/his right to proceed in terms of the old rules, should (s)he so have elected, shall lapse should (s) he fail to gain sufficient credits to proceed to the following level of study. (Ref A.1.1.3).

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) – Coursework and Mini-Thesis

Purpose of the programme

To equip students to:

- Demonstrate understanding of Public Health and the Primary Health Care (PHC) approach.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of district health systems and their development.
- Identify, quantify, analyze and prioritize the health problems and needs of communities for health system development.
- Use a Primary Health Care and Health Promotion approach to plan and implement programmes which promote health and prevent disease.
- Undertake effective management at facility, district or higher levels of the health system including health information, human resources and financial management.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation tools and plans for district level interventions.
- Conduct applied or operational Health Systems Research to improve quality of care.
- Demonstrate leadership in transforming the health system in a developing country context from a predominantly curative hospital based service to a high quality comprehensive community-based, participatory and equitable system.

Accreditation

The qualification is on NQF Level 9 and carries 180 credit points. SAQA Field(s) in which the programme falls: Field 09: Health Sciences and Social Services

Admission requirements

Unless Senate decides otherwise, candidates will be required to meet the following criteria to be enrolled for the programme:

- i. Candidates must be in possession of an Honours degree, Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health or equivalent at Level 8 in any relevant discipline.
- ii. A minimum of three years relevant working experience in the health or welfare sector is required.
- iii. Those who do not have credit for a tertiary level course in disease pathogenesis, disease measurement or disease control must take the module, *Introducing Public Health: its Basis and Scope* from the PG Diploma in Public Health, and complete a task before or during their first semester.
- iv. With due regard to rule A2.1.4, personnel in the health and welfare sector with a minimum of five years of relevant experience in implementing health and welfare policy or planning and managing health and welfare services, may be admitted to the course after assessment of prior learning and experience.

- v. Additional supporting documents may be required.

Duration

The MPH Programme must be completed in a maximum of 2 years full-time or 3 years part-time. The programme consists of 8 coursework modules [6 Core, i.e. compulsory and 2 Electives]; two of the Core modules are research methodology modules which result in a protocol and a mini-thesis.

Eight modules (Five Core and one Elective) may be taken in one year, equivalent to full-time study, or in two years, equivalent to part-time study. During the second year, students must take one research methodology module (from section 6 in table below) resulting in a research protocol.

The Mini-thesis should be completed by the end of the third year. Students must apply to the Senate in order to enrol for a fourth year. Students may choose to complete the qualification in two years.

Composition of the curriculum

Modules	Credits
1. Population Health and Development: A Primary Health Care Approach II [Core]	15
2. Measuring Health & Disease - Intermediate Epidemiology [Core]	15
3. Management Strategies for the Public Health Services II [Core]	15
4. Health Promotion for Public Health II [Core]	15
5. Public Health Research [Core]	15
6a. Qualitative Research Methods [Core] <u>OR</u> 6b. Quantitative Research Methods [Core]	15
7. Elective 1* (Capita Selecta I)	15
8. Elective 2* (Capita Selecta II)	15
Mini-thesis of 7 500 - 20 000 words [Core]	60
Total	180

Students must in addition take two 15 credit elective modules; electives 1 and 2 may be taken from one of SOPH's areas of specialisation, which affords them a degree of specialisation, or from the range of Electives available from SOPH.

With permission from SOPH, students may take up to 30 credits at Level 9 from another department, provided these are deemed directly relevant to Public Health.

PLEASE NOTE: the areas of specialisation and the related modules listed below might change in 2021 & 2022.

ELECTIVES

Area of specialisation	MODULE CHOICES	Credi
Health Promotion	Alcohol Problems: A Health Promotion Approach	15
Health Research	Monitoring and Evaluation in Health and Development	15
	Using Information for Effective Management I	15
	Qualitative Research Methods	15
	Quantitative Research Methods	15
Health Information Systems	Using Information For Effective Management I	15
Nutrition	Public Health Nutrition: Policy and Programming	15
	Micronutrient Malnutrition	15
	Epidemiology of Non-Communicable Diseases	15
Pharmaceutical Public Health	Rational Medicines use	15
	Medicine Supply Management	15
Health Policy and Systems	Introduction to Health Policy and Systems Research	15
	Introduction to Complex Health Systems	15
	Understanding and Analysing Health Policy	15
OTHER ELECTIVES	Globalization and Health	15

Promotions

- Students must complete 45 credits by the end of Year 1 (3 Modules).
 - Students must complete 75 credits by the end of Year 2 (5 Modules).
 - Registration for the following year of study will be recommended by the supervisor if in his/her opinion adequate progress has been made with the mini-thesis during the current year.
 - A student must have successfully completed all prescribed modules and obtained a total of 180 credits to complete the degree.
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- Where the rules governing a curriculum are amended, and Senate does not decide otherwise, a student who registered under the old rules and who has attended the University without interruption, may, unless the amended rules otherwise provide, elect to proceed with his/her studies either in terms of the old rules or in terms of the new rules, provided that –
 - (s)he may not elect to proceed partially in terms of the old and partially in terms of the new rules;
 - (s)he shall be bound by his/her choice; and
 - her/his right to proceed in terms of the old rules, should (s)he so have elected, shall lapse should (s) he fail to gain sufficient credits to proceed to the following level of study. (Ref A.1.1.3).

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) – Full Thesis Mode

Accreditation

The qualification is on NQF Level 9 and carries 180 credit points. SAQA Field(s) in which the programme falls: Field 09: Health Sciences and Social Services

Admission Requirements

Unless otherwise determined by Senate, candidates require:

- i. An Honours degree, Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health or equivalent at Level 8 in any relevant discipline
- ii. A minimum of five years in the health or welfare sector with relevant experience in implementing policy or planning and managing health or welfare services, including
- iii. a minimum of three years of significant research or monitoring and evaluation experience.
- iv. A tertiary level course in disease pathogenesis, disease measurement or disease control, if the candidates do not have the credits for such a course, then they have to take the module *Introducing Public Health: its Basis and Scope* from the PG Diploma in Public Health, and complete a task before or during their first semester.
- v. Supporting documents as evidence of eligibility.

Selection

As only a limited number of students can be admitted to the programme, applicants will be subject to a selection procedure. Preference will be given to candidates employed in the health or welfare sector with a minimum of three to five years of relevant experience.

Duration

Unless Senate decides otherwise, the duration of the programme shall extend over a minimum of two years and a maximum of three years. Students must apply to the Senate in order to enrol for a fourth year.

Composition of the Curriculum

Students must select a topic and design and complete a research project that is situated within the scope of topics and approaches covered in the Areas of Specialization (listed in Table 1) offered at the school. Students may choose to enroll for these modules for non-degree purposes in order to strengthen their own personal development. With permission from SOPH, students may apply the content and approach of other disciplines to their thesis project, provided these are deemed of direct relevance to Public Health.

Assessment

Assessment is governed by Rule A.5 as stipulated in the University Calendar: General Information Part 1.

Progress rules

- Students must have submitted an approved research proposal to Senate Higher Degrees by the end of Year 1.
- Students must complete data collection by the end of Year 2.
- Registration for the following year of study will be recommended by the supervisor if in his/her opinion adequate progress has been made with the thesis during the current year.
- A student must have successfully completed a Masters research thesis and obtained a total of 180 credits to complete the degree.

Renewal of registration

The renewal of registration will be governed by the Rule A.4, as stipulated in the University Calendar: General Information Part 1.

4. Estimated Study Fees

Please note: These are estimates and are subject to change; we will be able to inform you of the actual fees for 2021 only in December of the current year.

APPLICATION & REGISTRATION FEES These fees are paid directly into UWC account	Approximately
Application Fee	NO FEES
Registration Fee (If application is successful)	R1 510
SOUTH AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WITH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP * SA students pay 2/3 of fees on registration – approximately R4 300; students with African citizenship pay the amount in full on registration.	* Includes Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.
Cost per module (All modules)	R 3 240
Cost per module (Nutrition Stream/Elective modules)	R 5 210
MPH mini-thesis	R 6 850
MPH Full Thesis	R28 215
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (without African citizenship) Paid in full on registration (Feb 2020)	TUITION FEES
Cost per module	R12 890
Cost per module (Nutrition Stream/Elective modules)	R19 700
MPH mini-thesis (excluding modules)	R23 100
MPH Full Thesis	R71 500
Bank Charges (see below)	

Bank Charges

Please take note that you will be responsible for paying bank charges when you pay your required study fees. We suggest you ask the bank what the charges will be. If you do not ensure this is paid, it will appear as a fees deficit. Use the Applicant Number from your online application to UWC (as a reference for all further transactions until you receive a UWC student number.

FINANCIAL AID

Students requiring financial aid must liaise directly with the UWC Financial Aid Office regarding information on the availability of bursaries and/or student loans. Please contact the Financial Aid Office through the UWC website at the following address:

<https://www.uwc.ac.za/Students/Financial-Matters/Pages/Financial-Aid.aspx>

Finally, if you have any questions about the application process please contact:

Ms Janine Kader at email: soph-comm@uwc.ac.za.