

01 June 2021

Dear Colleagues

## INFORMATION FOR SOPH APPLICANTS

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

The information contained in this letter – is critical for your Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health application and will guide you through the process. **Please read it carefully – as you will 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 2022.

---

### 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 Thursday 30 September 2021.**

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 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 2021 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 programme** which we suggest you also take a look at before you proceed with your application.

## 3. Structure & Requirements for our PGD Programme

- Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (Honours level) - NQF 8

**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 to promote health and prevent disease.
- e. Undertake effective management at a 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 to register for the third year.

### Composition of Curriculum

(All six modules are compulsory).

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

## 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 2022 only in December of the current year.

<b>APPLICATION &amp; REGISTRATION FEES</b> <b>These fees are paid directly into the UWC account</b>	<b>Approximately</b>
Application Fee	<b>NO FEES</b>
Registration Fee (If your application is successful)	<b>R1 590</b>
<b>SOUTH AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WITH AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP *</b> <b>SA students pay 2/3 of fees on registration - approximately R4 300; students with African citizenship pay the amount in full on registration.</b>	* Includes Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles.
Cost per module (All modules)	<b>R 3 580</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (without African citizenship)</b> <b>Paid in full on registration (Feb 2020)</b>	<b>TUITION FEES</b>
Cost per module	<b>R14 700</b>
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 fee 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 the 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](mailto:soph-comm@uwc.ac.za).