

Apply online at www.maties.com by August 31st

1. Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the MMed (Family Medicine) at Stellenbosch University. The purpose of this brochure is to give you enough information to decide if you want to enroll as a registrar in the MMed (Family Medicine) Degree programme. Please think carefully about your motivation to join the programme, talk to registrars that have entered the programme, and consider the commitment it will take. In the end, the rewards are great, but it takes very hard work.

2. Broad aim

The MMed (Family Medicine) Degree programme aims to prepare doctors as Family Physicians with a high level of resilience and clinical and managerial competence, to solve patient problems within health systems through teamwork, research and to become mentors and teachers within the discipline of Family Medicine in South Africa and within the district health system.

3. Objectives

The specific objectives of the programme are that a graduate will be able to:

- Effectively manage him/herself, his/her team and his/her practice, in any sector, with visionary leadership and self-awareness, to ensure the provision of high quality, evidence-based care.
- Evaluate and manage patients with both undifferentiated and more specific problems cost-effectively according to the bio-psycho-social approach.
- Facilitate the health and quality of life of the community.
- Facilitate the learning of others regarding the discipline of family medicine, primary health care, and other health-related matters
- Conduct all aspects of health care in an ethical and professional manner

4. Admission requirements

For admission to the MMed (Family Medicine) degree programme, a student must hold a MB, ChB degree of this University, or another qualification deemed by the University to be of an adequate standard. The Senate, or the Executive Committee acting on behalf of the Senate, shall decide on the suitability of a candidate for admission to the M Med (Fam Med) programme.

A candidate shall apply in writing for such admission.

During the course of the programme each candidate must spend the full-time equivalent of four years, gaining practical professional experience in a training position, approved by the University; at least three years of which need to be in an HPCSA accredited registrar post, within an approved training complex in the Western Cape (Eastern Metropole Cape Town; West Coast; Cape Winelands; Overberg; Garden Route).

Candidates must have completed their internship and community service and be registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

5. Distributed education

Distributed education allows learning to take place in the context of your own work setting and at times that are convenient for you.

The academic programme will largely be delivered online, which will enable access to the study guides, resource materials, self-tests, interaction with each other and your tutors, as well as processing of your assignments and marks.

On average, you will need to set aside **6 - 10 hours per week** during the modules for studying and working on-line. Read the document explaining the "Ideal Training Complex", which explains more details.

A team of people will be available to provide you with administrative, technical and academic support. They will be available via the internet, email and telephone.

In order to participate in the course, the following technical specifications are recommended:

- Internet Access with ADSL or 3G Dongle
- Computer Hardware: (Minimum specs) INTEL or AMD; 2.0 GHz with 1Gb RAM (Memory), 80 Gb Hard drive

6. Course content and duration

The MMed is a 4-year programme. Three web-based modules of 12-weeks duration are offered per year and students must complete 10 such modules during the programme. Stretching across all four years, an applied research project must be completed and handed in as a research assignment. The academic modules are distance learning, apart from 2 - 3 day **obligatory** contact sessions three times a year, at the start of each module, which will be held at the University (Tygerberg Campus).

Note that attending the contact sessions is a requirement for registration of the modules.

7. Web-based academic modules

A brief description of each module is given below:

7.1 Consultation in Family Medicine

This module deals with clinical method, communication, counselling and consultation skills relevant to each phase of the consultation.

7.2 Ethics in Family Medicine

This module teaches an approach to recognising, analysing and solving ethical dilemmas using ethical theories, principles, legislation, medico-legal rules and professional values.

7.3 Evidence-based Medicine

This module teaches the application of evidence based medicine skills to clinical decision making as well as reading and critical appraisal of the medical literature.

7.4 Applied research

This module takes the student through the process of preparing a research protocol. Students are expected to complete the research during years 2 - 4 and submit it as a thesis at the middle of the 4th year. The research forms part of the Part B, Fellowship of the College of Family Physicians of South Africa (FCFP) and students cannot obtain it without completing the research.

7.5 Principles of Family Medicine

This module teaches principles of medical generalism, primary care systems and family medicine. There is a particular focus on quality improvement.

7.6 Community-orientated Family Medicine

This module teaches principles of community oriented primary care and students are expected to engage with the initial steps of this process in their own communities.

7.7 Family-Orientated Family medicine

This module teaches an approach to human growth and development, and family-orientated primary care.

7.8 Teaching and learning in Family Medicine

This module will equip the family physician with the skills to be a mentor and educator of family medicine in their own setting.

Principles of adult education when working with both large and small groups will be covered.

7.9 Leadership and Clinical Governance

This module will help the family physician to develop the skills to address clinical governance in the district health care system and take on leadership roles to contribute to change and improvement.

7.10 Clinical Family Medicine I, II & III

In these three modules, practical professional experience applicable to the practice of family medicine is gained under acceptable and approved professional supervision in a training position that has been approved by the University.

During the 4-year programme, students are expected to study 10 clinical domains:

- Anaesthetics
- Child Health
- Ear, Nose, Throat, Ophthalmology and Dermatology
- Emergency Medicine
- General Adult Medicine
- General Surgery
- Hiv/Aids, TB and Sti's
- Mental Health
- Orthopaedics
- Women's Health

7.11 Electives

In the 4th year, a selection of modules will be offered and students must select two of the modules. The purpose of this is to allow students, to study deeper in areas most relevant to their own practice setting and to pursue, specific interests or topics appropriate to different contexts.

Current elective options are:

- Forensics in Family Medicine
- Geriatrics in Family Medicine
- Palliative Care in Family Medicine
- Primary Cancer Care
- Rehabilitation in Family Medicine

8. Contact Sessions

There will be **obligatory** 2-3 day contact sessions, three times a year at the University. The main purpose of these contact sessions will be to learn practical clinical skills, get clinical updates, meet the module tutors, support staff, other students and interact around any problems or questions. This is part of becoming a community of practice.

9. Portfolio of clinical family medicine learning and experience

9.1 E-Portfolio

An e-portfolio must be completed for each year of the programme that records your clinical learning and experience.

The e-portfolio has sections that focus on:

- Verification of professional experience at different departments and facilities
- Record of educational meetings with your supervisors
- Evidence of workplace based learning
- Audit of your clinical competency in core clinical skills
- Report on your performance during the year or rotation
- Graduation is subject to the approval of the learning portfolio by the head of the Division of Family Medicine and Primary Care

This must be completed at the time of the exam in May (August intake) and November (Feb intake) each year.

M Med (Family Medicine)

2021

1	Consultation in Family Medicine	Ethics in Family Medicine	Evidence-based Medicine	Clinical Family Medicine I
2	Applied research	Principles of Family Medicine	Community-orientated Family Medicine	Clinical Family Medicine II
3	Family-orientated Family Medicine	Teaching and Learning in Family Medicine	Leadership and Clinical Governance	Clinical Family Medicine III
4	<p>March – June</p> <p>Geriatrics in Family Medicine</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Forensics in Family Medicine</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Primary Care Cancer</p>	Complete 2 elective modules and research assignment	<p>July – October</p> <p>Rehabilitation in Family Medicine</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Palliative in Family Medicine</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Forensics in Family Medicine</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Primary Care Cancer</p>	Final clinical FCFP Part A exam and Part B research submission

9.2 Professional experience

Registrars will be required to work in an accredited training complex for the 4-years of the programme. Training will be based at a district hospital, and will include professional experience in primary care clinics and if necessary in focused clinical specialties at the regional hospital. During these 4-years, you will rotate between these facilities to achieve competency in the clinical skills expected of a family physician. The specific allocations will be finalized in the particular training complex, taking into consideration your specific learning needs, the district health needs, and the programme expected outcomes. This will be between yourself, your direct family physician supervisor, and the sub-district clinical manager.

The training complexes currently available are:

- **Cape Town East Metropole**

Helderberg District Hospital & Eersteriver Hospital and the associated primary care platform forms the basis of the complex, Contact **Dr Werner Viljoen** for more information on the complex Werner.Viljoen@westerncape.gov.za

- **Cape Winelands Training Complex**

Ceres, Robertson, and Stellenbosch District Hospitals and associated primary care platform within a specific sub district, Contact **Dr Colette Gunst** for more information on the complex colette.gunst@westerncape.gov.za

- **Garden Route Training Complex**

Knysna District Hospital, Mossel Bay District Hospital, Oudtshoorn District Hospital, and associated primary care platform, Contact **Prof Louis Jenkins** for more information on the complex Louis.Jenkins@westerncape.gov.za

- **West Coast Training Complex**

Swartland District Hospital and associated primary care platform, Contact **Dr Gavin Hendricks** for more information on the complex Gavin.Hendricks@westerncape.gov.za

- **Overberg Training Complex**

Hermanus District Hospital, Caledon District Hospital, and associated primary care platform, Contact **Dr Colette Gunst** or **Dr Stefanie Perold** for more information on the complex colette.gunst@westerncape.gov.za, stefanie.perold@westerncape.gov.za

At the district hospital & in the primary care clinics, the registrar will work under the supervision of a family physician. At the regional hospital, they will work under the supervision of the specialist department to which they are attached. Registrars are expected to participate in the overtime roster at their district hospital and to “adopt” a community primary health care clinic for the duration of their studies. Registrars are expected to work full- and not part-time in their posts.

10. Recommendations on extension of registrar time training

- Registrars should be exhorted to complete their Examinations and Research Assignments within the allotted training time.
- Maternity leave of 4 months may be added to the training time in all cases as per the ruling of the HPCSA. A letter must be sent to the post-graduate office stating the name, student number, request, initial date of provisional completion, new date of proposed completion. The approval will be confirmed by the Vice-Dean.
- If extended sick leave has been taken, an extension must be requested. Extended sick leave is defined, when more than 36 days in a 3 year cycle has been taken. The approval will be confirmed by the Vice-Dean.
- If a registrar is unsuccessful in their first attempt at the college examination, an extension may be requested up until the end of the month where in the next examination opportunity will occur.
- In order to complete the research assignment, an extension of training of no more than 6 months may be requested.

11. Recommendation of work hours

Registrars doing commuted overtime must comply with a minimum of 224 hours of work in a 4-week cycle. That is 4 x 40 hours a week office hours and a minimum of 64 hours commuted overtime over 4 weeks. This means a minimum average overtime of 16 hours per week, with a maximum of 20 hours per week. For specific details on overtime hours and leave regulations, please read provincial policy and inquire from the local district HR office.

12. Assessment

- Continuous evaluation is used throughout the 10 web-based modules. This will include the use of group work, discussions, written assignments and computer-assisted questions.
- The Clinical Family Medicine module marks will be made up of an exam mark and a clinical e-portfolio mark. Each component must be passed with $\geq 50\%$.
- A final mark of at least 50% shall be required to pass in a module in the Degree programme. The final class mark for the degree is calculated as the average of all the module marks - 10 web-based modules (excludes Applied Research module mark) and three clinical family medicine modules.

13. Examinations

Registrars will sit the National Exit Examination, the Fellowship of the College of Family Physicians, (FCFP). Access to this exam is based on satisfactory completion of 36 months of the training programme.

Requirements for this exam can be found on the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa website <http://www.collegemedsa.ac.za/>. The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) requires successful completion of the single National Exit Examination to register as a specialist. The Division acknowledges this examination as equivalent to and substituting the MMed (Fam Med) Final Clinical Examination.

14. Award of the M Med (Fam Med) degree

14.1 To be awarded the MMed (Fam Med) degree a candidate must:

- Successfully complete FOUR years of appropriate, supervised experience
- Obtain a pass mark of no less than 50% in all modules
- Pass Parts A and B of the FCFP exams;
- Achieve a final mark of 50% or more derived from the combined class mark (50%), the combined examination mark – FCFP Part A (25%) and the research assignment – FCFP Part B (25%).

14.2 Pass Cum Laude

Students must obtain a final mark of at least 75% for the programme as a whole to pass the MMed (Fam Med) degree programme cum laude.

14.3 Supplementary Examination

- If a student fails an examination, a supplementary examination may be attempted during the supplementary exam period (without the need to re-register for the module). When a student has failed one supplementary examination, the Faculty Board may recommend that the student be denied the right to attempt further supplementary examinations.
- If a student fails a module, the module may be repeated. When a student has failed the module for a second time, the Faculty Board may recommend that the student be denied the right to attempt the module again.
- If you resign as a registrar or you are denied continuation of your MMed (Fam Med) studies by the Faculty Board, you will, where applicable, be required to vacate your registrar post.

15. Cost

The cost per year will be approximately **±R30 000**. This includes both tuition fees and material fees. There is a financial penalty imposed by the university for students who do not complete their research within the first four years of registration.

The University reserves the right to make changes to the fees as they appear in this brochure. You should check the final fee structure at the time of registration.

Registrars are strongly encouraged to apply for funding to support their training, travel costs to the contact sessions, books, or paying e.g. a research assistant. Options include the Discovery Fund and the Harry Crossley Fund. Please inquire from the Division.

16. Accreditation

Completion of the programme will enable you to receive your MMed (Family Medicine) from Stellenbosch University, as well as the FCFP from the CMSA and to be able to register as a Family Physician with the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

17. Recognition of prior learning

Possible exemption on the grounds of comparable academic training or professional experience gained at another recognized institution may be granted by the University in respect of: **(a) duration (b) professional experience (c) the prescribed modules.**

18. Deferment

If you need to defer any component of your studies, you are required to formally apply to the Postgraduate Programme Committee.

19. Closing date for applications - August 31st

- Apply online at www.maties.com, <http://www.sun.ac.za/fammed>, <http://www0.sun.ac.za/pgstudies> by August 31st
- Complete the University form "Postgraduate Application for Admission to the University"
- Complete the Divisional form "Application for M Med in Family Medicine and Primary Care"
- Complete form Z83 form
- Include certified copies of your degree certificates
- Enclose a certified copy of your HPCSA Registration Certificate
- ±R100.00 application fee

BANKING DETAILS

Account name : Stellenbosch University
Bank : Standard Bank Limited
Branch : Stellenbosch
Branch code : 050610
Branch address: 20 Bird Street, Stellenbosch
Account number : 073006955
Swift code : SBZAZAJJ
Reference : Student number / Date of Birth

Please email proof of payment to: nicolec@sun.ac.za

Applications must be via the university web-site

- www.maties.com
- <http://www.sun.ac.za/fammed>
- <http://www0.sun.ac.za/pgstudies>

AND

- **The Western Cape Department of Health, Rowena.williams@westerncape.gov.za or according to the district contact HR person as stipulated in the official advertisement.**

Direct enquiries for:

Division of Family Medicine to:

Department of Health to:

Ms Nicole Cordon-Thomas

Ms Rowena Williams

Tel: 021-938 9168

Tel: 021 483 9903

nicolec@sun.ac.za

Rowena.williams@westerncape.gov.za

You will be notified whether your application has been successful by the Western Cape, Department of Health **ONLY** after the interviews.