



M PHIL IN FAMILY MEDICINE

⇒ Apply online at www.maties.com by September, 30th

1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in the M Phil in Family Medicine at Stellenbosch University. The purpose of this brochure is to give you enough information to decide if you want to enrol in the M Phil in Family Medicine Degree programme.

2. BROAD AIM

The M Phil Degree programme serves as a non-clinical Masters qualification. It is aimed at health professionals who have an interest in the development of the discipline of Family Medicine, particularly its research base in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is intended for health professionals who may be interested in supervising, teaching, coordinating academic teaching and conducting research in Family Medicine and Primary Care. This includes any registered health professional with an NQF level 8 qualification, including Health and Rehabilitation Practitioners, Medical Doctors, Social Workers and Professional Nurses. Clinical Associates with an additional post-graduate diploma are also eligible. It is **NOT** for those wanting to train clinically as a family physician.

3. OBJECTIVES

- To ensure that students acquire a high level of theoretical knowledge as well as practical skills and experience in the field of Family Medicine, via appropriate assimilation and analysis of new information, the ability to find workable solutions to problems and challenges, as well as practical application of knowledge accrued.
- To prepare such students to contribute to the strengthening of Family Medicine as a discipline.
- To ensure that students acquire the necessary skills to identify key research opportunities, initiate well-structured research studies and complete such studies.
- To prepare students with the necessary teaching skills to contribute to the effective learning of topics relevant to both the practice of Family Medicine and the development of the academic discipline.



M PHIL IN FAMILY MEDICINE

- To prepare students who aspire to move to a higher level of academic research work for Doctoral Studies and to promote an approach based on academic integrity and professional ethics.
- To contribute to the pool of academics with the competence and critical intellectual abilities to ensure advancement in the field of Family Medicine through developing a skilled scientific workforce of the highest calibre.
- To prepare students who can apply their skills to the task of answering the relevant research questions to address the critical needs of primary care patients.

4. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

For admission to the M Phil (Family Medicine) degree programme, a candidate must have:

- A health professions bachelors' degree (NQF level8) or an equivalent qualification approved – by Senate for this purpose.
- Registration as a health professional with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, or the equivalent in your country of practice.
- Working in a context suitable for the practice of Family Medicine or Primary Care.
- Include a brief description of the proposed research topic.

Applicants must be competent in the use of English at an academic level.

International candidates who have obtained their qualifications from tertiary institutions where English is not the language of instruction are required to provide proof of English Language proficiency. This evidence must accompany your application and must not be older than 24 months from the date of application to the University.



M PHIL IN FAMILY MEDICINE

| English Language Requirements | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|--|-----------|----------|---------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| | CEF Level | Cambridge ESOL | IELTS Band | TOEFL iBT | TOEFLCBT | TOEFL (Paper-based) | BULATS | PTE General | PTE Academic |
| Minimum English Language Requirements | C1 | CAE | 6.5 (Minimum of 6 on all bands) | 79 | 213 | 550 | 75 - 89 | Level 4 | 76 - 84 |

5. DISTRIBUTED EDUCATION

The M Phil (Family Medicine) programme depends almost entirely on distance supervision of the student. There will be one contact week per academic year when it is required that the student be on campus.

- *This is supplemented by:*
Regular online chat room or discussion forum interaction to facilitate advanced reflection and working in groups.
- *There will also be theoretical training through the following activities:*
Web-based electronic training materials.
Independent self-study of standard textbooks and references.
Independent self-study of specially prepared materials.

Students will have access to the academic staff teaching in their module on a regular basis. They will also have full access to the library and the expertise within the entire Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.



M PHIL IN FAMILY MEDICINE

Each student will be allocated a study mentor/supervisor. They will assist students with their research and contact persons for specific guidance in case of academic difficulties.

The mentor/supervisor could facilitate contact between the student and academic staff involved with a specific module, as well as contact with other academic resources within the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

On average, you will need to set aside **6 - 10 hours per week** during the modules for studying and working on-line.

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

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 1 GB RAM (Memory), 80 GB Hard drive

6. COURSE CONTENT AND DURATION

The M Phil is a 2-year programme. Two web-based modules of 12- week's duration are offered in the first year and students must complete four such modules during the programme. One longer module relates to the completion of the research thesis. The academic modules are distance learning apart from an obligatory contact session in January 1st year of studies, that will be held at the University (Tygerberg Campus). Failing to attend the contact sessions may result in you not being allowed to register for the M Phil programme.

7. WEB-BASED ACADEMIC MODULES

A brief description of each module:

7.1 RESEARCH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

This module deals with the steps required to write a research proposal and the development of advanced knowledge and skills in research design and methodology.



M PHIL IN FAMILY MEDICINE

The module will also develop competence in research training and development aimed at mentoring or supervising other novice researchers in family medicine and primary care.

7.2 PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY MEDICINE

This module exposes students to the core principles of medical generalism, primary care systems and family medicine. There is a particular focus on quality improvement.

7.3 TEACHING AND LEARNING IN FAMILY MEDICINE

This second-year module exposes students to theory and skills of teaching and to equip them with different teaching strategies within their working environment and the health care system. Approaches to and skills for course resource development, course design and assessment will be covered.

7.4 RESEARCH THESIS

This module takes the student through the process of research and writing a research thesis. The student is expected to complete this research during years 1 - 2 and submit it as a thesis at the end of the second year.

7.5 LEADERSHIP AND CLINICAL GOVERNANCE

This second-year module will help health care workers 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.

| Year | Module 1: | Module 2: | Module 3: |
|------|--|--|---|
| 1 | Research Capacity Development (Part 1) (15 credits) | Principles of Family Medicine (20 credits) | Research Capacity Development (Part2) (15 credits) |
| 1+2 | Research Thesis (90 credits) | | |
| 2 | | Teaching and Learning in Family Medicine (20 credits) | Leadership and Clinical Governance (20 credits) |



M PHIL IN FAMILY MEDICINE

8. CONTACT SESSIONS

There will be one OBLIGATORY contact week per academic year. All students **MUST** attend the contact sessions at Tygerberg campus, Stellenbosch University.

9. ASSESSMENT & EXAMINATION

9.1 Formative feedback is given throughout the online modules.

There is a summative assessment at the end of each module.

9.2 The pass mark for each module will be 50% and the research thesis must be passed with a mark of at least 50%.

9.3 The final degree mark is calculated according to the credit weights of the individual modules.

9.4 To be awarded the M Phil in Family Medicine, students must obtain a final mark of at least 50%.

9.5 To be awarded the M Phil in Family Medicine with distinction, the student must obtain a final mark of at least 75%.

9.6 If a student is unsuccessful in 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. This may then prevent the student from completing the degree.

9.7 Students, who are unable to complete the M Phil in Family Medicine within the prescribed maximum period of 4 years, **WILL** not be offered any further opportunities.

10. COST

The cost per year will be approximately **±R35,000**. 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. For quotations, please use link, <https://web-apps.sun.ac.za/student-fees-estimate/#/home> at the time of registration.



M PHIL IN FAMILY MEDICINE

Students are strongly encouraged to apply for funding to support their training, travel costs to the contact sessions, textbooks, or paying e.g., a research assistant.

11. ACCREDITATION

Completion of the programme will enable you to receive your M Phil degree (Family Medicine) from Stellenbosch University. This degree does **NOT** allow registration as a Family Physician with the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

12. EXEMPTION

Possible exemption on the grounds of comparable academic training or professional experience gained at another recognized institution may be granted by the University.

13. INTERRUPTION OF STUDIES

Students will have to apply formally to the Postgraduate Programme Committee if they decide to interrupt any component of their studies.

14. DISCONTINUATION / CANCELLATION OF STUDIES

If you leave the University without having completed your study programme, you must notify the Postgraduate Programme Coordinator / Administrator in writing that you are discontinuing your studies and for what reason(s).

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS – SEPTEMBER 30TH

- Submit applications online, www.maties.com OR <http://www0.sun.ac.za/pgstudies> with all the required supporting documents by the closing date of September, 30th.
- A final decision on applications will be communicated in mid-November to candidates. Your application will be considered as soon as you've uploaded all your supporting application documents as well as proof of payment (where applicable). If we do not receive all your documents by the closing date, your application will unfortunately **NOT** be considered.



M PHIL IN FAMILY MEDICINE

BANKING DETAILS

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| Account name: | Stellenbosch University |
| Bank: | Standard Bank Limited |
| Branch: | Stellenbosch |
| Branch code: | 050610 |
| Branch address: | 20 Bird Street, Stellenbosch |
| Account number: | 073006955 |
| Swift code: | SBZAJJ |
| Reference: | Student number / Application number |
| Email proof of payment to: | nicolec@sun.ac.za |

Direct all enquiries to:

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