

Apply online at www.maties.com by 30 September

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 enroll 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 doctors who have an interest in the development of the discipline of Family Medicine and in particular its research base in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is **not** intended for those wanting to train clinically as a family physician.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the programme are:

- 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 make a contribution 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.

- 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 questions and meeting the critical needs of the primary care patients.

4. Admission Requirements

For admission to the M Phil (Family Medicine) degree programme, a candidate must hold a MB,ChB degree (or equivalent qualification that enables registration with a professional body as an allopathic medical practitioner). The candidate shall also hold current registration with the licensing body of the country in which he or she is practicing (HPCSA or equivalent).

In order to fulfill the requirements of the programme, the candidate must be working in a context suitable for the practice of Family Medicine or Primary Care.

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

If applicants are applying with foreign qualifications and they did not use English as medium of instruction for their undergraduate studies, they may be required to provide evidence of their oral and academic writing proficiency in English.

Applicants may be asked to complete the Test of Academic Literacy for Postgraduate Students - TALPS to assess their competence in academic English.

Take note: The test will only be available after applicants have made the payment, which is ± R100.00.

5. Distributed Education

The MPhil (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 text books 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.

Each student will be allocated a study mentor/ supervisor, to assist them with their research and whom they could contact for specific guidance in case of academic difficulties. The mentor 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 on the Internet, by email, or by 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 M Phil is a 2-year programme. Three web-based modules of 12-weeks duration are offered in the first year and students must complete five such modules during the programme. Another module relates to the completion of the research thesis. The academic modules are distance learning apart from an obligatory contact session in January each year that will be held at the University (Tygerberg Campus, Cape Town). 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 is given below:

7.1 Research Proposal Development

This module deals with the steps required to write a research proposal: formulating a research question, finding and synthesising the literature in an argument for the social and scientific value of the study, describing the aim and objectives, conceptualising the methods, considering the ethical issues, as well as planning the timeframe and budget.

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 module exposes students to theory and skills of teaching and learning in order to equip them with different teaching strategies within their working environment and the health care system.

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 2nd year.

7.5 Community-oriented Family Medicine

This module will expose students to theories and skills, which will enable them to understand the population at risk that they serve, to do a community survey, present that to community representatives and together plan an intervention for an identified health need.

7.6 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.

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Year	Module 1:	Module 2:	Module 3:
1	Research Proposal Development (10 credits)	Principles of Family Medicine (20 credits)	Teaching and Learning in Family Medicine (20 credits)
2	Research Thesis (90 credits)	Community-oriented primary Care (20 credits)	Leadership and Clinical Governance (20 credits)

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

- 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 by the examiners with a mark of at least 50%.
- 9.3 The final degree mark is calculated according to the credit weights of the individual modules.

10. Award of the M Phil (Family Medicine) degree

The pass mark for the degree will be 50% and a degree mark of 75% or more is regarded as a distinction.

11. Pass Cum Laude

To be awarded the degree of M Phil (Family Medicine) cum laude a candidate must obtain a final mark of at least 75%.

12. Supplementary examination

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. This may then prevent the student from completing the degree.

13. Cost

The cost per year will be approximately ±R30,000. Fees are modularized and students pay for the components of the programme that they are registered for. 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.

14. Accreditation

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

15. 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.

16. Deferment

If you need to defer any component of your studies, you are required to complete a form for administrative purposes, which will also allow your fees for that year/module to be re-calculated.

17. Closing date for applications - September 30th

- Apply online at www.maties.com OR <http://www0.sun.ac.za/pgstudies> by 30th September
- Complete the University form "Postgraduate Application for Admission to the University".
- Complete the Divisional form "Application for M Phil in Family Medicine and Primary Care".
- Include certified copies of your degree certificates.
- Enclose a certified copy of your HPCSA Registration Certificate (or equivalent licensing body)
- ±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
Email proof of payment to: nicolec@sun.ac.za

Direct all enquiries to:

Ms Nicole Cordon-Thomas - Tel: 021-938 9168 / nicolec@sun.ac.za

A final decision on acceptance of applications will only be made at the end of October and communicated to you via email in mid-November.