

# MPhil in Health Systems and Services Research

*Please note:* The name of this degree programme will change to MPhil in Health Systems pending approval by the Council on Higher Education.

## *Specific admission requirements*

- One of the following qualifications at NQF level 8:
  - a four-year professional BSc;
  - an MBChB or equivalent degree;
  - a BScHons in the relevant health sciences;
  - an honours in social sciences; or
  - an equivalent qualification approved by Senate for this purpose.
- If you are an international candidate, you must provide proof of the equivalence of qualifications that you obtained at non-South African institutions. This requires submission of a SAQA (South African Qualifications Authority) certificate.
- Mathematics at National Senior Certificate (NSC) level, computer literacy and fluency in written and spoken English. If you, as an international candidate, are from a non- English speaking country, you must submit official documentary evidence with your application of your competence in English. This may include, among other things:
  - the results of the IELTS test with a minimum IELTS score of 6,5;
  - the results of the TOEFL test with a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper based) or 213 (computer based), preferably with a TWE score of 4,5; and/or
  - proof and results of any English courses attended (e.g. English for Medical Students/Englisch für Mediziner.)
- You must demonstrate the necessary academic ability or equivalent professional experience.

## *Application procedure and closing date*

Apply online at [www.maties.com](http://www.maties.com) by **30 September** of the previous year. Applications for prospective international students close on **31 August**.

## *Duration of programme*

The programme is presented on a part-time basis over a minimum period of two years.

## *Programme description*

Health systems and services research is a multidisciplinary field of health research that studies the following: governance, financial and delivery arrangements for health care and public health services, implementation of considerations for reforming or strengthening these arrangements, and broader economic, legal, political and social contexts in which these arrangements operate and are negotiated. The purpose of health systems and services research is to improve the understanding and performance of health systems.

The teaching and learning strategy in each module is determined by the nature of the subject. Modules are presented within the framework of a student-centred approach with the purpose of stimulating critical thinking. The programme uses formal lectures, interactive learning, group sessions and e-learning. Independent learning is encouraged. A research assignment is completed under the guidance of a supervisor.

## **Programme content**

The programme consists of modules with a total of 120 credits and a research assignment of 60 credits. You must complete ten modules of which eight are compulsory and two are elective modules. You may only take an elective module if you meet its prerequisites and if it doesn't clash on the timetable with a compulsory module. Elective modules are only presented if the requisite minimum number of candidates enrol.

### *Compulsory modules*

#### **First year**

Introduction to Health Systems and Public Health	875(12)
Fundamentals of Epidemiology	875(12)
Biostatistics I	875(12)
Economic Evaluation	875(12)
Research Proposal Writing and Grantsmanship	875(12)
Qualitative Research Methods	875(12)

#### **Second year**

Health Policy Analysis	875(12)
Writing and Reviewing Scientific Papers	875(12)

### *Elective modules*

Choose two of the following modules.

Monitoring and Evaluation	875(12)
Participatory (Action) Research Methods	875(12)
Survey Methods	875(12)
Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis	875(12)
Randomised Controlled Trials	875(12)
Biostatistics II	875(12)
Knowledge Translation	875(12)
Advanced Epidemiology	875(12)

### *Research assignment*

Research Assignment *	875(60)
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\* The research assignment is completed over the course of the programme.

## **Assessment and examination**

### **Modules**

- You must attend scheduled contact sessions to be eligible to participate in the formative and summative assessment opportunities for modules.
- The summative assessment for each module is composed of assessment during the module (50%) and the final examination in the module (50%). You must achieve a minimum pass mark of 45% in the assessment during a module to gain access to the final examination in the module.
- The final mark for the programme is calculated according to the credit weights of the

individual modules.

- You must obtain a final mark of at least 50% to pass the programme.
- If you fail any compulsory module more than once, you may be denied the right to reregister for the programme.
- You must successfully participate and integrate knowledge in projects, reports and assignments.

### **Research assignment**

- You must submit a satisfactory research assignment demonstrating your ability to conduct an independent scientific investigation, to interpret the results and to draw conclusions from the results.
- You must submit the completed research assignment in the prescribed format. The assignment is assessed by both internal and external examiners according to the guidelines of Stellenbosch University.

### ***Enquiries***

Programme coordinator: Prof R English

Programme administrator: Ms T Pietersen

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