

5.1.10 Postgraduate Diploma in Rural Medicine

Specific admission requirements

- A bachelor's degree (e.g. MBChB or equivalent)
- Qualification as a medical practitioner, with at least two years' post-qualification practical experience as a medical intern or in an equivalent position.
- Proof of registration with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) or proof of the ability to meet the requirements of the HPCSA.

You must apply in writing for admission, accompanied by a Curriculum Vitae and a motivation letter, which should include details of your clinical competency and experience, and your interest in rural health in Africa, as well as any involvement in leadership and management issues. Selected applicants may be invited to an interview. Community service doctors are eligible to enrol in the programme.

Programme description

The programme is intended to provide clinicians wishing to work in rural district hospitals in South Africa and elsewhere in Africa with the necessary knowledge, skills and approaches for practice in these contexts. After completing the programme, you will have the clinical skills to manage a range of patients at a rural district hospital with limited specialist support, be able to work with the local healthcare team and contribute to effective healthcare delivery systems, understand appropriate public health interventions, participate in community-oriented primary healthcare and use reflective practice to enable continuous development as a rural health practitioner.

This postgraduate diploma programme is presented by the Ukwanda Centre for Rural Health in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of Stellenbosch University.

Duration

The programme extends over a minimum of 18 months.

Programme content

You must pass all four modules.

FIRST YEAR

Clinical Skills for District Hospitals (6 to 12 months)	775(55)
Major Infectious Disease Challenges (first semester)	775(15)
Delivering Healthcare in Rural Communities (second semester)	775(25)

SECOND YEAR

Clinical Governance in District Health Services (first semester)	775(25)
--	---------

The programme has one contact session per year.

The major clinical module, Clinical Skills for District Hospitals, focuses on high-risk areas (the emergency centre, the labour ward, and the operating theatre). To fulfil the clinical requirements, the module is presented in the first year of the programme as a six- to twelve-month programme at a regional or rural district hospital where there is appropriate supervision by experienced practitioners accredited by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of Stellenbosch University.

The remaining three modules are offered as blended learning, which includes e-learning, guided self-study, assignments, logbook entries, self-reflection tasks and formal seminars, with practical application and work-integrated learning in a rural context. The Major Infectious Disease Challenges module runs concurrently with

the Clinical Skills for District Hospitals module in the first semester of the first year of the programme in either a regional or a rural district hospital. Thereafter, you must spend a minimum of one year at a rural district hospital where the Delivering Healthcare in Rural Communities and Clinical Governance in District Health Services modules are offered during the final twelve months of the programme.

Assessment and examination

The assessment of each module will depend on its learning content, which includes the following:

- Clinical Skills for District Hospitals: competency assessment, logbook entries and reports by the accredited supervising doctor.
- Major Infectious Disease Challenges: online tests consisting of multiple-choice questions.
- Delivering Healthcare in Rural Communities: participation in online discussion groups, a synoptic report on local healthcare needs and services, and a report on community-oriented primary care interventions.
- Clinical Governance in District Health Services: participation in online discussion groups, preparing a proposal for a quality improvement project, reporting on your quality improvement project and a reflective report on learning.

The pass mark is 50% and a mark of 75% is required to pass with distinction.

If you wish to obtain credits for any competencies, in particular for the clinical domains in the module Clinical Skills for district hospitals, you must demonstrate your competence in the specified areas through an appropriate assessment.

Enquiries

Programme leader: Ms Amanda Msindwana
Tel.: 023 346 7802 Email: amsindwana@sun.ac.za

Programme convenor: Prof Ian Couper
Tel.: 021 938 9186 Email: icouper@sun.ac.za

Programme administrator: Mrs Lindsay-Michelle Meyer
Tel.: 021 938 9873 Email: lindsaym@sun.ac.za

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2024 Medicine and Health Sciences Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Medicine and Health Sciences Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section *Postgraduate programmes*.