

### 5.3.3.16 MPhil in Health Systems

#### Specific admission requirements

- One of the following qualifications at NQF level 8:
  - an MBChB or equivalent degree;
  - a four-year professional bachelor's degree in a health-related discipline;
  - a bachelor honours degree of this University or another recognised university;
  - an honours degree in social sciences; or
  - an equivalent qualification approved by Senate for this purpose.
- If you obtained your qualifications at non-South African institutions, these qualifications will be evaluated for comparability by the Postgraduate Office (Stellenbosch campus) to determine if you are eligible to be considered for admission to the programme.
- 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

The MPhil in Health Systems is a multidisciplinary programme aimed at developing and building the professional capacity and leadership of role players in health systems while also contributing to knowledge generation in Africa. The programme is designed to accommodate full-time practitioners from a range of fields including social work, medicine, nursing, health economics, public health, health service management, policy-making and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The programme enhances the participant's knowledge and skills in health systems strengthening and research, public health and practice.

The MPhil in Health Systems programme covers the following topics: governance, financial and delivery arrangements for healthcare 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 programme comprises two tracks, allowing for a focused approach to health systems and services research (HSSR track) and health economic evaluation (HEE track).

The purpose of the HSSR track is to capacitate participants to:

- understand the evidence-informed policy process;
- define and prioritise health and healthcare delivery problems;
- select the best approaches to a problem, adapt these approaches sensitively to local contexts or develop new inventions, test the approaches in real world conditions, select the most successful ones for wider implementation, and smoothly integrate them into the health system to achieve an improvement of the problem and to reinforce rather than strain the abilities of the health system.

The purpose of the HEE track is to equip participants with skills to understand and evaluate the comparative costs and benefits of health system policies, strategies, and interventions to manage uncertainty and inform policy and decision-making using an evidence-based approach.

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 strongly 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 does not clash on the timetable with a compulsory module. Elective modules are only presented if the requisite minimum number of candidates enrol. You must attend compulsory contact sessions and participate online in e-learning sessions.

## HSSR Track

### *Compulsory modules*

#### **FIRST YEAR**

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

#### **SECOND YEAR**

Health Policy Analysis	875(12)
Economic Evaluation	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)
Qualitative Evidence Synthesis	875(12)

### **Research assignment**

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

## **HEE Track**

### **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)
Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis	875(12)

#### **SECOND YEAR**

Advanced Economic Evaluation	875(12)
Systematic Reviews of Economic Evaluation	875(12)
Healthcare Financing	875(12)
Priority Setting in Healthcare	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 all scheduled online and face-to-face contact sessions to be eligible to participate in the formative and summative assessment opportunities for modules.
- Formative and summative assessment of modules (120 credits) are conducted. Formative assessments are conducted during the module and a final examination takes place at the end of the module. Both formative and summative assessment contribute 50% to the final assessment mark. You must achieve a minimum pass mark of 45% in the formative assessment during a module to gain access to the final examination in the module.
- If you achieve less than the subminimum of 45% for formative or summative assessment in a module, or less than the overall pass mark of 50%, you fail 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.

- You will be allowed to register for the research assignment for a maximum of three years. If you fail to complete the research assignment within this time, your performance will be officially reviewed by the Programme Committee of the Division of Health Systems and Public Health, and you may be denied the right to reregister for the programme.

## Enquiries

Programme leaders: Prof R English, Prof L Nkonki and Dr J Nysulu

Programme administrator: Ms T Pietersen

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