

5.3.2.6 MSc in Clinical Epidemiology

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 BScHons degree of this University or another recognised university; or
 - an equivalent qualification approved by Senate.
- 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).

Application procedure and closing date

Apply online at www.maties.com by **30 September** of the previous year. Applications for prospective international students close on **31 August**.

Candidates are selected on academic merit and all applications are reviewed by a selection committee. Only a limited number of students are admitted to the programme.

Duration of programme

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

Programme description

Clinical Epidemiology is the science of applying the best available research evidence to patient care. It uses the methods of epidemiology to find scientifically valid answers to questions concerning diagnosis, prevention, therapy, prognosis and aetiology, thus improving the evidence base for the care of individual patients.

The course offers rigorous methodological training for those with a background or experience in a health-related discipline who wish to pursue a career in clinical research or evidence-based practice. The programme would also be of interest to potential researchers who require robust training in research techniques, including advanced concepts and methods of epidemiology.

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 (eight compulsory modules with a total of 96 credits and two elective modules with a total of 24 credits). The choice of elective modules depends on meeting relevant pre-requisites for the modules and avoiding timetable clashes with core modules. Elective modules require a minimum number of 10 students. You must attend compulsory contact sessions and participate online in e-learning sessions.

Compulsory modules

FIRST YEAR

| | |
|---|---------|
| Fundamentals of Epidemiology* | 875(12) |
| Biostatistics I* | 875(12) |
| Research Proposal Writing and Grantsmanship | 875(12) |
| Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis | 875(12) |
| Biostatistics II | 875(12) |

*These first-semester modules are pre-requisite modules for the second-semester modules.

SECOND YEAR

| | |
|---|---------|
| Diagnosis and Screening | 875(12) |
| Randomised Controlled Trials | 875(12) |
| Writing and Reviewing Scientific Papers | 875(12) |

Elective modules

Choose two of the following modules.

FIRST OR SECOND YEAR

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Infectious Disease Epidemiology | 875(12) |
| Economic Evaluation | 875(12) |
| Qualitative Evidence Synthesis | 875(12) |

SECOND YEAR

| | |
|--|---------|
| Introduction to Health Systems and Public Health | 875(12) |
| Clinical Guidelines | 875(12) |
| Teaching Evidence-based Healthcare | 875(12) |
| Monitoring and Evaluation | 875(12) |
| Knowledge Translation | 875(12) |

Research assignment

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Research Assignment | 875(60) |
|---------------------|---------|

Assessment and examination

Modules

- Formative and summative assessment of modules (120 credits) will be conducted by means of written examinations, oral presentations, written assignments and participation in discussions. Formative and summative assessment methods may contribute 50% respectively to the module mark.
- An overall pass mark of 50% is required for each module with a subminimum of 45% including the use of formative as well as summative assessment methods.
- If you achieve less than the subminimum of 45% on completion of formative or summative assessment methods in a module, or if the final mark is less than 50% for a module, you fail the module.
- If you fail any compulsory module more than once, you may be denied the right to reregister for the programme.
- You are required to participate successfully and to integrate knowledge in projects, reports and assignments.

Research assignment

- The completed research assignment must be submitted in the prescribed format and will be assessed by both internal and external examiners.
- 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 Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and you may be denied the right to reregister for the programme.

Enquiries

Programme leaders: M McCaul and T Esterhuizen

Tel: 021 938 9157 Email: mmccaul@sun.ac.za and tonyae@sun.ac.za

Programme administrator: A Henry

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Website: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/healthsciences/epidemiology-biostatistics/masters/msc-clinical-epidemiology>

5.3.2 Master of Science

General admission and selection requirements for MSc programmes

- For admission to the MSc degree programmes, you must have an honours degree in Science of this University, or another honours degree approved for such purposes by Senate, or you must otherwise have attained a standard of competence deemed adequate for such purpose by Senate.
- The initial research proposal is approved by a departmental research committee, as well as by the Health Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. In instances where research is conducted on animals, the proposal is approved by the Committee for Experimental Animal Research of the Faculty.

Programme description

Thesis MSc programmes entail an independent research project, resulting in a thesis that constitutes 100% of the final mark of the programme. The subject of the research project is selected to support the Faculty's research focus areas.

The following overarching objectives are set for the MSc programmes:

- to equip you with more advanced knowledge and a deeper insight into your chosen subject within the field of study;
- to promote mastery of the chosen topic, with the aid of higher levels of analysis of new information, and to develop the ability to handle complexities and to find solutions to such problems;
- to enable you to do advanced and independent research by means of rigorous training in research methods and to familiarise you with the skills needed for academic communication;
- to prepare you, if you are aspiring to higher levels of academic research work, for doctoral study and to foster an approach marked by academic integrity and ethics;
- to contribute to the pool of academics and professionals through the development of capabilities and critical intellectual skills aimed at ensuring the healthy continuance of the relevant discipline or profession; and
- to prepare you to utilise your skills to help solve the problems and challenges of the country that fall within the scope of your particular field.

Postgraduate programmes

For more specific information on the Faculty's postgraduate programmes, consult the University's webpage on Postgraduate Studies (<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/pgstudies/>) or the various departmental websites.

1. Programme offering

The following postgraduate diploma and degree programmes are presented by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences:

| Postgraduate Diplomas | Abbreviation |
|---|--|
| Postgraduate Diploma in Addiction Care | PG Dip (Addiction Care) |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Disability and Rehabilitation Studies | PG Dip (Disability and Rehabilitation Studies) |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine | PG Dip (Family Medicine) |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Health Care Management | PG Dip (Health Care Management) |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research Ethics | PG Dip (Health Research Ethics) |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Infectious Diseases | PG Dip (Infectious Diseases) |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Toxicology | PG Dip (Medical Toxicology) |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Medicines Development | PG Dip (Medicines Development) |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Medicine | PG Dip (Occupational Medicine) |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Rural Medicine | PG Dip (Rural Medicine) |
| Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing/Midwifery | PG Dip (Specialist Nursing/Midwifery) |
| Honours Degrees | Abbreviation |
| Bachelor of Science Honours | BScHons |
| Master's Degrees | Abbreviation |
| Master of Addiction Care | MAddiction Care |
| Master of Audiology | MAud |
| Master of Global Surgery | MGlobalSurg |
| Master of Human Rehabilitation Studies | MHumRehab |
| Master of Medicine | MMed |
| Master of Nursing | MNurs |
| Master of Occupational Therapy | MOccTher |
| Master of Pathology | MPath |
| Master of Philosophy | MPhil |
| Master of Physiotherapy | MPhysio |
| Master of Public Health Nutrition | MNutr in Public Health |
| Master of Science | MSc |
| Master of Speech-Language Therapy | MSpeech |
| Master of Therapeutic Nutrition | MTherNutr |
| Doctoral Degrees | Abbreviation |
| Doctor of Philosophy | PhD |
| Doctor of Science | DSc |

2. Commencement of postgraduate studies

As postgraduate student you must register for your particular programme at the start of the academic year. The only programmes that still take on students at the start of the second semester are MMed programmes. If you are accepted for an MMed programme, you will be able to register at the start of the second semester. You can submit a request for exclusion from this rule to the Vice-Dean: Learning and Teaching, with special motivation.

3. Recognition of prior learning and credit accumulation and transfer (RPL&CAT)

Consult the RPL&CAT guidelines of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences for more information on the procedures and guidelines regarding the recognition of prior learning and credit accumulation and transfer in the Faculty. These guidelines are available at www.sun.ac.za/tygststudentadmin under "Policies and Guidelines".

4. Class fees

From 2010 class fees for all structured M degree programmes will be levied per module. Until further notice the class fees for MMed programmes will be levied per annum, as in the past, with the exception of the class fees for the MMed (Fam Med) programme which will be levied per module.

The class fees for the research modules within the structured M degree programmes will be spread over two years (70% of the class fees in the first year of registration and 30% in the second year) to prevent you from having to pay the full amount for two consecutive years. If you complete your research module within one year of study, you will therefore pay only 70% of the class fees for the specific module. But if you fail to complete the research module within the prescribed two years, you will pay, as of the third year of study, the full amount for the module.

If you register for a research master's degree, you must pay the full amount in the first year of study with a continuation levy in the second and third year. However, in the fourth and following years of study the continuation levy will double.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 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 **1. Programme offering**.