

5.1.9 Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Medicine

Specific admission requirements

- Possession of an MBChB degree (or equivalent) for at least two years.
- Registration for at least one year as medical practitioner in the category independent practice with the Health Professions Council of South Africa or equivalent professions council if you do not practise in South Africa.

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**.

The number of students admitted to each two-year cycle of the programme are limited to suit the logistical and other specific programme requirements. The Postgraduate Programme Committee of the Division of Health Systems and Public Health evaluate all applications by means of a scoring system to identify successful applicants, taking into consideration academic merit, equity measures and other relevant factors. Senate, or the Executive Committee acting on its behalf, will confirm whether you are admitted to the Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Medicine programme.

Duration of programme

The programme extends over two years.

Programme description

The programme aims to equip you as a medical practitioner with knowledge and skills of appropriate breadth and depth in occupational health so that you can comply with the legal requirements for practicing occupational health in South Africa. At the end of the programme, you will be able to effectively plan, implement and manage occupational health services, and effectively manage patients with an occupational health-related disease and/or injury within the multidisciplinary team.

Programme outcomes

On completion of the diploma programme, you will be able to demonstrate the following:

- Effective management of individuals with occupational-related diseases or injuries utilising appropriate knowledge and skills in occupational medicine, which includes appropriate screening, correct diagnosis and treatment, as well as appropriate referral for further treatment.
- The ability to identify and quantify occupational health-related problems within the worker community and act appropriately by formulating and implementing viable solutions based on occupational health knowledge and skills of appropriate depth and breadth.
- The ability to act as a coordinating link between the employer, the employee and the multidisciplinary team in Occupational Health to ensure optimal worker health.
- The ability to plan, implement and effectively manage occupational health services based on occupational health knowledge and skills of appropriate depth and breadth.

Programme content

Theoretical modules (all compulsory)

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| Occupational Health Management and Legislation | 772(12) |
| Occupational Hygiene and Risk Management | 772(10) |
| Chemical Risk Factors in the Workplace | 772(12) |
| Physical Risk Factors in the Workplace | 772(12) |
| Ergonomic Risk Factors in the Workplace | 772(12) |
| Biological Risk Factors in the Workplace | 773(6) |
| Psychosocial Risk Factors in the Workplace | 773(6) |
| Clinical Occupational Medicine | 771(16) |
| Evaluation of Disability and Fitness for Work/Employment | 771(16) |
| Research Methodology | 772(10) |

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| Health Promotion and Communication | 773(4) |
| Environmental Medicine | 773(4) |

Practical module (not compulsory)

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| Exposure through Industrial Visits | 773(6) |
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Assessment and examination

- The final examination in this programme is conducted in November of the second year of enrolment.
- The examination consists of three three-hour papers and the minimum pass mark is 50%.
- The final mark is calculated on the basis of a weighted average in the ratio 30:70 for the flexible assessment and the examination mark.
- If you fail the November examination, you will be admitted to a re-examination in the following January if you have achieved a final mark of at least 40%. The re-examination will be a structured oral assessment.

Enquiries

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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**.