



Master of Public Health (Community Eye Health), University of Cape Town

Who is this degree for?

The degree is for clinicians and managers working in VISION 2020 programmes who wish to obtain research skills.

What is the structure of the degree?

The degree comprises 10 courses and a dissertation. The courses can be taken over one year. The dissertation can be completed over the following six to twelve months. Full details can be obtained at www.health.uct.ac.za

What is the cost of the degree?

The fees for 2015 are:

- Coursework ZAR 27 900
- Dissertation ZAR 12 710

There is a surcharge for international students. This is ZAR 24 750 for non SADC African students.

Full details can be obtained at www.uct.ac.za/apply/fees

How to apply?

Application forms can be obtained at www.health.uct.ac.za

Closing date for applications for entry in January 2015: 30 September 2014

About UCT Community Eye Health Institute

The UCT Community Eye Health Institute (CEHI), was established in 2008 with the aim of building capacity in Community Eye Health services in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through education and training, programme development and research, the CEHI aims to improve the performance of district, provincial and national prevention of blindness programmes in the region.

In 2005 the Nuffield Foundation awarded a five-year grant to ICEH / LSHTM, to run annual certificate courses in community eye health in Cape Town and in Moshi. This support included curriculum development, teaching on the programme by LSHTM staff, scholarship support for participants and capacity building for CEHI faculty by training on the MSc PHEC at LSHTM. There remains a close collaboration between the ICEH and UCT training programmes and at present there is an exchange of external examiners for the Diploma and Masters programme in both directions.

The UCT Community Eye Health Training Programme now includes:

- Two year Masters in Community Eye Health (started in 2012, one graduate to date)
- One year post-graduate Diploma in Community Eye Health (24 graduates to date)
- Certificate Course in Community Eye Health (96 graduates from 20 countries in the region to date)
- Short courses in Community Eye Health; training for ophthalmology registrars; primary eye care training; one week courses in monitoring and evaluation; project management; quality management; financial management, effective communication and planning for VISION 2020.

UCT MPH-CEH Course description

The UCT MPH-CEH programme provides practical skills to develop and manage eye care programmes with an emphasis on meeting eye care needs in Africa. It is the only Masters level CEH training programme in Africa. The course aim is to enable participants to undertake appropriate clinical and operational research to inform practical planning and management for 'VISION 2020: The Right to Sight'.

The MPH course is at least 18 months long. The first 12 months are spent in Cape Town as a full time student completing 10 prescribed courses (two courses are part of the Diploma in CEH and the other eight are part of the broader MPH programme, covering epidemiology, statistics and research skills for clinical research). Regional experts teach on the course, some of whom are alumni of the LSHTM's MSc PHEC programme. Students have direct teaching as well as support from learning materials provided through an interactive online platform called Vula. There are also periodic assignments and tutorials to support the practical application of key components of their learning to their local setting.

During the second year the student is expected to undertake original research in their place of work. This may be six months or 12 months in duration depending on the dissertation topic. Supervision of the project is carried out by CEHI faculty.

Course outline

Year One – Prescribed Courses at University of Cape Town

Course Code	Course Title	Semester
CHM6022F	Community eye health 1	1
CHM6023F	Community eye health 2	1
PPH7018F	Introduction to epidemiology	1
PPH7021F	Biostatistics 1	1
PPH7084S	Introduction to health systems research and evaluation	1
STA5055Z	Biostatistics 2	2
PPH7070S	Quantitative research methods	2
PPH7065S	Epidemiology of noncommunicable diseases	2
PPH7022S	Evidence based health care	2
PPH7041F	Health policy and planning, or other elective	2

Year Two – Research + Dissertation at Work Place

In year two the student undertakes a research project and writes up a dissertation. Students are required to develop a research proposal using a prescribed format. The recommended standard for the dissertation is that of a manuscript publishable in a peer-reviewed journal, supplemented by a literature review.