

## **MSc in Clinical Epidemiology**

### *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.

### *Specific admission requirements*

For admission to the MSc (Clinical Epidemiology) programme the candidate shall hold:

- an MB,ChB or equivalent degree;
- or
- a four-year professional bachelor's degree in a health-related discipline;
- or
- a BScHons degree of this University or another recognised university;
- or
- an equivalent qualification approved by Senate.

Mathematics at National Senior Certificate (NSC) level, computer literacy and fluency in written and spoken English are requirements for admission to the programme.

### *Duration*

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

### *Presentation*

English.

### *Module outline and credit values*

The programme consists of modules with a total of 120 credits and a research project of 60 credits. Students shall complete ten modules of which eight are compulsory and two elective modules (out of a choice of four).

### *Compulsory modules*

Fundamentals of Epidemiology	875(12)
Diagnosis and Screening	875(12)
Randomised Controlled Trials	875(12)
Biostatistics I	875(12)
Writing and Reviewing Scientific Papers	875(12)
Research Proposal Writing and Grantsmanship	875(12)
Biostatistics II	875(12)
Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis	875(12)

*Elective modules (choose two)*

Infectious Disease Epidemiology	875(12)
Clinical Guidelines	875(12)
Teaching Evidence-based Health Care	875(12)
Economic Evaluation in Health Care	875(12)
Qualitative Research Methods for Health	875(12)
Health Systems and Services Research	875(12)

*Research project*

Research Project	875(60)
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*Assessment and examination*

Modules: Formative and summative assessment of modules (120 credits) shall be conducted through written examinations, oral presentations, written assignments and participation in discussions. A pass mark of 50% is required for each module with a subminimum of 45% on formative as well as summative assessment. A candidate who fails any module may be denied the right to reregister for the programme. The student shall be required to participate successfully and to integrate knowledge in projects, reports and assignments.

Research project: The completed research project shall be submitted in the prescribed format and shall be assessed by both internal and external examiners.

*Enquiries*

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Programme administrator: Mrs L Fisher

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