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POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

DIVISION OF HUMAN NUTRITION

FACULTY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES, STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

The Division of Human Nutrition in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences offers a range of exciting postgraduate programmes in Human Nutrition.

1. **Master of Therapeutic Nutrition**

- Structured stream (presented by means of technology-mediated teaching and learning) OR
- Research stream

2. **Master of Public Health Nutrition**

- Structured stream (presented by means of technology-mediated teaching and learning) OR
- Research stream

3. **Master of Science in Food and Nutrition Security (in collaboration with the Faculty of AgriSciences)**

- Presented by means of technology-mediated teaching and learning

4. **PhD (Nutritional Sciences)**

The language specification for all postgraduate courses is **English**.

Programme information

From Stellenbosch University Faculty Yearbook: Medicine & Health Sciences 2024

<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/Yearbooks/Current/2024-FMHS.pdf>

(The University reserves the right to make changes to programmes as required; Annual changes occur in yearbook inscriptions: always consult the yearbook during the year of registration for up-to-date information.)

Master of Therapeutic Nutrition

This Masters programme provides dietitians with specialist, in-depth, evidence-based knowledge and training in clinical nutrition. The course furthermore provides important insights into contemporary developments in specific fields in the clinical nutrition arena.

Specific admission requirements

For admission to the Master of Therapeutic Nutrition degree programme, a candidate shall hold a relevant bachelor's degree with an NQF exit level of 8 (or international equivalent) and at least Therapeutic Nutrition (at an advanced level), as well as Physiology, Biochemistry and Research Methodology, or shall otherwise have attained a standard of competence deemed adequate for such purpose by Senate.

For the research stream experience in the planning and implementation of a research project at undergraduate and professional level is a requirement.

Only a limited number of students is selected annually.

Please note: One contact session (at the Stellenbosch University, Tygerberg campus) of one week's duration per year is compulsory for both the structured and research streams.

Please note: Preference will be given to candidates that will *not* be undertaking their community service year (if relevant) during the first year of study (SA residents). Candidates can apply during their community service year for the following year, should they be interested. All other candidates apply as per usual.

Structured stream

Application procedure and closing date

Click here for [Online applications](#). Applications close by **30 September** of the previous year (for South African students). Applications for prospective international students close on **31 August**.

Duration of programme

The programme extends over a minimum of two years.

Programme description

The structured programme which comprises three theoretical modules and a research project (50% of the total credits). If the academic year extends over 45 weeks, the expectation is that you will use 20 hours per week over a two-year period to complete the programme.

Programme content

(50% theoretical modules; 50% research project)

| Module name | | Compulsory / optional | Year |
|---|---|-----------------------|-------|
| Nutritional Epidemiology | | Compulsory | 1 |
| Basic nutritional principles of gastrointestinal disorders | | Compulsory | 1 |
| Therapeutic Nutrition (overarching module name with options as listed below - students choose 3 of the options according to a grid) | | Compulsory | 2 |
| Elective modules (select 3) (depending on availability) | <i>Oncology Nutrition</i> | Optional | 2 |
| | <i>Paediatric Nutrition</i> | Optional | 2 |
| | <i>Renal Nutrition</i> | Optional | 2 |
| | <i>Nutrition Therapy (Enteral and Parenteral)</i> | Optional | 2 |
| | <i>Diabetes Mellitus</i> | Optional | 2 |
| <i>Advanced Gastrointestinal Diseases</i> | | Optional | 2 |
| Research Project in Therapeutic Nutrition (50% of total credits) | | Compulsory | 1 & 2 |

Research Stream

Application procedure and closing date

Click here for [Online applications](#). Applications close by **30 September** of the previous year (for South African students). Applications for prospective international students close on **31 August**.

Duration of programme

The programme extends over a minimum of two years.

Programme description

The programme comprises a research project (100% of credits) with no theoretical modules. If the academic year extends over 45 weeks, you must use 20 hours per week over a two-year period to complete the programme. You must plan and implement a research project and submit a thesis or, preferably, two articles for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, in the format specified in the study guide.

Programme content

(100% research project)

| Module name | Compulsory / optional |
|--|-----------------------|
| Research Thesis in Therapeutic Nutrition (100% of total credits) | Compulsory |

Master of Public Health Nutrition

The programme provide interdisciplinary training in public health nutrition, food and nutritional sciences to prepare the graduates for careers as scientists, researchers, public health nutritionists and managers in public health practice, government agencies, academic institutions, health care systems and the private sector.

Specific admission requirements

For admission into the structured stream a NQF level 8 qualification (or international equivalent) in Health Science, Science or Agricultural Science is required as well as proof that you completed Nutrition modules at the undergraduate/postgraduate level. Experience and practice in public health nutrition will serve as an additional advantage.

For admission into the research stream the candidate must have the above plus Research Methodology and experience in planning and implementing of a research project (at undergraduate level and professionally) or shall otherwise have attained a standard of competence deemed adequate for such purpose by Senate.

Only a specified number of students are selected annually.

Please note: One contact session (at the Stellenbosch University, Tygerberg campus) of one week's duration per year is compulsory for both the structured and research streams.

Please note: Preference will be given to candidates that will *not* be undertaking their community service year (if relevant) during their first year of study (SA residents). Candidates can apply during their community service year for the following year, should they be interested. All other candidates apply as per usual.

Structured stream

Application procedure and closing date

Click here for [Online applications](#). Applications close by **30 September** of the previous year (for South African students). Applications for prospective international students close on **31 August**.

Duration of programme

The programme extends over a minimum period of two years.

Programme description

This is a structured programme which comprises various theoretical modules and a research project (50% of the total credits). If the academic year extends over 45 weeks, the expectation is that you will use 20 hours per week over a two-year period to complete the programme.

Programme content

(50% theoretical modules; 50% research project)

| Module name | | Compulsory / optional | Year |
|--|---|-----------------------|------|
| Nutritional Epidemiology | | Compulsory | 1 |
| Public Health Nutrition Policies & Programming | | Compulsory | 1 |
| Public Health Nutrition elective modules (students choose 3 of the options according to a grid) | | Compulsory | 1 |
| Electives (select 3) (depending on availability) | <i>Nutrition, Health & the Environment</i> | <i>Optional</i> | 1 |
| | <i>Food Security</i> | <i>Optional</i> | 1 |
| | <i>Advanced Nutrition Analysis</i> | <i>Optional</i> | 1 |
| | <i>Food, Nutrition & Livelihood in Humanitarian Emergencies</i> | <i>Optional</i> | 1 |
| | <i>Nutrition & Economic, Human & Social Development</i> | <i>Optional</i> | 1 |
| | <i>Nutrition in Health & Disease Prevention</i> | Optional | 1 |
| Research Thesis in Public Health Nutrition (50% of total credits) | | Compulsory | 2 |

Research Stream

Application procedure and closing date

Click here for [Online applications](#). Applications close by **30 September** of the previous year (for South African students). Applications for prospective international students close on **31 August**.

Duration of programme

The programme extends over a minimum period of two years.

Programme description

The programme comprises a research project (100% of the total credits) with no theoretical modules. If the academic year extends over 45 weeks, you must use 20 hours per week to complete the programme. You must plan and implement a research project and submit a thesis or preferably two articles for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, in the format specified in the study guide.

Programme content

(100% research project)

| Module name | Compulsory / optional |
|--|-----------------------|
| Research Thesis in Public Health Nutrition (100% of total credits) | Compulsory |

Master of Science in Food and Nutrition Security

The overall programme objective is to develop the capacity of students to think, analyse and act in an evidence based way; their ability to deal with complex problems; ability to reflect on their own thinking and work, and ability to translate that reflection into the development of more suitable solutions; capacity to communicate research challenges as well as opportunities and solutions to colleagues and non-specialists; to assist in project/programme management and implementation; and to gain the capacity to form a judgement in an uncertain context.

Specific admission requirements

A professional bachelor's degree or an honours degree at NQF level 8 in a relevant Agricultural, Health or Natural Sciences field. An average mark of at least 60% over the four years of study is required.

Only a limited number of students is selected annually.

Application procedure and closing date

Click here for [Online applications](#). Applications close by **30 September** of the previous year (for South African students). Applications for prospective international students close on **31 August**.

Duration of programme

The programme extends over a minimum of two years.

Programme description

This structured programme is presented mainly by means of technology-mediated teaching and learning, in combination with courses presented on campus. The programme comprises twelve theoretical modules and a research assignment (33% of the total credits). If the academic year extends over 45 weeks, the expectation is that you will use 20 notional hours per week over a two-year period to complete the programme.

Programme Content

(66% theoretical modules; 33% research assignment) – all modules are compulsory

| Year 1 | Year 2 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Conceptualising Food Systems | Assessing Food Security |
| Food Safety, Hazards and Risks | Food Security Project Analysis |
| Human Economic Development | Food and Nutrition Policies |
| Agriculture-nutrition Linkages | |
| Food Processing and Preservation | Research Assignment |
| Introduction to Epidemiology | |
| Macro- and Micronutrients and Health | |
| Functional Foods and GMOs | |
| Food Chains and Consumers | |

Please note:

One to two contact sessions (at Stellenbosch University) of one week's duration per session per year is compulsory.

PhD (Nutritional Sciences)

A doctoral degree may be obtained in Nutritional sciences through recognition of high quality, original research and is assessed based on a dissertation subject to university regulations.

Specific admission requirements

You can be admitted to the degree PhD (Nutritional Sciences) provided that:

- you have obtained a master's degree in Nutrition/Dietetics; or
- you have obtained a relevant MSc degree (Master of Science) of the University, or another university approved by Senate; or
- you have obtained another qualification (and have allowed for the required period following the qualification) that is deemed sufficient by Senate.

Academic merit, nutrition at the master's level, research experience and output and the proposed research focus area are, amongst others, considered in the selection of students.

The Division can accommodate a select number of full-time or part-time doctoral students in the following (overarching) research thematic areas:

- Non-Communicable Diseases
- Food and Nutrition Security
- Maternal and Child Nutrition and Health
- Specialized Nutrition Support
- Gastrointestinal Health
- Infectious Diseases
- Food Labelling
- Health Systems Strengthening
- Monitoring Evaluation Policy
- Evidence Based Methodologies
- Education Research

Application procedure and closing date

For information re the PhD application process, please click here:

<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/healthsciences/rdsd/doctoraloffice/Pages/PhD-Application.aspx>

Please note that all applications should be made online at:

<https://student.sun.ac.za/applicant-portal/#/auth/login>.

Only a limited number of students are selected if openings are available.

Contact the Postgraduate Programme Coordinator, Division of Human Nutrition (Dr J Visser: jconrad@sun.ac.za) to enquire re available openings and for general PhD related queries.

Duration of programme

The maximum duration is five years.

Programme Costs

For information regarding costs, please see the Stellenbosch University Student Fees Yearbook:

<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/Yearbooks/Current/2024-Student-Fees.pdf>

Information regarding bursaries and loans can be accessed at:

<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/Documents/Yearbooks/Current/BursariesAndLoans.pdf>

Please note that for master's degrees "**penalization**"/**full fees apply from year 4** if course not completed yet.

Please note that study fees do not cover the following:

- Compulsory contact sessions
- Specific costs related to your chosen research project
- Compulsory thesis language editing
- Printed copies of thesis

It is the prospective students' responsibility to obtain information regarding financial responsibilities for the duration of the programme (see contact details below).

Applications

Please note that the courses are **selection courses** (only a limited number of students are selected annually) and applications close **31 August/30 September** of every year (for the following year) (check details above).

Applications for the following year open during **April** of the preceding year (except for PhD candidates that can enquire throughout the academic year).

If you are interested, click here for [Online applications](#), or you can contact info@sun.ac.za for more information. **Please make sure that you select the correct option / programme that you are applying for (see accompanying document for [instructions](#)).**

Programme Enquiries

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|--|---|
| Postgraduate Programme Coordinator Academic Programme Queries Dr Janicke Visser Tel: +27 (0) 21 938 9259 / 9473 E-mail: jconrad@sun.ac.za | Administrative & General Queries Mrs Florence Coetzer or Mrs Shane Isaacs Tel: +27 (0) 21 938 9603 / 9259 E-mail: florence@sun.ac.za / scvanniekerk@sun.ac.za |
| Applications - Enquiries (PhD) Dr Janicke Visser Tel: +27 (0) 21 938 9259 / 9473 E-mail: jconrad@sun.ac.za | Financial Queries Mr Thabo Tyholweni Tel: +27 (0) 21 808 3530 E-mail: tyholweni@sun.ac.za |
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