

Pre-doctoral Programme in Health Sciences 2017 (SU) (Announcement)

The Department of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences will be hosting its fifth 2-week **pre-doctoral short course** for prospective doctoral students from **13 – 24 February 2017**. Upon successful completion of the short course students are advised to participate in the *PhD Community of Practice* for ongoing support during their doctoral studies.

Aim: The overall aim of this short course is to prepare prospective students for doctoral studies and to support them in writing their doctoral protocols.

Target Group: The course will focus on prospective doctoral students in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences who are already working on a research topic / title and are unlikely to change the topic during the course.

Application Criteria: To be considered for this course, applicants **MUST** be in possession of a Masters degree. Preference will be given to applicants attending the full course, already working on a protocol and who have supervisors appointed by the Postgraduate Committee of the Division/Department where they intend to register for their proposed PhD study.

Certification: The course will be registered as a short course for which a Certificate of Competence will be issued. Students wishing to be issued with the Certificate of Competence will be assessed on their progress during the course - firstly on the progress with their research proposal by their supervisors and secondly, on their presentation at the end of the course.

CPD points: We will apply for 30 CPD points and 1 Ethics point for the full course.

NQF Level: 9

Course Content: See separate page

Format of the Course: The course will be presented in a hands-on manner where possible so that students will have ample time to engage with their protocols and consult with their supervisors. To enable this, successful applicants will receive some reading material to study in advance.

Venue: Tygerberg Campus (exact venue to be confirmed)

Application: Interested people must complete the attached application form and return it to Chanelle Ramnarayan (chaneller@sun.ac.za) **before 09 October 2016**. Applicants will be notified by the end of October 2016 about the outcome of their application.

A maximum of 25 students can be accommodated.

Registration Fees:

Full-Time SU staff members: Subsidized

SU students, prospective SU students but not a full-time staff member: **R1815.00** (students will be subsidized with approximately R6 655.00)

NON SU students: **R8470.00**

Snippets from Students who attended the course:

- *This course provided me with a truly transformational learning experience.*
- *I cannot imagine attempting a doctoral programme without this Pre-doc experience.*
- *The programme and presentations were of excellent value and quality and it was indeed a privilege to have insight and personal tips and tricks from such an established group of academics.*
- *The programme provides doctoral students an opportunity to be appraised of real life intellectual and study challenges to be met along the doctoral trajectory and the useful ways to address these.*

Box 1: Provisional course content over 2 weeks (*subject to change)

Doctorateness	Research Methods and Statistical Design		Project Management	Scientific Writing
<p>What is doctorateness?</p> <p>Characteristics and expectations of a doctoral thesis, including social and scientific value of the proposed research</p> <p>Conceptualisation</p> <p>Conceptualisation and developing critical thinking</p> <p>Research question</p> <p>Identification of the research gap and formulating the research question</p> <p>Planning with the end in mind</p> <p>Putting it all together</p> <p>Accessing the literature</p>	<p>Philosophy of Science & Concepts of Methodological Approaches</p> <p>The order of academic discourse – on the possibility of saying something new</p> <p>Evidence based health care Quantitative methods</p> <p>Overview of quantitative methods. Blinding in research</p> <p>Protocol</p> <p>Components of a sound research proposal</p>	<p>Qualitative methods</p> <p>Background to qualitative methods, key assumptions and their implications for the research design including selection of participants</p> <p>An introduction to qualitative data collection methods focusing on individual depth interviews</p> <p>An introduction to qualitative data analysis</p> <p>Statistical design of quantitative research</p> <p>Sample size and power calculations</p> <p>Sampling strategies</p> <p>Data capture and selection of statistical tests</p> <p>Research Ethics</p> <p>Research integrity and ethical considerations</p>	<p>Research Funding & Support</p> <p>SU systems - research funding and research support offices, grant applications & grants management</p> <p>Project Management at PhD level</p>	<p>Introducing scientific writing</p> <p>Dealing with various questions and undertaking a series of group and individual activities</p> <p>Reviewing the protocol</p> <p>Address matters of structure and coherence; students will engage with examples of protocols)</p> <p>Student Supervisor relationship</p> <p>Building relationships with supervisors</p> <p>Tips and Tricks to survive Ethics Review</p> <p>Writing your research story</p> <p>Understanding relationships between elements in the proposal</p> <p>Sounding scholarly: exploring conventions</p> <p>Making choices with language</p> <p>Speaking with giants</p> <p>Using the literature review for your arguments; strategies for voice</p> <p>Structured writing</p> <p>Developing the story</p> <p>Managing your resources</p> <p>Role in scientific writing’ philosophy; electronic management tools</p> <p>Preparing your protocol for submission</p> <p>Preparing for protocol presentation*</p>

*Students work on their protocols during the afternoons and present their draft proposals on the last day to the rest of the group and to their supervisors.