5.3.2.6 MSc in Clinical Epidemiology

Specific admission requirements

- One of the following qualifications at NQF level 8:
  - an MBChB or equivalent degree;
  - a four-year professional bachelor's degree in a health-related discipline;
  - a BScHons degree of this University or another recognised university; or
  - an equivalent qualification approved by Senate.
- If you obtained your qualifications at non-South African institutions, these qualifications will be evaluated for comparability by the Postgraduate Office (Stellenbosch Campus) to determine if you are eligible to be considered for admission to the programme.
- Mathematics at National Senior Certificate (NSC) level, computer literacy and fluency in written and spoken English. If you, as an international candidate, are from a non-English speaking country, you must submit official documentary evidence with your application of your competence in English. This may include, among other things:
  - the results of the IELTS test with a minimum IELTS score of 6,5;
  - the results of the TOEFL test with a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (paper based) or 213 (computer based), preferably with a TWE score of 4,5; and/or
  - proof and results of any English courses attended (e.g. English for Medical Students/Englisch für Mediziner).

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**.

Candidates are selected on academic merit and all applications are reviewed by a selection committee. Only a limited number of students are admitted to the programme.

Duration of programme

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

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.

Programme content

The programme consists of modules with a total of 120 credits and a research assignment of 60 credits.

You must complete ten modules (eight compulsory modules with a total of 96 credits and two elective modules with a total of 24 credits). The choice of elective modules depends on meeting relevant prerequisites for the modules and avoiding timetable clashes with core modules. Elective modules require a minimum number of 10 students. You must attend compulsory contact sessions and participate online in e-learning sessions.

Compulsory modules

FIRST YEAR

Fundamentals of Epidemiology*	875(12)
Biostatistics I*	875(12)
Research Proposal Writing and Grantsmanship	875(12)
Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis	875(12)
Biostatistics II	875(12)

*These first-semester modules are pre-requisite modules for the second-semester modules.

SECOND YEAR

Diagnosis and Screening	875(12)
Randomised Controlled Trials	875(12)
Writing and Reviewing Scientific Papers	875(12)

Elective modules

Choose two of the following modules.

FIRST OR SECOND YEAR

Infectious Disease Epidemiology	875(12)
Economic Evaluation	875(12)
Qualitative Evidence Synthesis	875(12)

SECOND YEAR

Introduction to Health Systems and Public Health	875(12)
Clinical Guidelines	875(12)
Teaching Evidence-based Healthcare	875(12)
Monitoring and Evaluation	875(12)
Cancer Epidemiology	873(12)
Knowledge Translation	875(12)
Advanced Epidemiology	875(12)

Research assignment

Research Assignment	875(60)

Assessment and examination

Modules

- Formative and summative assessment of modules (120 credits) will be conducted by means of written examinations, oral presentations, written assignments and participation in discussions. Formative and summative assessments will contribute 50% respectively to the module mark.
- An overall pass mark of 50% is required for each module with a subminimum of 45% for formative as well as summative assessment.
- If you achieve less than the subminimum of 45% for formative or summative assessment in a module, or less than the overall pass mark of 50%, you fail the module.
- If you fail any compulsory module more than once, you may be denied the right to reregister for the programme.
- You are required to participate successfully and to integrate knowledge in projects, reports and assignments.

Research assignment

- The completed research assignment must be submitted in the prescribed format and will be assessed by both internal and external examiners.
- You will be allowed to register for the research assignment for a maximum of three years. If you fail to complete the research assignment within this time, your performance will be officially reviewed by the Programme Committee of the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatics, and you may be denied the right to reregister for the programme.

Enquiries

Programme leaders: Michael McCaul and Tonya Esterhuizen
Tel: 021 938 9157 Email: mmccaul@sun.ac.za and tonyae@sun.ac.za

Programme administrator: Anthea Henry
Tel: 021 938 9157 Email: ahenry@sun.ac.za

Website: http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/healthsciences/epidemiology-biostatistics/masters/msc-clinical-epidemiology

5.3.2 Master of Science

General admission and selection requirements for MSc programmes

- For admission to the MSc degree programmes, you must have an honours degree in Science of this University, or another honours degree approved for such purposes by Senate, or you must otherwise have attained a standard of competence deemed adequate for such purpose by Senate.
- The initial research proposal is approved by a departmental research committee, as well as by the Health Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. In instances where research is conducted on animals, the proposal is approved by the Committee for Experimental Animal Research of the Faculty.

Programme description

Thesis MSc programmes entail an independent research project, resulting in a thesis that constitutes 100% of the final mark of the programme. The subject of the research project is selected to support the Faculty's research focus areas.

The following overarching objectives are set for the MSc programmes:

- to equip you with more advanced knowledge and a deeper insight into your chosen subject within the field of study;
- to promote mastery of the chosen topic, with the aid of higher levels of analysis of new information, and to develop the ability to handle complexities and to find solutions to such problems;
- to enable you to do advanced and independent research by means of rigorous training in research methods and to familiarise you with the skills needed for academic communication;
- to prepare you, if you are aspiring to higher levels of academic research work, for doctoral study and to foster an approach marked by academic integrity and ethics;
- to contribute to the pool of academics and professionals through the development of capabilities and critical intellectual skills aimed at ensuring the healthy continuance of the relevant discipline or profession; and
- to prepare you to utilise your skills to help solve the problems and challenges of the country that fall within the scope of your particular field.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2024 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 ***Postgraduate programmes***.