



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA
Faculty of Health Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF
PRETORIA FACULTY OF
HEALTH SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SYSTEMS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

2025 INFORMATION PACK FOR 2026 PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Physical Address and contact details:

Student administration: SHSPH
Room 6.32
Level 6
HW Snyman Building (North)
31 Bophelo Road
Gezina
Pretoria
Tel +27 (0) 12 356 3292

Website: <https://www.up.ac.za/school-of-health-systems-and-public-health/>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The School of Health Systems and Public Health (SHSPH) is one of four academic schools within the Faculty of Health Sciences. The SHSPH is a postgraduate school. Therefore, all applicants must at least have ONE University Bachelor's degree and relevant work experience is an additional criterion for selection into many of the programmes. The SHSPH reserves the right to request an Academic Quantitative Test (AQL) from applicants.

Most programmes are **class-based** except for the **fully-online** Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (PGDipPH). Students have to attend all contact sessions in all the modules as outlined in the curriculum.

Modules are mostly one week in duration, but some modules are either two or three weeks in duration.

- Attendance modules are from Monday to Friday 08H00 to 16H30/17H00.
- All programmes are only offered in English.

1. CLOSING DATE FOR 2026 APPLICATIONS: 31 JULY 2025

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the large volumes of applications received, NO late applications will be considered.

2. APPLICATION FEES

There is an application fee. It is important to note that the application fee is a handling fee. This money is not refundable even if the application is unsuccessful or is withdrawn.

<https://www.up.ac.za/online-application/article/2746913/application-fee>

3. APPLICATION FOR THE 2025 ACADEMIC YEAR@UP

Online: An application form can be completed and submitted online:
<https://www.up.ac.za/online-application>

The application process will result in a temporary student number being allocated to you. All communication with the University or with the SHSPH in particular will need reference to this number. If you have studied at UP, please use/enter your old student number.

Hard copy applications are no longer accepted.

Application forms should be correctly completed. An incomplete application will delay the selection processing of the application or will result in not being considered for admission. All the required supporting documents (see the list below) should be uploaded on the application system. Any required documents received late by yourself, can be scanned and emailed to Mr. Lesiba Mpati at lesiba.mpati@up.ac.za and must be received before the selection process starts in September. **Remember to reference your student number in ALL emails in the subject line.**

Every page of all submitted documents must be clearly labelled (and pages numbered) with your newly allocated student number (or your old student number if you have previously studied at the University of Pretoria), when e-mailed.

STUDENT SERVICE CENTRE (SSC)	POSTAL ADDRESS
TEL: +27 (0) 12 420 3111 FAX: +27 (0) 12 420 4555 E-mail: ssc@up.ac.za Web: https://www.up.ac.za/department-enrolment-and-student-administration/article/2689644/welcome-to-the-student-service-centre	Student Service Centre University of Pretoria Lynnwood Road Pretoria South Africa 0002

4. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

4.1 Postgraduate Diplomas, Honours and Masters degrees.

Below is a list of necessary supporting documents to accompany your application:

1. Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV).
2. Copies of previous qualifications – including academic records / transcripts.
3. A **certified** copy of your **ID** if South African, or your **Passport** if an international applicant.
4. A self-drafted letter of motivation on WHY you want to study at the University of Pretoria. In the case of MPH applications, please include your preferred area of interest, referred to as the “Academic Units”. The list of possible “Academic Units” is available in this document.
5. Result of an Academic Quantitative Test (AQL) for all South African students (to complete the test – google AQL and share your result).
6. Medical doctors also need to submit proof of their Health Professionals Council of South Africa (HPCSA) registration.
7. A Certificate of English Language Test (TOEFL; <https://www.ets.org/toefl.html>) for **all** international applicants.
8. A South African Qualifications Authority certificate (SAQA; www.saqa.org.za) for qualifications obtained outside South Africa.
9. Letter of support from your employer for all **Occupational Hygiene degree** applications).

4.2 Doctoral (PhD) degrees

Please see Section 11 of this document.

Remember to use your **last name** and allocated **student number**, which you received during the application process, in all correspondence with the SHSPH and the University.

Tip: Always add your student number with the Subject of your email to the subject line of your emails.

5. SELECTION PROCESSES AND TIMELINES

The selections start in September 2025, except for the fully online programme which has six intakes per year.

- Candidates can obtain information regarding their selection status from the Student Centre on the UP Portal (see the acknowledgement of receipt of application form for this information);
- Notifications are sent by e-mail by the end of November;
- All successful students will receive a letter from the SHSPH and the University; and
- All unsuccessful candidates will be notified in writing by the University.

6. REGISTRATION AT UP

All students have to attend the first compulsory module “Learning in Public Health”. Attendance must be in-person. The module (PHM 773/778/779) is offered in week 3 in January for all post-graduate diploma (contact students only) and honours students. The module (PHM 880/873) is presented in week 4 in January for all masters and doctoral students. The module content differs between the two modules and students are cautioned to ensure that they attend the correct one.

Registration for the 2026 academic year takes place during the compulsory first module. If you have been accepted for a programme, please ensure that you have also received the SHSPH letter detailing all the arrangements and that you can attend the entire week (Monday to Friday) of this important first module.

The University of Pretoria has a 100% class attendance policy for students. Selected students who fail to attend this module (or who fail the module) will have to reapply for a subsequent academic year. Previous acceptance is no guarantee of future acceptance.

7. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Any enquiries with regard to student/study visas should be directed to the International Students Office by email (isd@up.ac.za) or Student Service Centre by email (ssc@up.ac.za) or telephone (+27 (0)12 420 3111). International students do not need to be in South Africa to register if the programme is offered online - unless otherwise instructed by a supervisor.

8. FINANCIAL COSTS FOR OUR ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

The Faculty of Health Sciences will send more detail regarding financial information to successful applicants for the 2026 academic year. The estimated programme costs are listed below. This serves as a **general guideline** for students.

Programme		Estimated costs (subject to annual increases)
Bachelor of Science Honours	BSc (Hons)	R53 000.00 (Per Programme - Billed per module)
Diploma in Health Systems Management Executive Leadership	DHSM	R80 000.00 (Per Programme -Billed per module)
Diploma in Occupational Medicine and Health	DOMH 10220003	R75 000.00 (Per Programme - Billed per module)
Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Health	DTM&H	R72 000.00 (Per Programme - Billed per module)
Master of Science Epidemiology (Epidemiology & Biostatistics)	MSc	R24 000.00 (per year)

Master of Science Epidemiology (Environmental Health)	MSc	R24 000.00 (per year)
Master of Public Health	MPH	R27 000.00 (per year)
MMed (Public Health Medicine)	MMed	R27 000.00 (per year)
PhD	PhD	R25 000.00 (per year)

NOTE:

- For PGDipPH fees, please consult <https://online.up.ac.za/online-postgraduate-diploma-in-public-health/>
- All international students have to pay a yearly administration fee – see the UP website (<https://www.up.ac.za/online-registration/article/2398818/international-students>) for more information.

Please contact Student Finance Department should you need a formal quotation from the University of Pretoria: sscmed@up.ac.za

9. ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

ACADEMIC PLANS	ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	DEGREE/DIPLOMA INFORMATION
POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS		
DIPLOMA IN TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HEALTH (DTM&H) 10220015	<p>Admission requirements: https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2024/MED-faculty/PC-programmes/view/10220015</p> <p>Medical doctors only.</p> <p>Documents to accompany application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree certificate; • Transcript (Academic record); • Personal Motivational letter; • CV; • ID/Passport; • HPCSA registration document; • International applicants, TOEFL and South African Qualification Authority (SAQA; www.saqa.org.za) 	<p>The diploma is offered as a part-time course over two years.</p> <p>Research component. Research report (CDC 786)</p> <p>Credits: 120 SAQA credits at an NQF level of 8.</p> <p>Programme Coordinator: Dr B Harris Contact details: bernice.harris@up.ac.za</p>

POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH (PGDipPH) 10221019	<p>Admission requirements: https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2025/MED-faculty/ONL-programmes/view/10221019</p> <p>Documents to accompany application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree certificate; • Transcript (Academic record); • Personal Motivational letter; • CV; • ID/Passport; <p>International applicants, TOEFL and SAQA certificates.</p>	<p>The diploma is offered as a part-time completely online course over 18 months. https://online.up.ac.za/online-postgraduate-diploma-in-public-health</p> <p>Research component: Assignment in Public Health (AHM 710)</p> <p>Credits: 120 SAQA credits at NQF level 8. Programme Coordinator: Prof JE Wolvaardt Contact details: liz.wolvaardt@up.ac.za</p>
DIPLOMA IN HEALTH SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT (DHSM) EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP 10220016	<p>Admission requirements: https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2025/MED-faculty/PC-programmes/view/10220016</p> <p>Credits: 120 SAQA credits at an NQF level of 8. Programme Coordinator: Prof Leena Thomas. Contact details: leena.thomas@up.ac.za</p>	
DIPLOMA IN OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE AND HEALTH (DOM&H) 10220017 - Accredited with HPCSA	<p>Admission requirements: https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2025/MED-faculty/PC-programmes/view/10220017</p> <p>The diploma is offered as a part-time course over two-years. Research component: Assignment in Occupational Health. (AOH 771).</p> <p>Credits: 120 SAQA credits at an NQF level of 8. Programme Coordinator: Prof M Zungu Contact details: Muzimkhulu.zungu@up.ac.za</p>	

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS PROGRAMMES

BScHons in Biostatistics specialising in Epidemiology and Biostatistics 10244017	<p>Admission requirements: https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2025/MED-faculty/HO-programmes/view/10244017</p> <p>The degree is offered as a one-year full time Programme. It may also be completed over two years. Research component: Research protocol</p> <p>Credits: 120 SAQA credits at an NQF level of 8. Programme Coordinator: Prof A Musekiwa Contact details: alfred.musekiwa@up.ac.za</p>
BScHons in Human Physiology specialising in Occupational Hygiene 10244027	<p>Admission requirements: https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2025/MED-faculty/HO-programmes/view/10244027</p> <p>BSc degree with majors in physiology or environmental sciences, Registered Occupational Hygiene Assistant at SAIOH or similar (recommended)</p> <p>The degree is offered as a one-year full time programme. Research component: Research report</p> <p>Credits: 120 SAQA credits at a NQF level of 8. Programme Coordinator: Dr N Claassen Contact details: nico.claassen@up.ac.za</p>

POSTGRADUATE MASTERS DEGREES

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) 10256502	<p>Admission requirements: https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2025/MED-faculty/MA-programmes/view/10256502</p> <p>The MPH program can be completed within a minimum of 12 months and within a maximum of 24 months. Research component: Research Report (PHR 870; 100 credits))</p> <p>Credits: 180 SAQA credits at an NQF level of 9. Programme Coordinator: Prof SM Patrick Contact details: sean.patrick@up.ac.za</p>
MPH Academic Units/Tracks (Area of concentration)	
Disease Control	Programme Coordinator: Dr B Harris Contact details: Bernice.harris@up.ac.za
Health Policy and Management	Programme Coordinator: Prof J Shirinde Contact details: joyce.shirinde@up.ac.za
Health Promotion	Programme Coordinator: Prof J Shirinde Contact details: joyce.shirinde@up.ac.za
Environmental & Occupational Health	Programme Coordinator: Prof J Wichmann Contact details: Janine.wichmann@up.ac.za
Occupational Hygiene	Programme Coordinator: Dr N Claassen Contact details: nico.claassen@up.ac.za
Aerospace Medicine Not offered currently. Date will be announced	Programme Coordinator: Dr Chris Blunden

MSc specialising in Epidemiology and Biostatistics 10253336	<p>Admission requirements: https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2025/MED-faculty/MA-programmes/view/10253336</p> <p>Programme Coordinator: Dr N Ledibane Contact details: neo.ledibane@up.ac.za</p>
MSc (Epidemiology) Environmental Health 10253326	<p>Admission requirements: https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2025/MED-faculty/MA-programmes/view/10253326</p> <p>Programme Coordinator: Dr N Ledibane Contact details: neo.ledibane@up.ac.za</p>
MMed Public Health Medicine 10250373	<p>Admission requirements: https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2025/MED-faculty/MA-programmes/view/10250373</p> <p>Programme Coordinator: Prof D Basu Contact details: debashis.basu@up.ac.za</p> <hr/>

Important Notes:

***MSc specializing in Epidemiology and Biostatistics**

This course focuses on epidemiological and biostatistical methods in public health. Students could continue towards a PhD in Epidemiology at a future stage. Students must select one of the following research focus areas and **register for the individual relevant modules**:

- Clinical Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Medicine,
- Public Health Epidemiology,
- Monitoring and Evaluation,
- Field Epidemiology (FETP), and
- Occupational and Environmental Health Epidemiology.

The BScHons in Biostatistics specialising in Epidemiology and Biostatistics is the prerequisite for the MSc specialising in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and has to be passed with an average mark of 60% to qualify for intake to the MSc programme and subjected to a successful application.

10. CURRICULAR STRUCTURE AND ACADEMIC PLANNING FOR ALL ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

The curriculum structures for the different academic programmes can be found in the Handbook for Postgraduate Studies (PG book) which can be downloaded from the SHSPH website. The PG book is updated annually and should be carefully stored, as you will complete and graduate your course based on the rules that applied in the first year you registered for your programme. Should students wish to check when the various modules will be offered, the timetable for 2026 will be available on SHSPH website from mid November 2025.

During the Learning and Public Health modules PHM 773/778/779 and PHM 880/873, students will be assisted with academic planning in terms of module choice and timetable planning.

Note to all students: Depending on your programme, you will be required to complete FUNDAMENTAL, CORE, COMPULSORY and ELECTIVE modules. Please check the SHSPH timetable and plan your study, research and/or vacation leave well in advance.

11. TIMETABLE

Please look at the current timetable on our SHSPH website homepage, but take note that this is an integrated timetable (contains modules from all contact programmes): <https://www.up.ac.za/school-of-health-systems-and-public-health/article/35420/current-students>

Applicants are advised to interpret this integrated timetable together with the curriculum outline in the PG Book: https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/25/ZP_Resources/2025-postgraduate-book.zp260363.pdf

The final timetable for the upcoming 2026 academic year will be available on the website from mid November 2025. Students are advised to check the timetable regularly for any late changes.

The only **compulsory module for all students** in their first year of study is the Learning in Public Health module where students will be assisted with timetable planning, module selection and planning and registration. All the remaining modules must be completed within the maximum allowed period of study as outlined in the table.

Programme	Maximum study time
Postgraduate diplomas	2 years
Honours	2 years
Masters	2 years
Doctoral	3 years

12. DOCTORAL DEGREES IN PUBLIC HEALTH

All prospective doctoral applicants are requested to download the “*Handbook for postgraduate studies*” from the SHSPH website and requested to follow the step-by-step application process: https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/25/ZP_Resources/2025-postgraduate-book.zp260363.pdf

The degree is offered for a maximum period of three years. It can be done either as a fulltime or part-time programme. The number of modules to attend will be a collaborative decision between the student and the supervisor.

Research component: Thesis

Admission requirements: Master Degree (preference is given to candidates who have published at least two articles in peer-reviewed journals)

Credits: 360 SAQA credits at an NQF level of 10.

Doctoral degrees are offered in the following specialities:

- Environmental Health
- Epidemiology
- Health Systems
- Public Health

13. FUNDING AND LOANS AT UP

Information regarding student bursaries and study loans information is available at: <https://www.up.ac.za/student-funding>

14. STUDENT ACCOMMODATION@UP

Accommodation for postgraduate students is available at some of the University residences, and information on UP’s accommodation is available at: <https://www.up.ac.za/student-accommodation>

Disclaimer: Every attempt was made to ensure that the information contained in this information pack is accurate. In the event of discrepancies, the University of Pretoria’s regulations and/or the decision of the Academic Programme Committee is considered as the authoritative source.