

University of Pretoria- American Cancer Society (UPACS) Fellowship

Master of Public Health Degree Programme with Special Interest in Tobacco Control



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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The University of Pretoria (UP) with the support of the Global Health Initiative of the American Cancer Society (ACS) are offering an 18-month residency degree programme through the university's School of Health Systems and Public Health (SHSPH). Three fully funded fellowships for a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in Health Promotion with special interest in tobacco control are available. The fellowships will be offered on a competitive basis to citizens from any Sub-Saharan country to be known as UPACS Fellows. The fellowships will cover the cost of tuition, prescribed books, airfare, research practicum, thesis, health insurance, accommodation, and a monthly living allowance for the duration of the programme.

The purpose of the UPACS programme is to provide students with opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills in the broader field of public health and translate this knowledge in the field of tobacco control in the areas of intervention designs and monitoring & evaluation of tobacco control policies in their countries or in the African region at large.

The UPACS MPH students may include individuals from various professional backgrounds who are interested in pursuing leadership positions in the field of tobacco control and public health in their countries

University of Pretoria (UP)

UP as the leading research university in South Africa is at the forefront of tertiary education in the country and collaborates with world-class partners to ensure continued excellence in learning and teaching. In 1996, the University of Pretoria became the university with the highest research output in South Africa and have maintained this status. Various ranking systems have consistently ranked the university as one of the top three universities in South Africa and Africa and it has continuously attracted students from around the continent.

American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to reducing and preventing an increase in tobacco use around the world by stimulating advocacy, supporting research and building the capacity of leaders and organizations to develop and implement effective tobacco control policies, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. It is also dedicated to collaborating with organizations worldwide to share knowledge and end suffering from tobacco-related disease and death for all people, regardless of where they live.

Course Objectives

- To equip students with core knowledge on issues related to tobacco control - including the epidemiology of tobacco use and policy
- To understand the scope of health and economic burden of tobacco use
- Be able to describe the components of a comprehensive tobacco control strategy
- To be able to critically evaluate tobacco control intervention strategies
- To understand the strategies of the transnational tobacco industry;
- To appraise strategies to curb the marketing and sales of cigarettes at local, national, and international levels
- To evaluate the means by which tobacco industry markets tobacco, especially to the young, women, the poor, and citizens of developing countries
- The ability to manage large scale tobacco programs, conduct tobacco related research and develop a passion and commitment to reduce global death associated with smoking.
- To conduct health education campaign
- To evaluate program and policy outcomes
- Be able to interpret and present study data on smoking and disease
- To understand the legal foundation for tobacco control regulations
- To discuss cogently the ethical basis and civil liberties issues surrounding tobacco control: free choice vs. government obligation to protect the

- public's health; free speech vs. bans on advertising;
- To comprehend the economics of tobacco control including the cost to society of smoking vs. cost to society of not-smoking
- To recognize the origin and value of secret tobacco industry documents now available on the internet
- To know how to access information on resources on tobacco and health
- To assess the impact of the illicit trade on tobacco use and tobacco control policies.

Training Programme

The UPACS training programme is a full-time 18-month programme which consists of modular course work, group work, self-study and assignments (on- and off-campus). UPACS Fellows must complete the degree in this period.

Most modules are one-week long while some can last for two to three weeks. Students must satisfactorily complete the prescribed course work and the research project which involves publication of a research paper.

All **UPACS Fellows** will be required to complete the following preselected modules:

Core modules

- Learning in Public Health
- Introduction to Disease Prevention and Control
- Biostatistics
- Principles of Demography
- Basis of Environmental Health
- Introduction to Health Management
- Introduction to Health Measurement
- Social Determinants of Health and Primary Health Care
- Public Health, Ethics and Human Rights
- Scientific Writing

Track compulsory modules

- Legislation & Health

- Qualitative Research Methods
- Project Management for the Health Sector
- Communication in Health
- Health Promotion
- Tobacco Control
- Health Promotion in Practice

Elective modules

- Epidemiologic Study Design

Tobacco Control Research Programme

- MPH Mini-dissertation leading to a publication
- Prerequisite: Applied Research Methods

Admission Requirements

Applicants must be fluent in spoken and written English and have **one** of the following:

- A four year bachelor's degree, plus at least two years relevant working experience
- A three-year degree plus at least five years relevant working experience
- An advanced bachelor's degree
- A three year degree plus a post graduate qualification

Applications

All applicants are required to complete the UPACS Fellowship and the University of Pretoria forms and submit these no later than 30 June 2011.

1. UPACS Application

The following documents should be attached to the application form:

- A curriculum vitae of not more than 3 pages.
- A 2-page essay motivating your choice of Master of Public Health (MPH): health Promotion with special interest in tobacco control.
- An official letter from your employer specifying:
 - Support for your proposed course of study
 - Ensuring appropriate employment or promotion on return

- Ensuring time and opportunity for you to complete the research project after returning home
- Certified photocopies of your highest degree certificate.
- A certified copy of your transcript record (in English) for subjects studied during your previous degree(s).
- Document showing your current TOEFL score (of 500 or higher) or other English language proficiency tests.

Eligible applicants can request a fellowship application form from Joyce Jakavula via email at joyce.jakavula@up.ac.za.

2. University of Pretoria Applications

The prescribed application fee must accompany the application form. It is important to note that the application fee is a handling fee and is not refundable if the application should be unsuccessful or is withdrawn at a later stage.

Forms can be completed and submitted online at: <http://www.up.ac.za>. A hard copy application form can be requested from the Client Service Centre on + 27 (0) 12 420 3111 or via email at csc@up.ac.za.

Please note: Both applications should be completed in full and correctly. Incomplete application forms will not be processed for selection.

Applications close on 30 June 2011.