

5.1.3 Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine

Specific admission requirements

- For admission to the Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine programme, you must have an MBChB degree or another equivalent qualification considered by the University to be of an adequate standard, and have received the degree at least two years prior to application.
- You must be registered with the Health Professions Council of South Africa or an equivalent registration body outside South Africa.
- If you are an international candidate and you have obtained your qualifications from a tertiary institution where English is not the language of instruction, you are required to provide proof of English language proficiency.
- During the programme you must work in a clinical setting appropriate to the practice and learning of family medicine. Suitable settings include a general practice, community health centre, clinic or district hospital.

Please note:

Exemption on the grounds of comparable academic training gained at another recognised institution may be granted by the University in respect of prescribed modules. A separate application to the Postgraduate Programme Committee of the Division of Family Medicine and Primary Care is required after admission.

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**.

Senate, or the Executive Committee acting on its behalf, will decide if you can be admitted to the programme.

Duration of programme

The programme extends over two years.

Programme description

The Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine programme aims to provide a course of study for doctors wishing to expand their knowledge and skills in areas relevant to family medicine and general practice. The programme aims to enhance the quality of family/general practice, and satisfy the desire of doctors for continuing professional development.

Please note:

You must read the Yearbook entry for this programme in conjunction with the more comprehensive outline of the programme regulations provided to you upon admission to the programme.

Programme outcomes

As a graduate of the Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine you should be able to:

- assess and treat patients with both undifferentiated and more specific problems in a cost-effective way according to the bio-psychosocial approach;
- provide all healthcare in an ethical, compassionate and responsible manner, and show respect for human rights while doing so;
- promote the general health and quality of life of the community; and
- evaluate and reflect on your personal and professional strengths and weaknesses in order to change your professional practice in an appropriate manner according to the best available evidence.

Presentation

The programme is offered in a modular manner by means of real-time learning.

Programme content

Clinical Primary Care	775(20)
Primary Care Consultations*	775(20)
Community-oriented Primary Care*	741(20)

Clinical Governance for Primary Care	775(20)
Core Dimensions of Primary Care	775(20)
Learning in Primary Care Teams*	775(20)

* First-year modules

Assessment and examination

- You must pass all six modules with a final mark of at least 50%.
- If you fail a module or the final examination in a module, you may repeat the module or the examination. Modules are only offered once a year. To repeat a module, you must enrol for the module again in the following academic year. If you are required to repeat the examination in a module only, you may attempt a supplementary examination in the same year.
- If you fail a module, you may repeat it. If you fail the module for a second time, you will be denied the right to attempt the module again and be excluded from the programme based on poor progress following approval by the Faculty Board.
- As exit examination you must sit for the examination for the Higher Diploma in Family Medicine of the College of Family Physicians of South Africa. You may only take the final examination if you have successfully completed all first-year modules and at least 15 months of clinical work as documented in a learning portfolio. The cost of the examination is not included in the university fees. For more information, visit the website at www.cmsa.co.za.
- If you have failed an exit examination, you may sit for the College examination again as a supplementary examination. If you, however, fail a second exit examination, you may be denied the right to qualify for the Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine on recommendation of the Faculty Board.
- To be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine, you must obtain a final mark of not less than 50%.
- To be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine with distinction, you must obtain a final mark of at least 75%.

Enquiries

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Programme administrator: Ms N Cordon-Thomas

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Postgraduate programmes

For more specific information on the Faculty's postgraduate programmes, consult the University's webpage on Postgraduate Studies (<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/pgstudies/>) or the various departmental websites.

1. Programme offering

The following postgraduate diploma and degree programmes are presented by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences:

Postgraduate Diplomas	Abbreviation
Postgraduate Diploma in Addiction Care	PG Dip (Addiction Care)
Postgraduate Diploma in Disability and Rehabilitation Studies	PG Dip (Disability and Rehabilitation Studies)
Postgraduate Diploma in Family Medicine	PG Dip (Family Medicine)
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Care Management	PG Dip (Health Care Management)
Postgraduate Diploma in Health Research Ethics	PG Dip (Health Research Ethics)
Postgraduate Diploma in Infectious Diseases	PG Dip (Infectious Diseases)
Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Toxicology	PG Dip (Medical Toxicology)
Postgraduate Diploma in Medicines Development	PG Dip (Medicines Development)
Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Medicine	PG Dip (Occupational Medicine)
Postgraduate Diploma in Rural Medicine	PG Dip (Rural Medicine)
Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing/Midwifery	PG Dip (Specialist Nursing/Midwifery)
Honours Degrees	Abbreviation
Bachelor of Science Honours	BScHons
Master's Degrees	Abbreviation
Master of Addiction Care	MAddiction Care
Master of Audiology	MAud
Master of Global Surgery	MGlobalSurg
Master of Human Rehabilitation Studies	MHumRehab
Master of Medicine	MMed
Master of Nursing	MNurs
Master of Occupational Therapy	MOccTher
Master of Pathology	MPath
Master of Philosophy	MPhil
Master of Physiotherapy	MPhysio
Master of Public Health Nutrition	MNutr in Public Health
Master of Science	MSc
Master of Speech-Language Therapy	MSpeech
Master of Therapeutic Nutrition	MTherNutr
Doctoral Degrees	Abbreviation
Doctor of Philosophy	PhD
Doctor of Science	DSc

2. Commencement of postgraduate studies

As postgraduate student you must register for your particular programme at the start of the academic year. The only programmes that still take on students at the start of the second semester are MMed programmes. If you are accepted for an MMed programme, you will be able to register at the start of the second semester. You can submit a request for exclusion from this rule to the Vice-Dean: Learning and Teaching, with special motivation.

3. Recognition of prior learning and credit accumulation and transfer (RPL&CAT)

Consult the RPL&CAT guidelines of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences for more information on the procedures and guidelines regarding the recognition of prior learning and credit accumulation and transfer in the Faculty. These guidelines are available at www.sun.ac.za/tygststudentadmin under "Policies and Guidelines".

4. Class fees

From 2010 class fees for all structured M degree programmes will be levied per module. Until further notice the class fees for MMed programmes will be levied per annum, as in the past, with the exception of the class fees for the MMed (Fam Med) programme which will be levied per module.

The class fees for the research modules within the structured M degree programmes will be spread over two years (70% of the class fees in the first year of registration and 30% in the second year) to prevent you from having to pay the full amount for two consecutive years. If you complete your research module within one year of study, you will therefore pay only 70% of the class fees for the specific module. But if you fail to complete the research module within the prescribed two years, you will pay, as of the third year of study, the full amount for the module.

If you register for a research master's degree, you must pay the full amount in the first year of study with a continuation levy in the second and third year. However, in the fourth and following years of study the continuation levy will double.

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2025 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 **1. Programme offering**.