

Information about the MPhil in Health Sciences Education at Stellenbosch University

To the Editor: I wish to use this opportunity to introduce readers of the *African Journal of Health Professions Education* to the MPhil in Health Sciences Education (HSE) programme that has been offered by the Centre for Health Sciences Education (CHSE), Faculty of Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University, since 2008, in collaboration with the Faculty of Education and the Centre for Teaching and Learning at the same university.

The programme was developed with assistance from educational experts from all the above-mentioned environments as well as Professor Peter Bouhuijs, Professor Emeritus of Medical Education, Maastricht University, and Extraordinary Professor, Stellenbosch University.

The 2-year programme is offered in mixed-mode format as either a structured or research Masters degree. A week-long face-to-face contact session takes place at the beginning of each of the 2 academic years (February) at the CHSE. The remainder of the programme is offered by way of distance learning using the WebCT/Blackboard platform.

The structured programme is modular, with 12 modules presented over the 2 years, including one elective module per year. A research assignment in the final year carries 60 of the programme's 180 SAQA credits. The other modules are all assessed by way of written assignments.

There are currently 26 students enrolled in the programme – students from all parts of South Africa as well as Botswana, Ghana and Pakistan. They are all part-time students and represent a spectrum of health professionals, including nurses, speech-language and hearing therapists, physiotherapists, medical doctors, etc. in the public and private sectors and at all managerial levels, including one dean.

The programme has recently received the honour of being recognised by the Foundation for the Advancement of Medical Education and Research (FAIMER) (<http://www.faimer.org/>) in the USA as one of four such programmes worldwide for which FAIMER fellows and fellows of its four regional institutes can enrol with a scholarship from FAIMER. The other three programmes are offered by the universities of Maastricht, Dundee and Chicago-Illinois.

Readers can obtain more detailed information about the programme at <http://www.sun.ac.za/chse> or by writing to me at bbvh@sun.ac.za.

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