

# University of Pretoria- American Cancer Society (UPACS)

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



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



The University of Pretoria (UP), with the support of the Global Health Initiative of the American Cancer Society (ACS), is offering an 18-month degree programme through its School of Health Systems and Public Health (SHSPH). The programme is for a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in Health Promotion with special interest in tobacco control.

The purpose of the 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 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 universities in South Africa and Africa and it has continuously attracted students from around the continent.

### School of Health Systems and Public Health

The School of Health Systems and Public Health (SHSPH) is a postgraduate school in the Faculty of Health Sciences that aims to enhance the African relevance and international excellence of the University of Pretoria and its ability to respond innovatively to the enormous challenges facing the health sector, both now and in the future.

The SHSPH was launched in 1998 and has grown dramatically in student numbers since then, reaching more than 300 registered students. The full-time academic staff is supported by a multi-disciplinary group of carefully selected local and international experts, who combine their knowledge and expertise in public health to deliver high quality education, research, consultancy, service and advocacy. The focus of the School's work is the development of solutions relevant to the health care needs

of populations. In executing this, the School gives attention to equity, efficiency and quality in the public, private and non-profit health sectors. The School has focused on South African and African public health and health system priorities. In the process it has built collaborative relationships with Southern African and international partners and academic institutions.

### 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.

### UPACS Course Objectives

To equip students with core knowledge on issues related to tobacco control including,

- 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 recognize the origin and value of secret tobacco industry documents now available on the internet.
- To understand the strategies of the trans-national tobacco industry to counter public health policies.
- To evaluate the means by which tobacco industry markets tobacco, especially to the young, women, the poor, and citizens of developing countries.
- To appraise strategies to curb the marketing and sales of tobacco products at local, national, and international levels.
- To assess the impact of the illicit trade on tobacco use and tobacco control policies.
- To understand the legal foundation for tobacco control regulations.
- To provide skills to manage large scale tobacco programs, conduct tobacco related research and develop a passion and commitment to reduce global death associated with tobacco use.
- To be able to critically evaluate tobacco control programs/intervention strategies.
- To conduct health education campaign.

- 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 know how to access information on resources on tobacco and health.

### Training Programme

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

Most modules are one-week long interactive sessions 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 students 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
- Epidemiologic Study Design
- 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

#### 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 and the University of Pretoria forms and submit these no later than **06 July 2012**.

#### UPACS Application

The following documents should be attached to the application form:

- 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.
- Recommendation: An official letter from your employer specifying:
  - Support for your proposed course of study
  - Ensuring time and opportunity for you to complete the research project after returning home
  - Ensuring appropriate employment or promotion on return
- 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 UPACS application form from Joyce Jakavula via email at [joyce.jakavula@up.ac.za](mailto:joyce.jakavula@up.ac.za).

#### 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 even 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](mailto:csc@up.ac.za).

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

### Funding

A number of our students are funded by their employers or by external scholarships. Students are also welcome to apply for general University Scholarships. For more information visit the website ([www.up.ac.za](http://www.up.ac.za)).

For other information visit our website <http://shsph.up.ac.za>

**Applications close on 06 July 2012.**

