



**Division of Human, Department of Pathology, Faculty of Health Science, University of Cape Town  
Genetic Counselling Programme**

<http://www.humangenetics.uct.ac.za/>

The Division of Human Genetics offers **6-month long semester courses in Medical Genetics and Principles of Genetic Counselling** as stand-alone courses. Students register as occasional students at UCT. These courses are NQF level 9 credit bearing courses and can contribute towards the full-time MMedSc Genetic Counselling degree, within a 4-year time period (subject to selection process).

These part-time courses are aimed at health-care professionals who want to broaden their knowledge about Medical Genetics and gain insight into the theory that supports the process of Genetic Counselling. The courses are taught by distance/online learning (may include contact time at UCT) and formal assessments.

Candidates who hold any degree, NQF level 8 qualification, that is acceptable to the Health Science Faculty of the University of Cape Town are eligible. These degrees include an MBChB degree, BSc (Hons) or BA (Hons) equivalent in biological science, nursing, psychology, or social work. Knowledge of genetics is required, and participants may be required to write an entrance examination. All applications from participants with other qualifications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

| MEDICAL GENETICS   | PRINCIPLES OF GENETIC COUNSELLING   |
|--|---|
| <p>Specialty of medicine involved with diagnosis, care and prevention of birth defects and genetic disorders.</p> <p>Medical Genetics 1 (PTY5005F) 12 credits<br/><b>(Registration: End January)</b></p> <p>Medical Genetics 2 (PTY5006S) 12 credits<br/><b>(Registration: End June)</b></p> | <p>Process of helping people understand and adapt to having/being at risk of a genetic condition.</p> <p>Prin of Gen Couns: Coursework (PTY5003F) 10 credits<br/><b>(Registration: End January)</b></p> <p>Prin of Gen Couns: Appl learning (PTY5004S) 10 credits<br/><b>(Registration: End June)</b></p> |

**It is important to note that these courses DO NOT equip participants to register or practice as Genetic Counsellors or Medical Geneticists. Further information on the HPCSA Scope of Practice for Registered Genetic Counsellors can be found at: <http://www.geneticcounselling.co.za/> and <http://www.hpcsa.co.za/boardmeddenteducation.php>**

Candidates who are interested in a **career as a Genetic Counsellor** can apply for the 2-year full-time Master's degree at UCT. Unlike the occasional courses, successful completion of this degree and meeting the HPCSA intern requirements, individuals are able to practice as Genetic Counsellors once they are registered with the HPCSA. The entry requirements are the same as for the occasional courses.

**Other options**

Candidates who are interested in research by dissertation only can conduct research on relevant topics to broaden or contribute to the field of Genetic Counselling and can enrol in our **Masters by dissertation or PhD degrees**. Candidates who have a proven research record and the appropriate undergraduate degrees will be considered.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

# Full-time Degree: MMedSc Genetic Counselling (MM166PTY09)

**Applications close 31 August**

### Courses:

#### Year1

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| PTY5003F | Module 1 Principles of Genetic Counselling: Course work      |
| PTY5004S | Module 2 Principles of Genetic Counselling: Applied learning |
| PTY5005F | Module 1 Medical Genetics                                    |
| PTY5006S | Module 2 Medical Genetics                                    |
| PTY5009W | Genetic Counselling Practice 1                               |

#### Year2

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| PTY5008W | Genetic Counselling Practice 2         |
| PTY5001W | Genetic Counselling Minor Dissertation |

### Applicants to complete:

1. Online application  
Go to <http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/applications/forms/> and follow the online application process. After completing personal details, indicate which courses you are applying for. Agree to privacy policy
2. Apply 2023
3. Once you are in the “Programme of Study”. This is the information you need to select as per screenshot.

|                           |  |   |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| *Level of Qualification:  | Masters  | ▼ |
| *Faculty:                 | Health Sciences                                  | ▼ |
| *Academic Qualification:  | Master of Medical Science in Genetic Counselling | ▼ |
| *Specialisation or Major: | Genetic Counselling                              |   |

[Health Sciences Faculty Website](#)

[PG Studies at UCT](#)

[Directions for PG Applicants](#)

4. Attach C.V
5. Include a 500-to-1000-word essay on the reasons for doing the course and what you are hoping to gain from it.
6. Contact details of two referees.

**For foreign qualification please include a SAQA (South Africa qualification) equivalent**

**<https://www.saqa.org.za/>**

### For assistance contact:

Salega Tape

Postgraduate Admissions Assistant, Health Sciences: Academic Administration

Tel: (021) 406 6340

E-mail: [Salega.Tape@uct.ac.za](mailto:Salega.Tape@uct.ac.za)

# APPLICATION PROCESS

## Occasional courses (MZ002LAB09) in Genetic Counselling

**Applications close:**  
**31 December for First Semester**  
**31 May for Second Semester**

### Courses:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| PTY5003F | Principles of Genetic Counselling: Course work      |
| PTY5004S | Principles of Genetic Counselling: Applied learning |
| PTY5005F | Medical Genetics 1                                  |
| PTY5006S | Medical Genetics 2                                  |

### Applicants to complete:

1. Go to <http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/applications/forms/> and follow the online application process. After completing personal details, indicate which courses you are applying for.
2. Apply 2023
3. IF you are applying for the second semester courses, apply for the following year!!! Even if you are applying for the current year's second semester courses. The system does not allow for applications after the closing dates and therefore must be changed manually.
4. Once you are in the "Programme of Study". This is the information you need to select:

Please indicate your first choice of study for 2023

|                           |                         |   |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| *Level of Qualification:  | Postgrad Non-Degree     | ▼ |
| *Faculty:                 | Health Sciences         | ▼ |
| *Academic Qualification:  | Occasional Postgraduate | ▼ |
| *Specialisation or Major: | Genetic Counselling     | ▼ |

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