



NEW part-time courses in Human Genetics



From 2014, the UCT Division of Human Genetics is offering 6 month part-time courses in Medical Genetics (12 credits/course) and Principles of Genetic Counselling (10 credits/course). Following registration, successful participants will be given access to Vula (the UCT intranet) where reading materials, lectures and assignments will be posted on a regular basis. The face-to-face contact time part of the courses will take place at the UCT Faculty of Health Sciences, hosted by the Division of Human Genetics for 2 weeks (full-time). For details on the 4 new courses, please see below.

First semester (Students to register by 3 March 2014):

1. Principles of Genetic Counselling: Coursework (LAB5012F)
Contact time: 31st March-11th April 2014
Broad aim: The course aims to introduce students to the principles of Genetic Counselling.
This course is a pre-requisite to LAB5013S
2. Medical Genetics I (LAB5014F)
Contact time: 19th May-30th May 2014
Broad aim: To provide students with an increased knowledge about Medical Genetics
This course is a pre-requisite to LAB5015S

Second semester (Students to register by 7 July 2014):

3. Medical Genetics II (LAB5015S)
Contact time: 4th August-15th August 2014
Broad aim: To provide students with an increased knowledge about Medical Genetics
Please note: LAB5014F is a pre-requisite to acceptance on this course
4. Principles of Genetic Counselling: Applied learning (LAB5013S)
Contact time: 1st September-12th September 2014
Broad aim: Students to broaden their knowledge of the principles of Genetic Counselling and to apply the theory learnt during the previous course
Please note: LAB5012F/S is a pre-requisite to acceptance on this course

These part-time courses are designed to broaden a Healthcare Professional's knowledge about Medical Genetics and gain insight into the theory that supports the process of Genetic Counselling. Genetic counselling is the process of helping people understand and adapt to the medical, psychological and familial implications of genetic contributions to disease. This process provides individuals and their families with information about genetic conditions, availability of diagnostic testing, and risks to other family members within a framework of non-directive counselling and ethical principles.

The Medical Genetics short courses are designed to both illustrate principles of medical genetics including clinical utility and understanding of genetic testing. Commonly encountered medical genetic conditions will be covered in more detail including aspects of diagnosis and management.

The credits from these courses can contribute towards the full-time MSc in genetic counselling programme, within a 5 year time period.

The Aim is that participants will:

Broaden their knowledge of the principles of Genetic Counselling and Medical Genetics and be given the opportunity to apply the theory in their own clinical practice.

It needs to be noted 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/board_meddent_education.php

Who should apply: These new courses are aimed at individuals who hold a MBChB degree (medical doctors who wish to increase their counselling skills or medical genetics knowledge); registered nurses and midwives who have a degree or a four-year diploma in nursing and midwifery plus at least one post-basic diploma and relevant experience; other Healthcare Professionals with similar qualifications and experience, who have attained a level of competence which is regarded as adequate for the purpose of admission as a candidate with the necessary background and training to undertake the programme (ie RPL) **in order to be issued with a certificate indicating that they have successfully completed the course for which they will receive credits from UCT.**

General Information for Registrants:

We will accept a maximum of 10 participants, who will be required to be at the FHS, UCT for the face-to-face component of the course for 2 full weeks at a time.

There will be online assessments/tests on Vula, as well as tests and exams. Once registered, students will be given greater detail on timelines and lecture schedules. The final examinations, which will be written in June and November, can be arranged at another Tertiary Institution/s. Once participants have completed all the assignments and passed (minimum of 50% for the whole course), they will be issued with certificates with 10/12 UCT/SAQA credits that can be used towards other higher degree courses, if and where appropriate and accepted.

During the 6 month semester period (January-June, or July-December 2014), participants will be registered as "occasional students" at UCT, HSF and will have access to various facilities on the Health Sciences Campus. There will be on and off site access to the Medical Library, regular email notification of lectures on campus and registered students will also have access to and be able to attend CPD accredited lectures and courses. These could include CPD accredited lectures/workshops for which Ethics related CPD points will be issued by the HPCSA, where appropriate.

What is new, is that the UCT Division of Human Genetics is offering these 6 month courses, starting in January 2014, as stand-alone courses for personal development of Healthcare Professionals.

For further details regarding the administration of applications and formal registration please contact:
Mrs Adri Winckler |Manager: PG Admin | Faculty of Health Sciences | University of Cape Town | Room N2.19.1, Wernher & Beit Building North, Health Sciences Campus, Anzio Road, Observatory, 7925
Phone| ☐+27 21 406 6327 | Fax: +27 86 610 6499 | Hours of availability: 08:00 – 13:00 & 13:30 – 16:00

The costs for 2014 are as follows:

For the Principles of GC courses (LAB5012F and LASB5013S) the cost is R5,750.00 for each semester course and there are 10 Credits for each.

For Medical Genetics I & II : LAB5014F and LAB5015S the cost is R6,600.00 per semester and they each carry 12 Credits.

Course Convenor	:	Professor Jacquie Greenberg
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