



**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN**

IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

HEALTH SCIENCES



**GLOBAL  
SURGERY**



# **MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH GLOBAL SURGERY TRACK COURSE OUTLINE**

**Global Surgery Division**

**Department of Surgery**

**Faculty of Health Sciences**

**2025**

# The Global Surgery Division

The MPH with specialisation in Global Surgery is convened by the Global Surgery Division in the Department of Surgery, located in the Old Main Building at Groote Schuur Hospital in Block H 53.

## Conveners for MPH Global Surgery Track

MPH Global Surgery Track:	Prof Salome Maswime ( <a href="mailto:salome.maswime@uct.ac.za">salome.maswime@uct.ac.za</a> )
	Dr Oluchi Mbamalu ( <a href="mailto:oluchi.mbamalu@uct.ac.za">oluchi.mbamalu@uct.ac.za</a> )
Fundamentals in Global Surgery:	Prof Salome Maswime ( <a href="mailto:salome.maswime@uct.ac.za">salome.maswime@uct.ac.za</a> )
	Dr Oluchi Mbamalu ( <a href="mailto:oluchi.mbamalu@uct.ac.za">oluchi.mbamalu@uct.ac.za</a> )
	Dr Lebo Moioi ( <a href="mailto:lebs.moloilm@gmail.com">lebs.moloilm@gmail.com</a> )
Global Surgery Systems:	Prof Salome Maswime ( <a href="mailto:salome.maswime@uct.ac.za">salome.maswime@uct.ac.za</a> )
	Dr Mary Kinney ( <a href="mailto:mary.kinney@uct.ac.za">mary.kinney@uct.ac.za</a> )
	Dr Lebo Moloi ( <a href="mailto:lebs.moloilm@gmail.com">lebs.moloilm@gmail.com</a> )
Community Eye Health:	Dr Deon Minnes ( <a href="mailto:d.minnies@uct.ac.za">d.minnies@uct.ac.za</a> )

## Global Surgery Division Staff

Staff	Position	
Prof Salome Maswime	Head of Division	<a href="mailto:salome.maswime@uct.ac.za">salome.maswime@uct.ac.za</a>
Ms Pam Magwa	Senior Secretary	<a href="mailto:pam.magwa@uct.ac.za">pam.magwa@uct.ac.za</a>
Dr Oluchi Mbamalu	Senior Lecturer	<a href="mailto:oluchi.mbamalu@uct.ac.za">oluchi.mbamalu@uct.ac.za</a>
Mr Moses Isiagi	Lecturer	<a href="mailto:moses.isiagi@uct.ac.za">moses.isiagi@uct.ac.za</a>
Dr Yvan Zolo	Junior Research Fellow	<a href="mailto:andre.zoloossou@uct.ac.za">andre.zoloossou@uct.ac.za</a>
Dr Simon Le Roux	Lecturer	<a href="mailto:spdpleroux@gmail.com">spdpleroux@gmail.com</a>
Dr Mary Kinney	Senior Lecturer	<a href="mailto:mary.kinney@uct.ac.za">mary.kinney@uct.ac.za</a>
Dr Ravi Oodit	Senior Lecturer	<a href="mailto:ravioodit@gmail.com">ravioodit@gmail.com</a>

# **MPH Global Surgery track**

## **Background**

Global surgery is a relatively new and exciting interdisciplinary field of enquiry, research, practice, and advocacy that aims to improve health outcomes and achieve health equity for all people who need surgical, obstetric and anaesthesia care, with a special emphasis on underserved, marginalized populations and those in crisis. As an emerging field responding to a major unmet need in population health, there is an evolving demand for formal teaching, training and learning in global surgery at the undergraduate, graduate and clinical training levels, worldwide. UCT's Global Surgery Division was founded in 2019, and has been at the forefront of international and national Global Surgery dialogues and initiatives, creating an ideal opportunity to engage and familiarise students with global surgery concepts at undergraduate level.

In 2022, UCT became the first university to launch a Global Surgery Master of Public Health course, Fundamentals in Global Surgery. The new discipline has traditionally attracted surgeons and clinicians; but this course targets students at the forefront of public health, addressing opportunities for health promotion, prevention of surgical diseases, trauma and injuries and health systems strengthening. The MPH Global Surgery track include two courses: 1) Fundamentals in Global Surgery, which introduces the concept of access to surgical care and meeting the unmet need for surgery; and 2) Global Surgery Systems, which focuses on surgical preventions and interventions to improve access to quality surgery.

## **MPH specialisation Global Surgery**

### **Aim**

To enable students to understand the magnitude, causes, and control strategies for surgical diseases in Africa, and enable them to apply this in the design and implementation of surgical services and systems.

## **Outline**

The course examines public and global health systems related to surgery and explores strategies to prevent unnecessary surgery and improve surgical care in the African context. The major areas include:

- assessment of the state of surgical health care at individual and population levels;
- development of strategies for the prevention of surgical disease and disability, and injury prevention;
- development of strategies for the health promotion, and advocacy for of improved surgical access and systems at population level; and
- fostering of equity in the delivery of surgical services in health systems

## **Compulsory courses**

- FUNDAMENTALS OF GLOBAL SURGERY
- GLOBAL SURGICAL SYSTEMS
- COMMUNITY EYE HEALTH I
- PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIETY
- INTRODUCTION TO EPIDEMIOLOGY
- INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH SYSTEMS
- QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS
- QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS
- DISSERTATION

## **Recommended courses**

- COMMUNITY EYE HEALTH II
- CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL
- PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHT
- HEALTH POLICY AND PLANNING
- THE ECONOMICS OF HEALTH SYSTEMS
- ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH POLICY

**Proposed Programme  
(FULL TIME)**

	<b>First Semester</b>	<b>Second Semester</b>
<b>YEAR 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FUNDAMENTALS OF GLOBAL SURGERY</li> <li>• PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIETY</li> <li>• INTRODUCTION TO EPIDEMIOLOGY</li> <li>• INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH SYSTEMS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLOBAL SURGICAL SYSTEMS</li> <li>• QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS</li> <li>• ELECTIVE</li> </ul>
<b>YEAR 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS</li> <li>• COMMUNITY EYE HEALTH I</li> <li>• DISSERTATION</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELECTIVE</li> <li>• DISSERTATION</li> </ul>

**DRAFT PROGRAMME (PART 2)**

	<b>First semester</b>	<b>Second semester</b>
<b>YEAR 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FUNDAMENTALS OF GLOBAL SURGERY</li> <li>• PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIETY</li> <li>• INTRODUCTION TO EPIDEMIOLOGY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GLOBAL SURGICAL SYSTEMS</li> <li>• QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS</li> </ul>
<b>YEAR 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COMMUNITY EYE HEALTH I</li> <li>• INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH SYSTEMS</li> <li>• QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELECTIVE</li> <li>• ELECTIVE</li> </ul>
<b>YEAR 3</b>	DISSERTATION	
<b>YEAR 4</b>	DISSERTATION	

## **The Global Surgery Dissertation**

The Dissertation has to be about a Global Surgery topic, with the primary supervisor in the Global Surgery Division.

You may request a Global Surgery staff member to supervise your research project, based on their availability and interest and expertise in the research topic, or staff members affiliated with the Division. You must get approval for the supervisor and the topic from the conveners before starting with the research project.

## **Choosing a topic**

Here is a list of recommended themes:

- Access to surgical care: How access to surgical care or lack of it impacts communities in remote areas. What are the barriers to accessing surgical care in low resourced communities?
- Social and other Determinants of Health and their relationship to surgical access, surgery and outcomes
- Epidemiology and the Health System: Our current understanding of the delivery, quality and outcomes of surgery
- Acute and Perioperative Care: Care before, during and after surgery
- Surgical Services: An understanding of available surgical services
- Cost and financing of surgical care
- The Patient and Community: The patients' understanding of surgery and surgical need, the impact of surgery on the community and the role of surgery in planetary health
- Advocacy and Policy: Advocacy for essential surgery, and the coverage of surgery in universal healthcare packages

## **Research process**

1. When you have decided on the topic and the supervisor you should develop a concept note.
2. The Global Surgery Division's Research Committee reviews concept notes monthly.
3. Once the concept note is approved you may develop the full research proposal for submission to the Departmental Research Committee (DRC).

4. After approval by the DRC is granted, the proposal must be submitted to the Human Ethics Research Committee. Data collection may not commence until the HREC approval is received.
5. If further approvals are required, the approvals must also be obtained from the appropriate committees, and facilities before data collection is started.
6. The data collection is determined by timelines as agreed upon by the student and the supervisors.
7. Data analysis can be done with the assistance of a Biostatistician sourced by either the student or the by the Division. The faculty of Health Sciences and the Department has Biostatisticians that are available for postgraduate students.
8. The format of the write-up will be decided upon by the student with the supervisor. For guidance on the submission format please refer to the UCT postgraduate rules.

For further guidance refer to our Global Surgery Research Framework

[https://health.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/content\\_migration/health\\_uct\\_ac\\_za/2472/files/DGS\\_Research\\_Strategy\\_2022.pdf](https://health.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/content_migration/health_uct_ac_za/2472/files/DGS_Research_Strategy_2022.pdf)

