



*UNIVERSITY
OF CAPE TOWN*

**PROFESSIONAL
MASTER'S IN CHEMICAL
RISK MANAGEMENT**



Division of Environmental Health | UCT



School of Public Health
Departement Openbare Gesondheid
Isikolo Sempilo Yoluntu



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA - UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Professional Masters in Chemical Risk Management (MCRM), offered by the Environmental Health Division in the School of Public Health at UCT, provides students with an interdisciplinary and holistic approach to chemical risk management.

UNEP's Global Chemicals Outlook II highlighted that chemical production will double by 2030 and we cannot have business as usual if adverse impacts from chemicals and waste are to be minimised.

Capacity building is key for countries, particularly low- and middle-income countries, to manage chemicals and waste sustainably. The Professional Masters provides skills and training in all the relevant areas a chemicals risk manager will need, and is aimed at health professionals, chemists, biologists, sociologists, anthropologists, ecologists, agronomists, toxicologists and other professionals working in chemicals management. This programme builds on the Division's postgraduate diploma in Pesticide Risk Management (DPRM).

The Programme benefits from the support and guidance developed under the GEF funded integrated health and environment observatory (ChemObs) project - a surveillance and information management system designed to strengthen national and regional institutions to implement priority chemicals and waste related interventions for improved health and environment. The project is a UNEP and WHO led initiative developed within the implementation framework of the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa.



WHAT CAN I DO WITH A PROFESSIONAL MASTERS?

- ✔ Apply for a promotion or better job.
- ✔ Work for government in health, environment, agriculture, labor, waste management, etc.
- ✔ Work in an academic or research institution.
- ✔ Work for a non-governmental organisation (NGO).
- ✔ Work for an international governmental organisation (e.g., UN).
- ✔ Be a consultant.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

This blended programme is offered as a two-year, part-time, flexible-learning programme with a substantial distance-learning component, using internet-based education technology. It includes two compulsory online sessions (orientation and block weeks) at the beginning of the two-year cycle.

Students may not be registered beyond three years.

The programme expects students to be self-directed and to implement good time management.

COURSES YEAR I

- Pesticide Risk Management
- International Chemical Management Agreements
- Pesticide Toxicology
- Research Literacies
- Core Course in Chemical Risk Management

COURSES YEAR 2

- Risk Communication and Policy Brief Development
- Chemical Risk Assessment for Managers
- Situation Analysis Research Task
- Master's Project



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- ✔ **Four-year undergraduate degree** or a relevant postgraduate diploma. Since chemicals management incorporates a broad range of disciplines (e.g. chemistry, science, toxicology, public health, medicine, environmental sciences, agriculture, biology, political science, economics, sociology, anthropology, and psychology) a broad range of four year degrees will be accepted depending on the experience the applicant has had with chemicals.
- ✔ **Demonstrated proficiency in written and spoken English** (TOEFL required where appropriate).
- ✔ **Reliable and continuous computer connectivity.**
- ✔ **Proven ability to write technical reports** and assessments.
- ✔ **Demonstrated numeracy skills.**



APPLICATION INFORMATION



The full programme brochure can be downloaded at:
<http://www.publichealth.uct.ac.za/professional-masters-chemicals-risk-management>



Applicants must apply online by 30 SEPTEMBER 2026 at
<http://applyonline.uct.ac.za>



Applications open on 01 APRIL 2026
Please note that applications are reviewed in **three rounds**, and we strongly encourage prospective students to **apply as early as possible** to be considered in the earlier review cycles.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:



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Website: <https://health.uct.ac.za/school-public-health/postgraduate-teaching-masters-programmes/professional-masters-chemicals-risk-management>