

The Oliver Tambo Fellowship Programme (OTFP), Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Cape Town

The refreshed Postgraduate Diploma in Health Leadership (the OTF Programme) will start the first course of the 2025 programme in February 2025.

Please apply on line via

<http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/applications/forms/>



About the course

The PG Dip in Health Leadership is offered by the School of Public Health at the University of Cape Town. This dedicated health leadership programme has a highly reputable track-record, with over 300 alumni, including one of the Course Convenors, Maylene Shung King, who was part of the first class when the programme started out back in 1994.

The programme supports participants to enhance their personal and professional development and become part of a growing network of health leaders committed to improving the health system for the benefit of all people.

Founded on an understanding of the South African and other African health system contexts, the Diploma is informed by cutting edge international thinking about the nature and place of health systems in society, and how to strengthen their performance.

Why apply

Health leadership and management is a vital – perhaps the vital – ingredient in any health system.

It is particularly important in South Africa today. Strong leaders and managers are needed to support the current national efforts to

- improve healthcare access and quality,
 - establish the foundations for national health insurance,
 - tackle the quadruple burden of disease,
 - prepare for new health and population challenges,
- especially in a time of economic challenge and in the face of multiple national and global demands.

Key features

The Diploma has a comprehensive approach to health leadership and management:

- It pays particular attention to the importance of personal and team leadership practice.
- The training is structured to support action learning through the immediate application of new skills in your workplace.
- It specifically addresses how to lead change in complex health systems and how to strengthen health policy implementation.
- Graduates will have renewed commitment to their role as health and society leaders, will be equipped to work more effectively and inspired to innovate in pursuit of health system improvement.

Target audience

The Diploma will benefit:

- current and aspiring health managers, who may be working in generalist or clinical management roles, at any level of the health system;
- those working inside, or with, the public sector, in South Africa or from other African countries, and who have a commitment to creating public value and to life-long learning;
- teams of managers from particular settings.

Course outline

The Diploma comprises 4 sequenced and inter-related courses that draw from the interdisciplinary fields of health systems, health policy analysis, health economics, and public management, and will require sustained engagement with workplace settings.

The first three courses cover:

- ***Working in complex health systems;***
- ***Leading health system improvement;***
- ***Critical health management practices.***

Together these courses, each weighted as 25 credits, introduce participants to a set of inter-related health system and health policy leadership and managerial frameworks and tools, and draw on participants' own experience as well as relevant theoretical and analytical approaches. New frameworks and tools support critical thinking, reflection and action-learning, and address participants' personal leadership practices, their workplace contexts, their work teams; and how to lead teams differently in their work settings.

The final course that was broken into two, the ***Health system intervention project A & B***, allows for the integration, synthesis and combined application of the new ideas and practices introduced across the prior modules, and is weighted at 45 credits. It will lead to the implementation of a larger scale, action-learning project focused on a significant health system improvement opportunity in the participants' workplaces.

Underpinning principles of the programme

<i>Health systems and public value</i>	<i>Health leadership</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health is a human right• The health system creates public value through its contributions to health, societal well-being and social justice• The public health system is important in the creation of public value• Generating public value requires public sector leaders across the health system who<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ seek out opportunities for health system improvement○ effectively implement policy and regulatory guidance towards agreed goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership and management are distinct, yet integrally linked• Leading improvement within health systems requires leaders who take advantage of unexpected opportunities and are aware of the unpredictability of change• Health leaders must be able to work with and through people• Health leaders require multi-dimensional capacities that include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ self-awareness and an understanding of how to relate to others;

- Health systems are dynamic and complex
- critical thinking, problem solving and analytical abilities;
 - the ability to navigate multiple activities with teams;
 - the ability to integrate and synthesise knowledge for practical action.

Timing, structure and fees

- The UCT academic year runs from January to December
- The Diploma requires study over a 15-month period
- Four residential course blocks of around 5 days each are undertaken in Cape Town in year 1, and are associated with a range of workplace based learning activities undertaken in each participant's own setting. A larger scale health system intervention project is implemented from year 1 to year 2. The residential course blocks are combined with online sessions in the weeks preceding and following the residential block week
- It is possible to graduate 18 months after admission to the programme, subject to performance
- Graduates judge that real benefit is gained from sticking with the programme, and the team of colleagues, over an 18-month cycle if at all possible
- Employers and line managers are strongly encouraged to support participants in their studies by supporting the work-placed based activities and allowing participants to work with their teams on bringing about workplace change, within a affirming learning environment
- The total fees for the programme for the 2025-26 cycle is R57 160
- Additional costs must be budgeted for travel and accommodation for the four residential modules

Applications and information

Applications for the 2025 intake are now open.

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- Information on programmes and entrance requirements is in the Faculty of Health Sciences faculty handbook which you will find at: <http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/handbooks/>
- You will find information on fees and other important information around payments in the university fees handbook at: <https://www.uct.ac.za/apply/fees/>
- Information on applying for admission as a postgraduate student at the UCT postgraduate and postdoctoral studies hub can be found at: <http://www.uct.ac.za/students/postgraduates/administration/>

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