Course regulations

«Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) Health Care and Management in Tropical Countries (HCMTC)»

By faculty decision of 21 May 2012

Introduction

The course «Health Care and Management in Tropical Countries» (HCMTC) is offered by the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH), Basel, Switzerland, an associated institute of the University of Basel. It is a full time course designed for postgraduates with at least 2 years’ professional experience after the professional qualification. The course is recognized as a Core Course in the tropEd Masters Programme in International Health (MAS in International Health), which is accredited by the University of Basel since the year 2000 and externally accredited by the Organ für Akkreditierung und Qualitätssicherung der Schweizerischen Hochschulen (OAQ) in 2007 for the duration of seven years.

Candidates are eligible to apply for admission if they possess an academic degree or an appropriate professional diploma. The course is led by the course coordinator who is assisted by the coordination team. Overall supervision is carried out by the Directorate of the Swiss TPH and the institutional «Study Board Professional Postgraduate Training».

The HCMTC course aims at introducing participants to the fundamentals of international health covering learning objectives as follows

• to identify and analyse interrelated determinants of health and major health problems of populations in a crossdisciplinary perspective in low- and middle income societies.
• to critically collect, analyse and appraise qualitative and quantitative data relevant for the improvement of health and health care in low and middle income societies.
• to plan sustainable improvements of health systems considering the diverse intercultural settings as well as social and ethical responsibilities.
• to clearly communicate and work professionally in a multi-disciplinary team.

Article 1 Application

Applications must arrive at the course secretariat in written form before the published deadline. On application the candidate must supply:

1) the filled application form
2) certified copies of professional diplomas
3) full Curriculum Vitae
4) handwritten explanation of why the applicant wants to attend the course, and how it will be useful in his or her future work
5) English proof – TOEFL Paper 550 / TOEFL Computer 213 / TOEFL internet 79 – 80 / IELTS 6.0 or native speaker or completed higher education in English (with written proof)
6) two photographs (passport – size)
7) testimonials certifying professional experience (minimum 2 years after qualifying)

Applicants from Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC), who will be eligible for scholarship programmes of the Kanton Basel Stadt, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) or other possible funding institutions have, in addition, to submit

8) contract for an assignment in a LMIC
9) agreement of employer

The file may be validated by calling in references and by an interview through a member of the course coordination team.
Article 2 Conditions for admission
A participant will be admitted if her or his application is complete and has been validated by the Study Board, and if a place is available. We reserve the right to ask for the original of the degree/diploma certificate of the applicants admitted.
Preference will be given to candidates who:
1) have a definite commitment to work in a low- and middle-income country
2) have experience of, or a special interest in public health
3) have not attended a professional Masters Programme during the last 3 years
Furthermore it has to be noticed that there might be restrictions by the institutions and organizations offering scholarships.

Article 3 Educational objectives, attendance
Learning objectives are set for the whole DAS and for each of the thematic modules. A change of learning objectives of lectures and thematic modules by the responsible facilitators have to be agreed by the course coordinator and have to be in-line with the over-all learning objectives of the DAS. Participants are required to attend at least 80% of the contact hours and 80% of the time allocated for group work. In the event of absence lasting more than 3 days due to medical reasons a written medical certificate (from the treating doctor) is required.

Article 4 Examination procedures and Credits
Learning achievements will be assessed by examinations in which the participant must demonstrate practically, orally or in writing that he or she reaches the acceptable level of performance (ALP) which is defined as 60% of the optimal performance. Examinations can be taken a second time before the end of the course. Examination procedures are proposed by the facilitators and defined by the course coordinator. A final oral examination at the end of the course is compulsory for getting the diploma.
If the attendance was sufficient (Art. 3) and the ALP is reached, credit points will be awarded for each module. Appeals must be addressed to the Teaching Board within 5 working days after a decision has been announced.
As the HCMTC is an Diploma of Advanced Studies-course, successful participants will obtain a total of 30 ECTS credit points.
In addition individual interviews with each participant are carried out at the beginning and if needed also during the course by the course coordinator or a member of Swiss TPH teaching staff on demand of the course coordinator; these interviews are the basis for individual learn reports which are taken into account for the decision of admission of students for the Master of Advanced Studies in International Health curriculum.

Article 5 Testimonial of Attendance
Participants who attend at least 80% of the contact-time and 80% of group work of the DAS but do not wish to take the examination or have not obtained the required minimum credit points are given a 'Testimonial of Attendance'.

Article 6 Diploma of Advanced Studies Health Care and Management in Tropical Countries
In order to obtain the certificate for the DAS, which is awarded by the University of Basel and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, students must obtain at least 75% of the possible credits, evaluated with the different examinations. Applicants who want to enrol in the MAS in International Health get also a credit recognition document, stating that the core course is recognized for a total of 20 ECTS, signed by the course coordinator and the director of Swiss TPH.

Article 7 Evaluation of the course
The participants' satisfaction is monitored throughout the course.
Article 8 Applicability

These regulations replace all previous regulations on HCMTC-, OTMPH- and CMSPT/KMGT - courses. The present regulations apply only to the HCMTC course.

The present regulations were approved by the Board of Governors of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute.

Vom Rektorat genehmigt am 21.08.2013
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