DISABILITY STUDIES PROGRAMME: INFORMATION PAMPHLET

This pamphlet provides information regarding the different options for obtaining a postgraduate qualification in Disability Studies offered by the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, which is based in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town.

Please refer any enquiries or applications to Associate Professor Theresa Lorenzo (Theresa.Lorenzo@uct.ac.za), or our postgraduate administrator, Usanda Qukula (usanda.qukula@uct.ac.za).

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DISABILITY STUDIES

Programme Convenors: Associate Professor Theresa Lorenzo and Mr Mzolisi ka Toni (MPhil in Disability Studies, UCT) (Disabled People South Africa)

Objectives:
The PG Diploma in Disability Studies programme aims to increase awareness and informed participation in disability issues at a teaching, research and community-based programme level. Students will be able to:
- Understand disability as diversity
- Appreciate the shift in perspective from seeing disability as a welfare and charity issue to a human rights and development issue.
- Develop the capacity to interrogate the emotional responses related to disability issues.
- Apply new knowledge and skills in community-based development and research.

The programme will be of benefit to both disabled and non-disabled managers in national, provincial and local governance structures; disability activists; service providers in NGO, civil society, public and private sectors including health professionals, social workers, teachers, human resource managers, policymakers; staff of higher education institutions across different faculties.
Admission requirements
- A degree or equivalent in postgraduate study from any discipline
- Recognition of prior learning: Candidates will be required to submit a personal portfolio through which their competencies will be assessed in order to qualify for admission on the basis of merit or expertise:
  (a) Experience in the field of disability and development; or relevant work experience;
  (b) Relevant course attendance in fields related to course content (certificates or diplomas);
  (c) Critical thinking skills in writing and reading;
- Computer literacy is essential.
- A letter of support from the employer granting the student study leave for the block weeks and support in applying assigned tasks to work context as well as time for assignments.

Acceptance is by selection on the recommendation of the Course Convenor and Head of Department.

It is likely that student intake will only occur every second year. Students will be able to register as occasional students and complete courses for credits towards a postgraduate diploma and/or MPhil.

Structure and duration of programme:
The programme comprises four taught courses over a period of one year. There will be four blocks per year to enable enrolment by participants from other provinces and rural areas. The blocks are two weeks in length in the first semester and one week in length in the second semester. Two courses are taught each block. Students with a first degree who have a pass mark of 60% for an equivalent research methods course will be able to apply for credits for research literacy course.

Students are required to be on campus to participate full-time in all teaching weeks. The students need to complete the coursework in a minimum of one year and maximum of 2 Years. The programme convenor will set dates each year for teaching weeks in February, April, July/Aug and September. Examinations are in June and November

Programme outline
The prescribed courses shall be:
  AHS 4089F Introduction to Disability as Diversity
  AHS 4090S Critical Priorities in Disability, Diversity and Development
  AHS 4091W Developing Critical Research Literacy
  AHS 4092F Community-Based Project Monitoring

Assessment
Students need to have attended all block sessions and completed all required assignments within the prescribed time period, unless otherwise negotiated with the course convenor or relevant person. Participation in seminars and group projects is compulsory and will be monitored. Each course will have specified assessment activities that will form 50% year mark. An integrated summative assessment consisting of a written paper and an oral presentation or a group presentation will be done at the end of each semester and will constitute 50% exam mark. An external examiner will moderate the assessment process. Students may be permitted to repeat a course at the convenor’s discretion.
Students need to pass each course with a minimum of 50% or above in order to graduate with a postgraduate diploma in Disability Studies. Students will need to obtain 60% for all courses and 60% overall to proceed to the MPhil, or at the discretion of programme convenor.

**Distinction**

To be awarded the degree with distinction an overall average of 75% must be obtained with not less than 70% for each component.

**Courses in the Postgraduate Diploma:**

**AHS 4089F INTRODUCTION TO DISABILITY AS DIVERSITY**  
**Course convenors:** Ms Nafisa Mayat and Mrs Reinette Popplestone  
**Course outline:** The course will present the shifts in seeing disability as a human rights issue by providing a historical overview of the theories, models and definitions of disability, with particular focus on the individual, social and psycho-analytical models of disability. The students will be introduced to issues of power and privilege. Theories on identities, Othering, and resistance to oppression are explored. Marginalisation and exclusion related to class; gender; race; sexualities etc. and their intersections with disability will be considered.  
**Assessment** will consist of peer presentations and written assignments, as well as an integrated written essay and oral presentations for examination.

**AHS 4090S CRITICAL PRIORITIES IN DISABILITY, DIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**Course convenor:** A/Prof Theresa Lorenzo  
**Course outline:** The course provides the space for critical interrogation of theoretical frameworks as enabling tools for transformation: human rights; ethics of care; sustainable livelihoods, vulnerability and agency. The students will have an opportunity to explore theories of social mobilization and principles of collaboration to build partnerships across sectors that will contribute to social, economic and political development. The role of international and national disability movements as social-political movements will be considered. Students will gain the skills for social mobilization and advocacy to design campaigns.  
**Assessment** will consist of peer presentations, written assignments and the design of a campaign, as well as an oral poster presentation for examination.

**AHS 4091W DEVELOPING CRITICAL RESEARCH LITERACY**  
**Course convenor:** TBC  
**Course outline:** Students will be introduced to critical research paradigms. Conceptual tools for problem definition and research design will be presented. Frameworks for implementation will include information management; development of research tools; analytical skills development; research project management. Principles of emancipatory disability research will be critiqued.  
**Assessment** will be through action learning and specific research tasks.

**AHS 4092F COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECT MONITORING**  
**Course convenor:** A/Prof Theresa Lorenzo  
**Course outline:** The focus is on action learning in understanding approaches to monitoring policy implementation and service delivery at the relevant government level. Monitoring skills will be fostered through opportunities for students to practice participatory approaches to measure outcomes. Students will be introduced to international policies such as the United Nations
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability, community based rehabilitation and measurement tools such as the International Classification of Functioning (WHO, 2001). Students will be required to complete a development portfolio.

**Assessment:** The course will be assessed through identified action learning activities that will culminate in a collaborative project report and oral examination.

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**MPHIL IN DISABILITY STUDIES**

**Programme Convenors:** Associate Professor Theresa Lorenzo and Mr Mzolisi ka Toni (MPhil in Disability Studies, UCT) (Disabled People South Africa)

**Objectives:**

The MPhil in Disability Studies programme aims to increase awareness and informed participation in disability issues at a teaching, research, policy development and implementation level. Students will be able to:

- Understand the different meanings of policy, the process of policy development and policy analysis in order to critically explore the integration of disability issues at all levels of governance and policy development process.
- Critically analyse and debate the concepts of disability, citizenship and service delivery related to policy implementation strategies by relevant stakeholders including civil society.
- Develop further research understanding and skills in quantitative and qualitative methodologies
- Complete a research minor dissertation

The programme will be of benefit to both disabled and non-disabled managers in national, provincial and local governance structures; disability activists; service providers in NGO, civil society, public and private sectors including health professionals, social workers, teachers, human resource managers, policymakers; staff of higher education institutions across different faculties.

**Admission requirements:**

- An approved four year tertiary qualification or equivalent in postgraduate study from any discipline recognised by Senate
- The postgraduate diploma in Disability Studies is a pre-requisite for entrance into the MPhil in Disability Studies. Students wishing to register for the MPhil in Disability Studies will need to obtain 60% for each course in the PG Diploma in Disability Studies or show the equivalent courses for which they can obtain credits.
- Evidence of proficient computer literacy

**Structure and duration of programme:**

The programme comprises three taught courses over a period of one year and a minor dissertation. There will be four blocks per year to enable enrolment by participants from other provinces and rural areas. There are two blocks of up to two weeks in length in each semester. The programme convenor will set dates each year for teaching weeks in February, April, July/Aug and September. Examinations are in June and November. Students are required to participate full-
time in all teaching weeks. The students need to complete the coursework and minor dissertation in a minimum of two years and maximum of four years. Please contact the programme convenor for confirmation of block dates.

Programme outline
- AHS 5041F: Policy development and disability politics
- AHS 5042S: Disability and citizenship
- AHS 5014Z: Research Methods
- AHS 5031: Minor dissertation (30 000 words).

Assessment
Students are required to attend at least 90% of block sessions and complete all required assignments within the prescribed time period, unless otherwise negotiated with the course convenor or relevant person. Participation in seminars and group projects is compulsory and will be monitored.

Each course will have specified assessment activities that will make up a 50% year mark. An integrated summative assessment consisting of a written paper and an oral presentation or a group presentation will be completed at the end of each semester that will constitute 50% exam mark. An external examiner will moderate the assessment process. Students may be permitted to repeat a course at the convenor’s discretion. The minor dissertation is sent to two external examiners.

Students need to pass each course with a minimum of 50% or above for each course and the minor dissertation in order to graduate with a MPhil in Disability Studies.

Distinction
To be awarded the degree with distinction an overall average of 75% must be obtained with not less than 70% for each component.

Courses in MPhil:

AHS5104F RESEARCH METHODS
Course convenors: A/Prof Sine Duma and Prof Dele Amosun
See faculty handbook for details.

AHS 5041F POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY POLITICS
Course convenor: Dr Lebogang Ramma

Course outline: Collectively the lectures aim to develop an understanding of what policy is by looking at different meanings of policy, the process of policy development and policy analysis. Student will explore the issues around the implementation of policy and its relationship to the dynamics of change in South Africa. There will be a particular emphasis on the equalisation of opportunities for disabled people, to begin to critically analyse policies and policy implementation by using the skills learnt from understanding policy in this way.

Assessment for the course will consist of a written assignment for 60% of the year mark and a group assignment that will take the form of an oral presentation for 40% of the year mark.
AHS 5042S DISABILITY AND CITIZENSHIP

Course convenor: A/Prof Theresa Lorenzo

Course outline: This course will cover some critical perspectives on citizenship before exploring the concepts of human rights, civic responsibility and public service delivery in creating equal opportunities for participation of disabled children, youth, adults and elderly. Strategic partnerships with stakeholders across different sectors of society will be investigated, with a specific focus on the monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation.

Assessment: will consist of a combination of reading journals and action learning assignments, and a group presentation.

AHS 5031 Minor dissertation

MPhil IN DISABILITY STUDIES (by full dissertation)

Admission requirements:
• An approved four year tertiary qualification or equivalent in postgraduate study from any discipline recognised by Senate

Duration of programme
A candidate shall be registered for at least one year of full time or three years of part-time study.

Assessment
The candidate will submit a research thesis consisting of between 40000 and 50000 words, and will obtain a minimum of 50% to graduate

PhD IN DISABILITY STUDIES (by research)

Admission requirements:
• An approved Masters qualification or equivalent in postgraduate study related to Disability Studies and Development as recognised by Senate.
• Students need to obtain 60% at a Masters level to be able to register for the PhD programme
• Students require 60% in research methods course.
• Students may be advised to complete some of the courses of the MPhil if deemed necessary as a pre-requisite for the PhD.

Duration of programme
A candidate shall be registered for at least two years of full time or five years of part-time study.

Assessment
The candidate will submit a research thesis consisting of 80 000 words, and will obtain a minimum of 50% to graduate
Application Process

There are **two stages** in the application process:

1. You will need to fill in the official UCT admissions forms, available online: [http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/applications/forms/](http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/applications/forms/)
2. In addition you are requested to complete *this form* as part of an internal application process, which will be reviewed by a selection committee.

**INTERNAL APPLICATION**

**DISABILITY STUDIES PROGRAMME**

- **Applications close 31 October 2011**: late applications may be considered depending on student numbers. Please complete both your internal and external applications as soon as possible.
- **Please send your CV/Resume through with this application form.**
- Students applying through RPL will need to complete additional assignments.
- Student’s acceptance will be confirmed by the beginning of December 2011.

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Other Languages:

Current place of work:

Position/Job title:

Length of time in current position:

Work address and phone no:

Contact details:

### Formal Qualifications & Courses:

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### Previous Working Experience: *(insert additional rows if needed)*

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Please answer the following five questions as fully as possible, but not more than ONE page per question:

1. Previous and/or Current Disability and Development Experience.
2. Previous and/or Current Disability Research and Policy Experience.
3. Motivation to participate in the Programme.
5. How Will The Course Assist You In Your Work/Career?

Based on your responses to the above question and if you do not have a first degree you will be required to complete a further assessment for admission through recognition of prior learning (RPL) process.

Thank you.