



آغا خان یونیورسٹی
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



Celebrating 25 years
Master of Science in
Health Policy & Management
Admission Information
2008

The Aga Khan University

Under its Charter “The Aga Khan University is open to all persons of either sex and of whatever religion, race, creed, colour or domicile who are academically qualified for admission to the courses of study offered by the University”.

The Programme

In October 2000, the Aga Khan University through the Department of Community Health Sciences (CHS) introduced a two year Master of Science in Health Policy and Management Programme (MSc HPM). It is designed to train professionals in strategic and operational planning, policy analysis, institutional management and in health systems research and development.

Objectives of the Programme

The programme has the following objectives:

- To prepare leaders in health systems research, strategic planning, development and management;
- To develop professionals with comprehensive skills in health and social sector policy assessment, analysis and implementation;
- To produce professionals with conceptual and technical skills in institutional management;
- To provide tools to professionals to function at all levels of the health and social sectors: federal, provincial or local - public or private; and in all

settings: academic, schools, research institutes, advocacy groups, and service organizations like hospitals, clinics or primary care centres.

Programme Structure

This is a two-year programme comprising eight Terms, of three months each. In Term IV, students are required to undergo an elective experience under supervision called ‘Placement’. A three-month research thesis is required in the second year. In addition to lectures and tutorials, students are also involved in protocol writing, data collection and finally conducting a research study, in which the faculty members provide all possible support and guidance as advisors. The programme has a continuous evaluation system, which includes presentations, mid term(s) and final assessments during each Term. Teaching methods include lectures, tutorials, discussions, presentation of published research articles, site visits and attachments to public and private organizations in health and social sector. Students will have access to the latest information through Internet and a well equipped library and inter library loan service.

The Curriculum

The curriculum is developed to meet the HPM programme objectives. Each course offers about ten to eleven learning sessions. The courses include basic core for both Epidemiology and Biostatistics (Epi&Bio) and HPM programmes and those which are specifically related to Health Policy and Management programme.

Flexible Programme

The University is offering applicants the choice to complete their stipulated two-year requirement in extended time; i.e. either in three or four years. Health professionals, who have family responsibilities and job commitments and wish to upgrade their qualification, would now be able to benefit from the flexible programme. They would not be required to fully commit themselves to the programme for full two years. Further details regarding flexibility are available from the concerned Programme Directors.

Research Thesis

Students of MSc HPM write a research thesis and submit to defend by the end of term VIII (second year). A thesis may employ qualitative, quantitative, combination of both, or any other acceptable research techniques. It may be based on analysis of primary or secondary data. It carries twelve credits and is a compulsory programme requirement.

Programme Curriculum

| YEAR I | Credit (hrs/wk) | YEAR II | Credit (hrs/wk) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Term I (October to December) | | Term V (October to December) | |
| Principles of Epidemiology | 3 | Society, Culture and Health | 2 |
| Fundamentals of Biostatistics | 3 | Cost Effectiveness and Cost Analysis | 3 |
| Principles of Public Health | 2 | Healthy Public Policy, Health Promotion and Education | 2 |
| Organizational Management | 3 | Human Resource Management | 3 |
| Computer Skills | 0 | Journal Club | 1 |
| Term II (January to March) | | Term VI (January to March) | |
| Demography and Survey Methods | 3 | Health System Research | 2 |
| Health Economics | 2 | Rights, Ethics and Equity in Health | 2 |
| Health Management Information System | 2 | Health Policy Formulation and Analysis | 2 |
| Strategic Planning and Marketing | 3 | Critical Appraisal and Protocol Development | 3 |
| Journal Club | 1 | Journal Club | 1 |
| Term III (April to June) | | Term VII (April to June) | |
| Health Care Financing | 2 | Comparative Organization of Health Care Systems | 2 |
| Quality Management in Health Services | 3 | Public Health Law and Legal Issues in Health Practice | 2 |
| Qualitative Research Methods | 3 | Political Economy of Health Policy and Health Sector Reform | 2 |
| Environmental and Occupational Health | 2 | Programme Evaluation | 2 |
| Journal Club | 1 | | |
| Term IV (July to September) | | Term VIII (July to September) | |
| Placement | 6 | Thesis (Data Collection, Analysis and Write up) | 12 |

Graduation Requirements

- A minimum of Grade 'C' in each course; and An overall Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least
- 2.5; and
- Successful completion and defence of the thesis.

Employment Opportunities for Graduates

The Masters of Science (MSc) programme in Health Policy and Management is a pioneering programme in Pakistan and the region. Rapid social transformation brought about by demographic and epidemiological transitions, the information and communication revolution and globalisation are having a great impact on the health and social sectors in Pakistan. Faced with challenges of structural adjustments and system reform, graduates of this programme are in great demand from the public sector, NGOs, semi-government organizations, health care institutions, international organisations and academic and research institutes.

Admission to the Programme

Admission to MSc Health Policy and Management is based on academic merit and potential for leadership. Merit will be evaluated through scholastic achievement of applicants and their performance in the AKU-MSc HPM Admission Test. Leadership potential will be assessed on the basis of interviews, past experience and future plans.

Applicants from the public or private sector from Pakistan and overseas may apply. A high academic score in any single discipline or any outstanding achievement alone is not sufficient for selection.

Criteria for Application

Candidates who have at least two years experience in the health and /or social sectors at the time of application and hold one of the following degrees are eligible to apply:

- An MBBS degree;
- A Masters degree; (in science or any social science discipline)
- A four-year bachelor's degree or equivalent e.g. BScN; BDS; DVM.

Application Requirements

Application for admission must be on the prescribed application form, along with the following supporting documents:

Scholastic Achievements

A complete set of official transcripts of academic record in secondary school, college, graduate school, and/or professional schools, with certification of degrees conferred, courses taken and grades received.

Statement of Objectives

A statement of objectives, summarising past education, training and experience, as well as interests and future aims, is required. A curriculum vitae and list of publications, if any, should be included.

Letters of Recommendation

Letters of recommendation from at least three people who are well-acquainted with the applicant's previous academic work and professional experience.

Application Fee

A mandatory non-refundable application fee of Rs. 2,000/- in cash, if deposited in person, or as a bank draft, if mailed in Pakistan. For overseas applicants, the application fee is US\$30. The bank draft should be drawn in favour of Aga Khan University, Karachi.

Evaluation of Applicants:

Applicants are evaluated in three stages:-

Stage I: Applications are reviewed and applicants are invited to write an Admission Test.

Stage II: Includes interviews with senior faculty members of the University.

Stage III: Final selection will be made by the AKU Board of Graduate Studies on the basis of an overall assessment of the candidature in comparison with other shortlisted candidates.

Admission Test and Equivalent

Candidates applying from Pakistan

All applicants resident in Pakistan are required to write the AKU-MSc Health Policy and Management Admission Test which comprises three components: mathematics, English and logical reasoning. The mathematics component is designed to assess basic knowledge of the subject, including critical reasoning, deduction and problem solving ability. The English Language component evaluates English competency and reading comprehension. The logical reasoning component is aimed at assessing the logical thinking ability of the candidates.

The University has not authorized any publication or preparatory classes for the Admission Test.

Candidates applying from overseas

Overseas applicants are required to write the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), and must submit their GRE scores latest by April 30, 2008. Applicants whose first language is not English are recommended to provide evidence of their proficiency in English by including details of any recognized test of English language such as Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or British Council's International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

Shortlisting and Interviews

Applicants will be shortlisted on the basis of the Admission Test and /or GRE, as applicable. Interviews will be conducted for shortlisted applicants. The purpose of the interview is to assess a variety of attributes, including integrity, motivation for the interest in the programme, maturity, social and cultural awareness, knowledge of public health issues in developing nations and evidence of initiative and commitment to the profession.

Interviews will be conducted in Pakistan. However, the University may be able to make special arrangements to interview overseas applicants in their place of residence.

Tuition and Other Charges

The students are required to pay their tuition fee along with other dues at the beginning of each term. The tuition fee for the session commencing in October 2008 is Rs. 451,000

| ADMISSION SCHEDULE 2008 | |
|--|------------------|
| Last date for receiving applications | March 28, 2008 |
| Admission Test at the following centres Karachi Rawalpindi | April 05, 2008 |
| Interviews | June 2008 |
| Announcement of Class | July 2008 |
| Commencement of Class | October 06, 2008 |

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST
2008 - 2009**

| Due by | Payment for | Amount in Pak. Rupees |
|--------------------|--|---|
| September 01, 2008 | Tuition Fee Deposit Student Health Physical Examination Fee Graduation Fee | 112,750 5,000 4,600 2,700 5,600 |
| December 01, 2008 | Tuition | 112,750 |
| March 02, 2009 | Tuition | 112,750 |
| June 01, 2009 | Tuition | 112,750 |

Financial Assistance

The University operates a financial assistance programme and accepts applications for limited financial assistance from students who are selected on merit and have demonstrated financial need after having thoroughly explored all other possible sources of financial assistance. Experience has shown that students have been successful in obtaining scholarships from different sources to complete their training.

Accommodation

There is limited accommodation on-campus. When available, preference in allocation of rooms is given to those from outside Karachi. These hostels provide single and shared, non-air-conditioned, furnished accommodation and a limited number of twin sharing flats for women.

Room fees are charged for all accommodation on campus. Single room charges are Rs.4,500 per month payable in advance. Women who share a flat will be charged Rs.4,500 per person per month payable in advance.

AKU FACULTY OF HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Professors

The Noordin M. Thobani Professor and Chairman
Gregory Pappas
MD, PhD, Case Western

The Noormahomed Pirmahomed Sheriff
Professor and Vice Chair
Mehtab S. Karim
MA Chicago; PhD Cornell

Juanita Hatcher (Part time)
MSc, PhD Toronto and Liverpool

Associate Professor and Vice Chair

Masood Kadir
*MBBS Karachi; MCPS Pakistan; MPH Hawaii;
FCPS Pakistan*

Associate Professors

Abdul Hakeem Jokhio
MBBS Sindh; MSc & PhD Birmingham

Fauziah Rabbani Abid
MBBS Karachi; MPH Alabama; FCPS Pakistan

Kausar Saeed Khan
MA Karachi & McMaster

Patricia Omidian
PhD San Francisco & Berkeley

Rozina Karmaliani
*RM, RN, BSc NAKU
MPH, MScN, PhD Minnesota
(Joint appointment with School of Nursing)*

Assistant Professor and Director,
MSc HPM Programme

Babar Tasneem Shaikh
*MBBS Punjab; MBA Islamabad
MPH (Nancy); Doctoral Candidate (Liverpool)*

Assistant Professors

Amna Rehana Siddiqui
*MBBS Karachi; MSPH Alabama; FCPS Pakistan;
PhD California*

Ghazala Rafique
MBBS Sindh; MPH Islamabad; FCPS Pakistan

Imtiaz Jehan
*MBBS Karachi; MSc McGill;
FCPS Pakistan*

Narjis Rizvi
MBBS Karachi; MSc Heidelberg; FCPS Pakistan

Sajid Ali
*MBBS Karachi; FCPS Pakistan;
MSPH Alabama*

Sarah Saleem
*MBBS Karachi; DCH Karachi; MSc AKU;
FCPS Pakistan*

Shariq Khoja
MBBS Karachi; MSc, PhD Calgary

Syed Iqbal Azam
BSc & MSc Karachi

Syed Zafar Ahmed Fatmi
MBBS Karachi; FCPS Pakistan

Senior Instructors

Agha Mohammad Ajmal Hussain
*MBBS Karachi; MPH Wollongong;
FCPS Pakistan*

Ashar Malik
*MSc Economic; Diploma in Public Admin., Peshawar
MS Health Economics York*

Neelofar Sami
MBBS Punjab; Diploma RH(Liverpool)

Naushaba Mobeen
MBBS Karachi; FCPS Pakistan

Naveed Zafar Janjua
MBBS Punjab; MSc AKU

Parvez B. Nayani
MBBS Karachi; MPH Johns Hopkins

Shafquat Rozi
MSc Karachi

Shehla Zaidi
MBBS AKU; MPH Harvard

Visiting Lecturer

Azra Talat
PhD Minnesota

Col. (Retd.) Rashid Iqbal Khan
MBBS Peshawar; MSc Islamabad; CSM USA

Rozina Mistry
MBBS Karachi; MHSc Toronto

Other AKU Personnel involved in
MSc HPM teaching:

Syed Mairajuddin Shah,
Manager Clinical Affairs & CME
MBBS Karachi; MCPS Pakistan

Talaat Tyabji, Director, Public Affairs
MEd Karachi

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

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