

Information Statement for Employers and Candidates

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

To be eligible for the DrPH, the candidate must have been awarded a Master of Public Health or a qualification considered equivalent from a university or tertiary institution at a level acceptable to the Selection Committee, and have at least three years full-time health related work experience. Only candidates who have been accepted by the School of Public Health and Community Medicine (SPHCM) into the Future Health Leaders Program may enrol in a DrPH. To be eligible for this program the candidate's employer must agree to support the candidature by employing the potential candidate for at least the three year enrolment period or by paying them a scholarship for the three years. Employers must also agree to release the potential candidate from the workplace for workshops, educational short courses and seminars.

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT?

Once a potential DrPH candidate has been offered a position in the Future Health Leaders Program by the SPHCM, the potential candidate should lodge an application to enrol as a candidate for the DrPH degree with the Graduate Research School by the advertised date.

Candidates will undertake their research in their workplace. Before making the offer of a place in the FHL Program, the SPHCM shall be satisfied that agreement has been reached between the SPHCM and the applicant and their employer on the provision of adequate facilities and that these are in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines for promoting postgraduate study within the University.

The candidate shall be enrolled as a full-time student unless part-time enrolment has been approved by the Program Directors. Candidates will be enrolled externally unless internal enrolment has been approved by the Program Directors.

The research shall be supervised by a supervisor and at least one co supervisor who are members of the academic staff of the School (including conjoint academics) in accordance with the Higher Degree Research Supervision Policy and the SPHCM Guidelines for DrPH Supervisors. In addition, the research will also be supervised by a workplace supervisor at the candidate's place of employment.

WHAT BENEFIT DO EMPLOYERS GET FROM THIS PROGRAM

This program has been designed with the employer and the workplace in mind. Applicants are employer - employee pairs where the employer has identified a future health leader in whom they want to invest for the benefit of the workplace.

Traditionally higher degrees have been focused on ensuring the development of research and critical thinking skills in individuals. Professional doctorates do the same, but reflect health practice in the workplace and also incorporate real time, real work benefits for candidates and

employers. Because the candidate's research focuses on their workplace projects, they receive the benefit of being able to integrate their studies into their day-to-day work.

The UNSW Future Leaders Program provides an opportunity for strengthening health leadership capacity within your organisation. During this program your staff member/s will have access to workshops and courses, during which they will learn how to plan and undertake research and evaluation projects and gain skills which they will immediately put into use in your organisation. Research shows that staff members who feel engaged and supported are more likely to remain with their employers. Therefore, the benefits for you and your organisation are the development and retention of highly qualified, committed staff members who directly contribute their growing expertise and experience to your organisation, while they learn.

This program has been designed specifically to meet the needs of both individual students and their employers. This benefits both parties.

WHAT IS THE DESIGN OF THE PROGRAM?

The DrPH involves practitioner-based learning and research that focusses on the workplace. It provides employees with the opportunity to develop advanced professional skills by undertaking research based on their workplace projects and participating in structured workplace and academic supervision. This is a very different model of learning to traditional academic study. Employees Candidates must integrate their studies into their day to day practice while developing sophisticated capacities directly relevant to their workplace context.

The compulsory requirements of the program are attendance at three, one-week residential training workshops on campus at UNSW Sydney, and completion of a, typically, 35,000 – 65,000 word thesis. A thesis that includes peer-reviewed academic publications is permitted, subject to UNSW thesis requirements. The student's thesis must represent an original and significant contribution to knowledge and it must be clear how candidates locate themselves in their field of research. The student will work with both their workplace and academic supervisors to ensure the projects included in the student's thesis meet both academic and operational requirements.

The candidate can enrol at no additional cost in any relevant course offered by the University, subject to School policy, academic and workplace supervisor approval, course convener approval and consideration of time commitment. We strongly encourage all new candidates to complete the course PHCM9132 [Applied Research Methods for Public Health](#).

HOW MANY HOURS PER WEEK?

UNSW requires doctoral candidates enrolled full-time to devote at least 35 hours per week to their research. Part time candidates are expected to commit at least 15 hours per week. Therefore, the DrPH programme is suitable for candidates whose research projects are part of their day to day work.

IS PART-TIME ENROLMENT PERMITTED?

Candidates can enrol full-time or part-time but must be working at least half time to be part of the program. During their candidature, candidates can switch from full to part time or from part to full time before the Census Date in each term. This is done through a variation and can be done as frequently as needed.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS AN EMPLOYER?

The employer is part of the applicant team and must demonstrate a commitment to supporting the candidate in addition to their salary. Support includes allowing the candidate time in the workplace to integrate workplace projects and activities into their doctoral research and thesis, and providing study leave, if available in the organisation.

You must also agree to release the candidate for an annual one week teaching intensive on campus. You must provide them with a workplace supervisor who will work closely with the academic supervisor to oversee the candidate's doctoral research and thesis to ensure it aligns with the workplace and academic requirements.

Study leave provisions vary among employers and the university is unable to stipulate whether, or how, study leave is provided to the student by the employing organisation.

WHAT ARE THE COURSE FEES?

Australian and New Zealand residents do not pay course fees. For international candidate fee information, contact FHL.SPHCM@unsw.edu.au. Note that there is a discount for externally enrolled candidates. Neither the university nor the Australian government offers scholarships for the program.

CAN INDIVIDUALS APPLY WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THEIR WORKPLACES?

No, candidates must have the full support of their employer or workplace. You, as the employer, are a vital partner in the UNSW Future Health Leaders Program.

HOW MANY POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DrPH?

Up to 10 each year. The cohort model of training depends on a small number of students, who interact closely with each other, in learning and peer-teaching. The cohort will comprise Australian and international future health leaders, working in diverse parts of the health system, who will learn from each other and together. Peer learning will be a formal part of the program. For example, a surgeon, a health manager and a nurse may be together in one cohort and will learn from each other and develop an appreciation of different perspectives in health systems. As an employer, one or more employees in your organisation could enrol, depending on available places and the needs of your organisation.

WHEN WILL THE CANDIDATURE COMMENCE?

Successful candidates will usually commence in term three, around mid-September each year. We accept new students onto the annual Workshop that usually occurs in August, prior to their formal Term 3 commencement. An earlier or later start may be negotiated under some circumstances.