

MScPHR LAUNCH: OVERVIEW

MScPHR PROGRAMME SNAPSHOT

1. Key highlights

- The MScPHR is a two-year program with intensive practice.
- The first cohort started in January 17 2017 – with 13 students.
- Facilitators: IHI researchers and the Nelson Mandela (NM-AIST) faculty.
- Students use IHI research platforms for learning.
- TCU accredited the program in 2015.

2. About the programme

- The program name is “Master of Science in Public Health Research (MScPHR),” and is run by Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST).
- The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) accredited the programme in 2015.
- The MScPHR is a two-year program comprising 12 months of coursework and 12 months of research.
- Courses are offered at the IHI’s Kingani Training Center in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region by staff from IHI and NM-AIST.
- The courses will be facilitated by internationally qualified senior researchers from local and international collaborating institutions.
- The program is suitable for aspiring researchers, academicians, health program evaluators and health program managers with potential to provide students with extensive knowledge, subject-specific expertise, specialized and functional research skills and global network from a diversity of facilitators that are needed to further their career in public Health.
- The program is open to candidates with appropriate first degrees in life sciences, social sciences.

3. Rationale

- The program is designed to fill gaps in public health research by offering direct contact and support within a research setting.
- Unlike many other post-graduate programs, all the teaching and learning of this program will be fully integrated within IHI extensive world class research platforms.
- This is unique program with a highly flexible curriculum that allows student to opt and graduate with specialization in any of its three majors.
- The design and formulation of this course has been necessitated by the inadequacies in research skills and competencies among early-career researchers in Tanzania and elsewhere in Africa.
- The ultimate goal is to produce graduates with the breadth of knowledge and practical research training, who can confidently lead scientific innovation, research and development agenda in Tanzania and beyond.

info@ihi.or.tz | www.ihi.or.tz

Ifakara Branch

Off Mlabani Passage
 P.o. Box 53 Ifakara
 Phone: +255232931572

Dar es Salaam Office

Plot 463, Kiko Avenue, Mikocheni
 P.o. Box 78,373 Dar es Salaam
 Phone: +255222774756

Bagamoyo Branch

Inside District Hospital
 P.o. Box 74 Bagamoyo
 Phone: +255232625164

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4. About Ifakara Health Institute (IHI)

- IHI is a non-profit outfit registered in Tanzania which is headquartered in Dar es Salaam with branches in Bagamoyo and Ifakara – the Institute’s birth place.
- Since its establishment in 1956, Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) is at the top of delivery of health research, training and services locally and internationally.
- The Institute has a mission of developing and sustaining health research capable of generating new knowledge and relevant information for public health policy and action.
- IHI is a world-class Institute committed to excellence and high technical standards in all its work.
- It’s a platform for outstanding health research where scientists participate in top flight global research collaborations, and has been very effective in contributing to the welfare of the community in Tanzania through its work using the Institute’s Community Engagement Unit.
- IHI scientists work across biomedical & ecological sciences, interventions & clinical trials, health-systems and policy.
- The Institute’s work has been useful in addressing key health challenges in Tanzania and globally such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV through various studies which have resulted into changing or influencing local and global policies.
- The name Ifakara refers to “a place you go to die”, a reflection of the historically high burden of disease in the area, before major control efforts started.

5. About Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST)

- NM-AIST is a fully-fledged university established under the Tanzania Universities Act No. 7 of 2005, fully registered with TCU with Reg. No. 028, and with a Charter granted by the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania on August 13, 2013.
- The institution was formally inaugurated by President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete on November 02, 2012.
- In a 2005 report, the Commission for Africa, a 17-member panel of experts convened by the then UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair, recommended that Africa promotes science and technology through partnerships with other developing countries such as Brazil and India, international organizations such as the World Bank and donor nations. The Blair Commission recommended the development of African centres and networks of excellence.
- Earlier in February 2001, the late Nelson Mandela proposed to Heads of African States and the World Bank, the establishment of a network of African Institutions of Science and Technology (AISTs) for knowledge building and the advancement of SET in SSA with a view to improving living conditions in the region by ensuring economic diversification, increased productivity, accelerated growth and job creation.
- It was thus Nelson Mandela’s great concern about the knowledge gap between SSA and the rest of the world, and his strong desire to see an African Nobel Laureate during his lifetime that prompted the development of the AISTs Concept, at the turn of the 21st Century. It is recognized that realization of such a vision requires the establishment of institutions which

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would serve as the foundation for cutting-edge research and postgraduate training in SSA, for there is no worthy research without great and world class institutions.

- The AISTs are tasked with training and developing the next generation of African scientists, engineers and technologists, who will impact on the continent's development through the application of science, engineering, technology and innovation (SETI).
- The specific objectives of establishing the AISTs fall under three broad headings, namely; human capital development; improvement of Africa's education system to enable achievement of quality education for all; and knowledge generation, incubation, and dissemination. The AISTs are being developed as high quality, research intensive institutions with rigorous training programs of international standards in SETI to meet the technology development needs of SSA.
- Within this context, the concept of AISTs has emerged as one of the ways in which Africa can use higher education to promote SETI, and their applications to foster SSA's development, and to narrow the growing scientific and technological gaps (or knowledge deficit) between the same and the rest of the world. In response to Nelson Mandela's suggestion, Tanzania provided about 3,484 acres of land for the development of the NM-AIST.

Inquire more information on the programme here:

Knowledge Management and Communications Unit

Ifakara Health Institute (IHI)

P.o. Box 78,373

Plot 463, Kiko Avenue

Mikocheni

Dar es Salaam

Phone: +255 222 774 756

Email: communications@ihi.or.tz

info@ihi.or.tz | www.ihi.or.tz

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