



Australia's  
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University

# Frequently Asked Questions Future Health Leaders Program FOR EMPLOYERS

## 1. 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. UNSW works with the employer-employee pair to ensure the program and the professional doctorate reflect the needs and the skills development required by both parties.

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 regular workshops, 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.

## 2. WHAT IS THE DESIGN OF THE PROGRAM?

The Professional Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) involves practitioner-based learning 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 are able to integrate their studies into their day to day practice while developing sophisticated capacities directly relevant to their workplace context.

## 3. HOW MANY POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DrPH?

About 6-10 each year, enrolling in third term each year. The cohort model of training depends on a small number of students, who interact closely and regularly 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.

## 4. 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.

## 5. MY STAFF MEMBER MEETS MOST, BUT NOT ALL OF THE PROGRAM'S ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, SHOULD THEY APPLY?

Unfortunately no. Because of the small number of places, applicants must meet all of the stated UNSW entry requirements.

## 6. MY STAFF MEMBER HAS ALMOST FINISHED THEIR MASTERS DEGREE, SHOULD THEY APPLY?

They should only apply if the university where they are undertaking their Masters is able to confirm their eligibility for the award of their Masters degree (or other equivalent academic qualification) before the closing date of the application.

## 7. WHAT IS HEALTH-RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE?

This includes a broad range of experience, for example: clinical experience, health research, development of health policy, health administration, planning and development of health services, health promotion, and occupational health and safety. If unsure please contact us to discuss.

## 8. MOST OF MY STAFF MEMBER'S EXPERIENCE COMES FROM WORK OVERSEAS, DOES THIS MATTER?

No. We welcome students with international experience.

## 9. WHEN WILL THE CANDIDATURE COMMENCE?

Successful candidates will usually commence in third term, in September each year. An earlier or later start may be negotiated under some circumstances.

## 10. WHAT ARE THE COURSE FEES?

If your student is an Australian or New Zealand resident, neither you nor they will need to pay course fees.

Course fees for candidates who are not Australian or New Zealand residents are available

on the fee website:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/fees-to-pay>

Employers are responsible for the payment of tuition fees for international candidates.

## 11. CAN MY STAFF MEMBER ENROL PART-TIME?

Candidates can enrol full-time or part-time but must be working at least half time to be part of the program.

## 12. WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS AN EMPLOYER?

The employer is part of the applicant team, and must demonstrate a commitment to invest in the candidate and to support them during the degree, either with salary or a scholarship. You must also agree to release the candidate for teaching intensives on campus twice each year, for no more than 2 weeks each time, and to provide them with a workplace supervisor who will work closely with the academic supervisor to oversee the candidate's doctorate and ensure it aligns with the workplace and academic requirements.

## 13. WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

For further information, please contact:

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Visit the Future Health Leaders website:  
[sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/future-students/postgraduate-research/professional-doctorate](https://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/future-students/postgraduate-research/professional-doctorate)

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