

# Professional Doctorate UNSW Future Health Leaders Program



- Professional doctorate for emerging health leaders
- A new approach to professional education and development
- Relevant and tailored for the workplace
- In partnership with employers who wish to invest in developing top talent
- Meeting needs of employers and employees
- Faculty with extensive experience in work-based education

The School of Public Health and Community Medicine (SPHCM) offers a unique Professional Doctorate in Applied Public Health (DrPH) which is designed to be delivered in partnership with suitable health workplaces.

The DrPH is a qualification aimed at strengthening practitioner based knowledge and practice for senior clinicians and health managers. The program enables graduates to generate and use evidence within the context of real-world challenges and priorities. As a qualification, it is in line with international trends that demonstrate the advantages of a professional doctorate as an alternative to a PhD for practitioners and leaders in public health and health management.

Graduates of the professional doctorate are recognised as advanced health professionals and practitioner-researchers who can take on senior and leadership roles within public health and health service settings.

The program provides an advanced degree through intensive theoretical training workshops and workplace based projects involving support from UNSW academic and workplace supervisors.

Candidates fulfil the requirements for the DrPH while working – through workplace experience, formal coursework and education seminars, workshops, and a thesis which reflects original research undertaken through professional practice. Candidates

are supervised by SPHCM academic supervisors and workplace supervisors for the duration of their candidature.

The model offered at UNSW is an elite program with limited places and requires partnership with a health workplace. The candidate must be nominated by the partnering workplace and must have a Master of Public Health or equivalent Masters level qualification to be eligible. Candidates can be nominated by their health workplace as individuals or a cohort.

The DrPH is a work-based program, and our objective is to partner with health workplaces to produce highly competent multidisciplinary professionals in public health and health management for health workplaces in Australia and overseas (such as ministries of health, government and non-government health organisations and hospitals).

## Candidates

Emerging health leaders in clinical practice, health administration, hospital management, public health and other health organisations.

## Partners

Health workplaces such as ministries of health, hospitals, health systems, area health services, private health organisations, non-government organisations, national centres in health and other relevant health organisations.

## Applicants

Applicants must be an employer-employee pair. The model of training only works when the commitment is present from both employer and employee.

## Faculty

The program will be delivered by academics in the UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine, who have formal qualifications in workplace based learning and extensive experience in delivering such education programs. Our team is passionate about workplace based learning and increasing the relevance of academia to workforce. UNSW has one of the largest public health programs, and the largest and oldest health management program in Australia. Our strength in public health and health management will ensure up-to-date and relevant teaching approaches.

The curriculum will include a range of courses from the disciplines of public health, health management and health research, such as epidemiology, evidence-based policy, interpreting research in practice, applied research skills, ethics, health economics, health systems, and media. The curriculum can be tailored to suit individual needs, with choices from our wide range of public health and health management courses, undertaken as workshops or externally. Peer led learning will also be included.

## Commitment from candidates

A three year workplace based professional doctorate completed mostly in the workplace and a coursework component including short campus-based intensive learning sessions. Candidates will produce a thesis reflecting applied scholarly research in professional practice, and will interact with their cohort as a group to learn and develop from each other as much as from the University and the workplace. They will have an academic and a workplace supervisor who will work together to guide the completion of the DrPH thesis.

## Commitment from the workplace partner

To invest in high-level development and professional extension of their top talent through the UNSW Future Health Leaders Program, commitment of the workplace partner is essential. This includes providing a salary or scholarship to candidates while they continue working for the partnering organisation. Workplace partners agree to release candidates for block teaching on campus up to twice yearly, and to facilitate relevant workplace projects for the professional doctorate.

The workplace also provides a supervisor who works with the academic supervisor towards the achievement of completion of the program and the doctorate by the candidate. The workplace partner is considered integral to the UNSW Future Leaders Program, because the program is workplace-based.

The workplace partner gains by their chosen Future Leader being linked in a cohort to other talented Future Leaders from diverse parts of the health system, both locally and internationally. For example, a surgeon, a hospital manager and a senior nurse practitioner may learn from each other's perspectives of the health system in this model, which increases the effectiveness and value of workplace based learning.

## Commitment from UNSW

UNSW will provide an academic supervisor for the candidate, who will work with the workplace supervisor to develop an appropriate and relevant thesis plan that is valuable to the workplace and the candidate, for the doctorate.

We will also provide high quality academic learning in coursework and block teaching up to twice a year over the three years. This will cover subjects such as epidemiology and statistics, interpreting research evidence for policy, quality and safety in health care, principles of health management,

health economics, leadership in health, program evaluation, Indigenous health, media skills, and a range of other courses which will be tailored for the cohort.

The cohort-model of learning will be provided, with UNSW facilitating interaction, diversification of perspectives, and peer-learning from a cohort of candidates, all future health leaders from a wide range of health organisations in Australia and overseas.

Candidates will come out of the program with life-long links with their cohort, and having learnt not only about their own organisation, but about other parts of the health system.

If you are interested in a tailored program for your future health leaders to be trained while they work for you, UNSW can provide this for individuals or cohorts.

## Further information

Applications open at the beginning of February, and close at the end of March. Interviews for shortlisted candidates will be conducted in late April, and candidates will commence in July (Semester 2), for a three year program. Application forms are available on the website: [sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/future-students/postgraduate-research/professional-doctorate](http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/future-students/postgraduate-research/professional-doctorate)

Employers and candidates interested in the future health leaders program in public health or health management, please contact the Head of School or the Student Services Manager for further information:

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