



# Frequently Asked Questions about the UNSW Future Health Leaders Program – Candidates

Never Stand Still

Medicine

School of Public Health and Community Medicine

## 1. WHAT BENEFITS DO I GAIN FROM THIS PROGRAM?

This program has been designed with relevance to the workplace as a priority. Applicants are employer-employee pairs where the employer has identified you as 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 skills development required by both parties.

Traditionally higher degrees have 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 your research focuses on your workplace, you receive the benefit of being able to integrate your studies into your day-to-day work.

The UNSW Future Leaders Program provides an opportunity for strengthening health leadership capacity within the organization through you, the future leader. During this program you will have access to regular workshops, during which you will learn how to plan and undertake research and evaluation projects, skills which you 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. So the benefits for you and your organisation are that you will develop your skills to a higher level and be able to directly contribute your growing expertise and experience to your organisation while you 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 DrPH involves practitioner based learning that focuses on the workplace. It provides you with the opportunity to develop advanced professional skills by conducting research based on your workplace projects and participating in structured workplace and academic supervision. This is a very different model of learning to traditional academic study. You will be able to integrate your studies into your day to day practice while developing sophisticated capacities directly relevant to your workplace context.

## 3. HOW MANY POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

About 6-10 per year, enrolling in second semester each year. The model of professional education used in the program depends on a small cohort who interact closely and regularly with each other, in learning and peer-teaching. We will have a cohort comprised of Australian and international future health leaders, working in diverse areas of the health system, who will learn from each other. 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.

## 4. I AM NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED. CAN UNSW FIND A SUITABLE EMPLOYER FOR ME?

No, this is not possible due to the model the program uses which requires an established relationship between the employee and employer.

## 5. I MEET MOST OF THE PROGRAM'S ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, SHOULD I APPLY?

No. Applicants must meet all of the stated entry requirements.

## 6. I HAVE ALMOST FINISHED MY MPH, SHOULD I APPLY?

You should only apply if the university where you are undertaking your MPH (or other equivalent academic qualification) is able to confirm your eligibility for the award of your degree before the closing date for applications.

## 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.

## 8. ALL OF MY WORK EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN OVERSEAS, DOES THIS MATTER?

No. We welcome candidates with international experience.

## 9. CAN I ENROL PART-TIME?

Yes, if your employer agrees. You must be working at least half time to be part of the program.

## 10. WHEN WILL THE D<sup>r</sup>PH CANDIDATURE COMMENCE?

Successful candidates will usually commence in second semester, around July each year. An earlier or later start may be negotiated under some circumstances.

## 11. WILL I HAVE TO PAY COURSE FEES?

If you are an Australian or New Zealand resident, you will not have to pay course

fees. However, you will have to pay Student Services and Amenities Fees.

Course fees for International candidates (i.e. who are not Australian or New Zealand residents) are available on the fee website: [my.unsw.edu.au/student/fees/ScheduleTuitionFees.html](http://my.unsw.edu.au/student/fees/ScheduleTuitionFees.html)

International candidates need to negotiate with their employer regarding the payment of tuition fees.

## 12. WHERE CAN I OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

Please contact:

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Visit the Future Health Leaders website:  
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