

Prospectus - 2024 Admission

**M. Sc (advanced) Course in Clinical
Epidemiology (Part-time) Course**

By

**School of Public Health, Government Medical
College Campus, Medical College,
Thiruvananthapuram**



Kerala University of Health Sciences

Thrissur

1. Center conducting the course: School of Public Health:

The University Act Chapter II section 5, contemplates that University may establish study centers at such other places within the state of Kerala with the approval of the Governing council. The Governing Council of the University decided to start the School of Public Health at Thiruvananthapuram. The school is currently located at the Medical College campus, TVM and is successfully conducting Research projects, several short term courses for faculty and postgraduates. The school has a Professor, two Associate Professors, one Assistant Professor in Biostatistics, necessary office staff along with adjunct professors from institutions of excellence within the country.

2. Description of the course

The M.Sc. (advanced) Course in Clinical Epidemiology is a Part-time course that will be conducted at the School of Public Health at Thiruvananthapuram. This is a course in research methodology identical to other super-specialty degrees for those who completed post graduate education. The goal of the course is to transform the clinician-community to researchers and rational practitioners through evidence based medicine practise, adherence to high standards of professionalism and clinical governance. The Successful candidates after the course are expected to be high quality researchers in their respective clinical fields. They are also expected to play key roles in advocacy for public health and good quality research including clinical trials and other clinical knowledge translation applications.

The objectives of the course

1. To equip clinical faculty with methods in health science research with emphasis on Epidemiology, Bio Statistics, Health Social Sciences and Health Economics.
2. To popularize the concept of quality in health science research among clinical faculty and to see that reflected in meaningful forpublications and other research communications.
3. To generate a team of Professionals capable of providing consultancy in Clinical research methodology.

Who shall be benefited from the course?

- Medical Teachers, Clinicians & faculty in allied disciplines, who have aptitude & commitment to medical research.

- Faculty members who wish to become investigators of research projects
- Faculty members who want to become investigators of clinical trials
- Clinicians who want to become health care managers & researchers.
- Those faculties who wish to be members of Institutional Research committee, Institutional ethics committee and similar research guidance forums.

3. Eligibility for admission

Candidates with postgraduate degree in the Faculty of Medicine, Dental sciences, Nursing, Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Paramedical and Allied health Sciences, from Kerala University of Health Sciences or examination equivalent there to as approved by the Kerala University of Health Sciences [viz., Faculty of Medicine (MD/MS/Equivalent), Dental Sciences (MDS/Equivalent), Nursing (MSc Nursing/Equivalent), Pharmaceutical Sciences (M. Pharm/PharmD Equivalent), Paramedical and Allied Health Sciences (MSc/Equivalent)] and currently working in health care institutions, permitted to spend specified time as a part time student. The maximum age limit of the candidate shall not be more 50 years as on 31st December 2023.

4. Mode of selection:

The selection is merit-based with an Entrance examination for 150 marks of 3 hours' duration (150 questions with one mark for each question), conducted by the KUHS. All are objective type questions. The portions include the basics of Clinical Research Methodology, Biostatistics, and Bioethics (Distribution of question for the entrance examination from these 3 subjects will be approximately 60:25:15 percentages each). The validity of the select list will be for one month from the date of starting the course.

5. The number of seats Per year: 16

6. Reservation of seats

40% of the total seat is reserved for Faculty of affiliated Colleges of KUHS, having registered in the Faculty Enrolment Program of KUHS. 10% is reserved for SC/ST and 50% is reserved for Open quota.

All the candidates shall satisfy the eligibility criteria fixed as per clause 1.1 of approved Regulations of M. Sc (advanced) Clinical Epidemiology (Part time) Course. If required number of seats are not filled by reserved one, the seats will be filled by other category based on the merit as per the rank list.

Note:

- a) As the topic is clinical epidemiology and content of syllabus are related to clinical disciplines, faculty from clinical departments need to be specially protected during the admission process. (Otherwise the clinicians may be kept away and the philosophy of the course to rationalize clinical practice and modify clinical practice behaviour may be diluted. The purpose of any course is to practise what they learned in real world situation.)

7. Application fee & Course Fee:

The application fee for the Course is Rs. 1,500/- course is designed as a two-year part-time course. The total duration is two academic years. The course fee is Rs. 30,000/- per candidate per academic year. The fee shall be remitted as lump sum per year. Admission fee (including Student Registration fee, Certificate Verification, Identity card, University Union fee and Sports fee) will be 3680/- and Caution Deposit Rs. 30,000/-. The Examination fee should be remitted separately to the University as per direction from the University from time to time. As this Course is a quality improvement program for the already employed candidates, the communal reservations are not considered. Also, a bond in the prescribed format for an amount of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only) shall be executed by the student at the time of registration to the course towards liquidatory damages on the event of discontinuation of the student from the course leaving the seat vacant without time to fill up by another eligible student from the rank list. In case, if the student leaves the seat vacant giving time to fill up by another eligible student from the rank list, the remaining of the Course fee after deducting 10% of the same as the processing charges and the Caution deposit will be refunded.

8. The medium of instruction:

The medium of instruction and examination will be English.

9. Attendance and course period: This is a part-time course designed on distance education platform with contact classes.

The duration is two academic years. The maximum duration permitted for the completion of the course is 4 years (double the duration).

1. Minimum 80% attendance is must for appearing for the final exam.
2. The formative internal assessment examination of each paper will be of 20 marks and average of the best two (2) marks will be taken as the final internal assessment mark for each paper. Not less than 50% marks is required in the internal assessment for each paper separately is required to attend the First & Second year University examinations. The formative evaluation includes theory, practical and assignments.
3. The thesis should be submitted one month before the final University examination.
4. The whole course will be conducted as four semesters. Separate exam will be conducted at the end of each semester as internal exam at School. Year end exams will be conducted by the university.

10. Duration permitted for completion of the course

Two academic years as part time contact and e-learning methods, for completion of total 1600 learning hours (175 hours for theory including skill development and protocol development during first year and 175 hours during second year (7 hrs. from 9 am-5 pm/day excluding 1 hr. lunch break for 25 days per year) and 42 hrs. of contact class during the one week mop-up at the end of the course, totalling to 392 hrs. the rest 408 hours will be of supervised distance learning based on e-learning/modules. There will be 800 hours of thesis work at the parent institution or in the community (during the total course period).

Project (Thesis) work: The planning of this will be started from the first year after the contact classes. The candidate will identify a suitable mentor from the parent department of the institution where he/she is working who will guide in the subject along with the methodology guide either in the school or the nearest institutions.

Assessment: (Examinations):

Formative evaluations (Internal assessment): This is by periodic objective tests, periodic tests through web platforms, reports by the **Thesis** guide and mentor, assessment of extra interest taken by a candidate in matters of research or health policy and final opinion by the whole faculty on overall academic performance of the candidate.

Summative evaluations (Final Examinations): Final summative examination will be conducted at the end of each Academic Year (First and Second semester at end of first year and third and fourth semester at the end of second year) by the University as per the approved schedule. The final summative examination including practical and thesis will be after submission of the thesis.

Procedure for submission of applications: The applications shall be submitted to the University on or before **09 August 2024**. The provisional date for entrance examinations will be **notified** later. The candidates will be permitted to appear for the entrance examination after scrutiny of applications in the University. The results of the entrance test will be published on the University website. The candidates eligible for admission will be intimated after preparing the merit list.
