

## Information Statement for Employers and Candidates

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

To be eligible to apply for the DrPH program, the applicant must have been awarded a Master of Public Health or a qualification considered equivalent from a university or tertiary institution at a level acceptable to the DrPH Postgraduate Coordinators and UNSW Graduate Research School, and have at least three years full-time health related work experience.

Only candidates who have been accepted by the School of Population Health (SPH) into the Future Health Leaders Program may enrol in a DrPH. To be eligible for this program the candidate's employer must agree to support throughout the applicants candidature by employing the potential candidate for at least the four year (or equivalent part time) enrolment period, or by supporting them via other funding mechanisms such as a scholarship for the four years full time equivalent. Employers must also agree to release the potential candidate from the workplace for workshops, educational short courses and seminars.

Applicants are also advised that any unforeseen changes in employment situation may have an impact on their ability to continue with the DrPH program. It is a requirement of the Graduate Research School that DrPH candidates in the program who change their employer must enter into a new workplace agreement with their gaining employer.

### WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT?

Once a potential DrPH candidate has been provided with a letter of support to enter the Future Health Leaders Program by the SPH, the applicant must lodge an application to enrol as a candidate for the DrPH degree with the Graduate Research School by the relevant advertised date for commencement into the term/scholarship that suits their circumstances. It is the applicants responsibility to ensure that sufficient time is allocated prior to GRS deadlines to ensure that the School of Population Health DrPH Postgraduate Coordinators can conduct the required pre-admission interviews with you. Deadlines for submission of an application to the School of Population Health are provided in the introduction to the DrPH EOI form.

Candidates will undertake their research in their workplace. Before providing a letter of support to an application the SPH shall be satisfied that agreement has been reached between the SPH and the applicant and their employer on the provision of adequate facilities and that these are in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines for promoting postgraduate study within the University.

The candidate shall be enrolled as a full-time student unless part-time enrolment has been approved by the Postgraduate Coordinators and Graduate Research School. Candidates will be enrolled externally

unless internal enrolment has been approved by the Postgraduate Coordinators and Graduate Research School.

The research shall be supervised by a supervisor and at least one co supervisor who are members of the academic staff of the School (including conjoint academics) in accordance with the Higher Degree Research Supervision Policy and the SPH Guidelines for DrPH Supervisors. In addition, the candidate must nominate a workplace supervisor at the candidate's place of employment who is then required to formally agree to oversee the workplace dimensions to the DrPH program.

The applicant is responsible for securing a suitable supervisory team. This will require candidates to individually approach academics at the school and discuss their proposed research. The DrPH Postgraduate Coordinators are able to provide broad advice to candidates, however the task of establishing a relationship with a supervisor and progressing that relationship to DrPH application is the primary responsibility of the candidate to secure. Further information is available from the DrPH Postgraduate Coordinators.

## **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.

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 workshops and courses, 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.

## **WHAT IS THE DESIGN OF THE PROGRAM?**

The DrPH involves practitioner-based learning and research 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.

Candidates must integrate their research activities into their day-to-day practice while developing sophisticated capacities directly relevant to their workplace context.

The compulsory requirements of the program are:

- Three one-week residential training workshops on campus at UNSW Sydney, conducted over 3 years
- completion of a research thesis of between 35,000-65,000 words
- Completion of 48 units of credit of coursework, comprising:
  - 18 units of credit covered by the compulsory residential training workshop
  - A 6 unit of credit DrPH introductory course
  - At least 24 units of credit of coursework to be completed in the first 1-2 years of the program\*. This may include compulsory coursework in research methodology, subject to recommendations and requirements imposed during the application process and depending on the candidates research training needs.

\* note: recognition of prior learning of up to 24 units of credit from previously completed postgraduate courses is available, subject to approval by the Dean of Graduate Research.

A thesis that includes peer-reviewed academic publications is permitted, however this is subject to adherence with UNSW thesis by publication requirements. The student's thesis must represent an original and significant contribution to knowledge, and it must be clear how candidates position themselves in their field of research. The student will work with both their workplace and academic supervisors to ensure the projects included in the student's thesis meet both academic and operational requirements.

The candidate can enrol at no additional cost in any relevant course offered by the University, subject to School policy, academic and workplace supervisor approval, course convener approval and consideration of time commitment. Candidates may be required to complete additional research methodological courses.

## HOW MANY HOURS PER WEEK?

UNSW requires doctoral candidates enrolled full-time to devote at least 35 hours per week to their research. Part time candidates are expected to commit at least 15 hours per week. Therefore, the DrPH programme **is most suited** for candidates whose research projects are part of their day to day work.

## IS PART-TIME ENROLMENT PERMITTED?

Candidates can enrol full-time or part-time but must be working at least part-time (17 hours per week) to be part of the program. During their candidature, candidates can switch from full to part time or vice-versa depending on their available workload and to balance other commitments. This is done through a variation to candidature, subject to approval by the DrPH Postgraduate Coordinators and Graduate Research School.