

CLINICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAMME WORKSHOP

Using the MMed as a springboard for accelerated
production of PhDs in South Africa

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Specialist Registration Requirements in South Africa

- Integrated assessment including portfolio, formative, continuous, summative & assessment of a research component with 60 credits, in terms of the NQF
- National curriculum & national professional exam through a national examining body e.g CMSA, the outcomes of which may be used as credits for Part 1&2 of the MMed degree by universities if required
- The research component may be used as Part 3

Registrar Training in South Africa

- Minimum of 4 years but takes 5 years in some disciplines
- Some candidates already exceed the minimum training time, without a research component
- The research component will prolong the training for an MMed degree (480 credits), which has the same status & subsidy as a 1 year Masters (180 credits)
- The MMed is therefore a financially non-viable university degree

Training in Medicine including Specialisation & PhD in South Africa

- Minimum of 5 years but mainly a 6-year programme in South Africa (700-900 credits)
- Internship is 2 years and community service is 1 year
- Specialist/MMed training 4 to 5 years (480 credits)
- PhD Studies for 3 years (360 credits)
- Total 15 – 17 years (1540 – 1740 credits)

Training in Humanities including Masters & PhD

- 4 years up to Honours degree or equivalent (480 credits)
- 1 year Masters (180 credits)
- 3 years PhD (360 credits)
- Total of 8 years (1020 credits)
- Compare 8 years (1020 credits) to obtain a PhD in Humanities with 12–14 years of MMed (1180-1380 credits)
- Compare also with 15-17 years for PhD (1540-1740 credits)

Proposal

Two (2) streams of MMed:

- MMed by Coursework & Mini-Dissertation of 60 credits as above. (Total of 12-14 years) as proposed
- MMed by Dissertation of 180 credits at any stage after completion of MB ChB Degree & then register for PhD.

OR

Proposal

De-link the Fellowship from MMed

Fellowship to remain a Professional Qualification
(Registrar Training that includes a Research
Component of 60 credits)

MMed Degree to be an Academic Qualification
that is a Masters by Dissertation (180 credits)

Conclusion

- The universities could generate subsidy for the MMed as a full Masters by Dissertation (180 credits)
- PhDs could be produced at an accelerated rate than what is happening now.