

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to the MPH-DRPH Program for Abu Dhabi include:

1. When does the program start?

The anticipated start date for this program is Monday, August 25, 2008 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's East Baltimore campus.

2. What does the program consist of?

The program consists of formal coursework and an MPH capstone project, as well as a DrPH qualifying exam, oral exams and a dissertation project that addresses challenges of the student's work setting and the Abu Dhabi health care system.

3. What is the duration of the program?

Students will be eligible for the MPH degree after approximately three years. The program is designed for all formal course work for both the MPH and DrPH degrees to be completed in approximately four years. Completion of the DrPH comprehensive exam and DrPH dissertation requirements is likely to require an additional one to two years, but will depend upon the progress of each individual student.

4. Are there scholarships for this program?

Yes, all students admitted to participate in the program will receive a scholarship. The scholarship will include:

- i. Tuition fees
- ii. Books and materials
- iii. Travel and accommodation to location of instruction if outside Abu Dhabi e.g., Baltimore
- iv. Laptop

Students must be willing to spend considerable time and effort to complete the courses and other program requirements.

5. What will be the tuition fee?

The tuition fee is included in the scholarship that will be provided to each candidate.

6. What is the target audience for this program?

The program is designed and intended to develop the next generation of health leaders for the Abu Dhabi Health Care system.

7. Where will the courses be taught?

The student cohort will travel to the Johns Hopkins main campus in the US or to the Barcelona, Spain course offerings for one-week time periods twice per year to attend courses offered in Summer, Fall and Winter Institutes. Other courses will be offered online, through videoconferencing, and by Johns Hopkins faculty onsite in Abu Dhabi.

8. What is the work load involved in this program?

This program is designed so that a student can continue to work full-time while completing the coursework. On average, in any given term a student will be taking 4 credits of course work i.e., 4 hours of in-class or online coursework per week requiring 12 to 15 hours of preparation outside of the class per week.

9. What are the application deadlines?

The tentative application deadlines are:

- i. Submit preliminary application: By June 16th 2008, 5 pm, US Eastern Standard Time
- ii. Invitations will be extended to eligible applicants to submit a completed application : By June 23, 2008
- iii. Completed application with transcripts, recommendation letters, and other documents: By July 7, 2008
- iv. Interview with the selection committee in Abu Dhabi: Between July 7 and July 21, 2008
- v. Final admission decisions communicated by July 28, 2008
- vi. Selected candidates to complete and submit their Visa documentation; By August 4, 2008
- vii. Program begins in Baltimore, Maryland, USA, Monday, August 25, 2008

10. Is the TOEFL required?

The results of the TOEFL exam are required only for those applicants who attended universities where English was not the language of instruction.

11. Can the TOEFL or IELTS requirement be waived?

Yes, if the applicant has completed program requirements at one or more universities where English was the language of instruction.

12. How is this program different from the traditional MPH offered by JHSPH in the U.S.?

The traditional MPH offered in Baltimore is completed in an eleven-month period while the student is based in Baltimore. The part-time MPH is typically completed in three years. This program will allow students to complete the MPH over several years on a part-time basis while continuing to remain employed full-time and traveling to Baltimore for only short periods of time each year. The coursework and other requirements for the full-time and part-time MPH are identical.

13. Is this program similar to the part time/internet based program available currently?

Yes, the MPH will be completed in the same way as the Internet-based MPH program offered by the school. Students will complete the coursework through a combination of internet and in-person coursework. The DrPH program is the same as that offered in the Department of Health Policy and Management in East Baltimore. However the mode of delivery for some courses may differ.

14. Will the MPH capstone project be based on Abu Dhabi health issues or will one be required to focus the capstone on US issues?

It is expected that the subject of the capstone project will focus on an aspect of the Abu Dhabi health system.

15. Is there the opportunity to take additional courses as public health electives while enrolled in this program?

Yes, for students who have substantial previous relevant graduate-level coursework, or who desire to take more than the minimum coursework required, enrolling in elective courses will be possible.

16. When completing this program, how many degrees/diplomas will be received?

All participants who complete the program requirements will receive two separate degrees from the Johns Hopkins University: a Master of Public Health degree and a Doctor of Public Health degree on two separate diplomas.

17. I am a medical doctor. Do I need to have an MPH degree before I apply for this program?

No, you do not need an MPH degree before applying for this program.

18. Can courses be waived if I have a Masters degree in Healthcare Management from an American University?

Yes, each participant in the cohort will have his or her prior coursework evaluated for appropriateness to the program requirements. In situations where previous coursework is judged to be very similar to the course requirements, course waivers may be granted.

19. If an applicant already possesses a MPH or equivalent, can they go directly in the DrPH module of the program?

In situations where previous coursework is judged to be very similar to the course requirements, waivers for specific courses may be granted.

20. I am a UAE national but am not currently residing or working there. Am I eligible?

Most students in the program will be residents of Abu Dhabi. However, if you are a UAE National and have the ability to travel to Abu Dhabi and the United States, you are eligible for the program.

21. Do I need to be employed to apply and stay in the program if I meet the other eligibility criteria of being a UAE national?

No. You need not be employed during the program, if you meet the nationality criteria.

22. Are females allowed to apply for this program?

Yes, women are encouraged to apply.

23. What kinds of reference letters are required?

If the applicant has recently been in school, then it is preferred that he/she submits 2 academic reference letters and 1 professional reference letter. If the candidate has been out of school for some time, then it is preferred that he/she submits 2 professional and 1 academic reference letter OR all 3 professional reference letters. None of the reference letters should be from family members or personal friends.

Whom should I contact for more information? Further assistance can be obtained by e-mailing MPH-DrPH@haad.ae and MPH-DRPH@jhsph.edu