



FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

**MASTER OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE  
(M9E01Q)**

**Purpose**

The purpose of this qualification is to provide qualifying students with the ability to:

1. Perform independent scientific research with an original component.
2. Contribute to knowledge of and insight into emergency medical care as well as the specific discipline of research.
3. Display skills in related research methodologies and in proper formulation through a Master's dissertation.
4. Reflect upon decision-making, self-directedness and contributions to medical science.

**Outcomes**

On completion of this qualification the student will be able to:

1. Identify, formulate, prepare and solve research problems.
2. Execute a research project at the appropriate level.
3. Collect, organize, check, evaluate and write a proper literature review organising the appropriate information in an understandable and logical manner.
4. Acquire learning abilities in the research context including the assessment of scientific literature, and execution of research methodologies including the gathering of data and evaluating the information obtained.
5. Report research findings at the appropriate level.
6. Make conclusions, suggestions and recommendations based on the data collected that are reasonable and justifiable.

**Rules of Access and Admission Requirements**

A four year Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Medical Care or an equivalent qualification at an equivalent standard as determined by a Status Committee and approved by the Faculty Board.

## Selection

Selection is based on consideration of the following:

- Prior academic performance, in particular as this relates to research.
- An interview.
- An abridged research proposal.

## Pass Requirements

The minimum duration of study is one year and maximum is three years. Students are assessed via submission of a dissertation in line with the Senate Higher Degrees Policy of the University.

## Curriculum

A research dissertation (180 credits).

Module Name	Module Code
Dissertation: Emergency Medical Care : Semester 1	EMC9X01
Dissertation: Emergency Medical Care : Semester 2	EMC9X02

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Does the MEMC involve any course work (lectures)?*

No, the MEMC is a qualification based solely on the completion of research in the form of a dissertation.

*What is the first step in applying, if I am interested?*

Visit the University's website ([www.uj.ac.za](http://www.uj.ac.za)) and click on the [Study@UJ] tab, then follow the instructions for online postgraduate application. You can also apply by completing a paper application form. This can be downloaded from the University's website (same tab as above) or obtained by calling 011 559-4555.

*Can I apply at any time?*

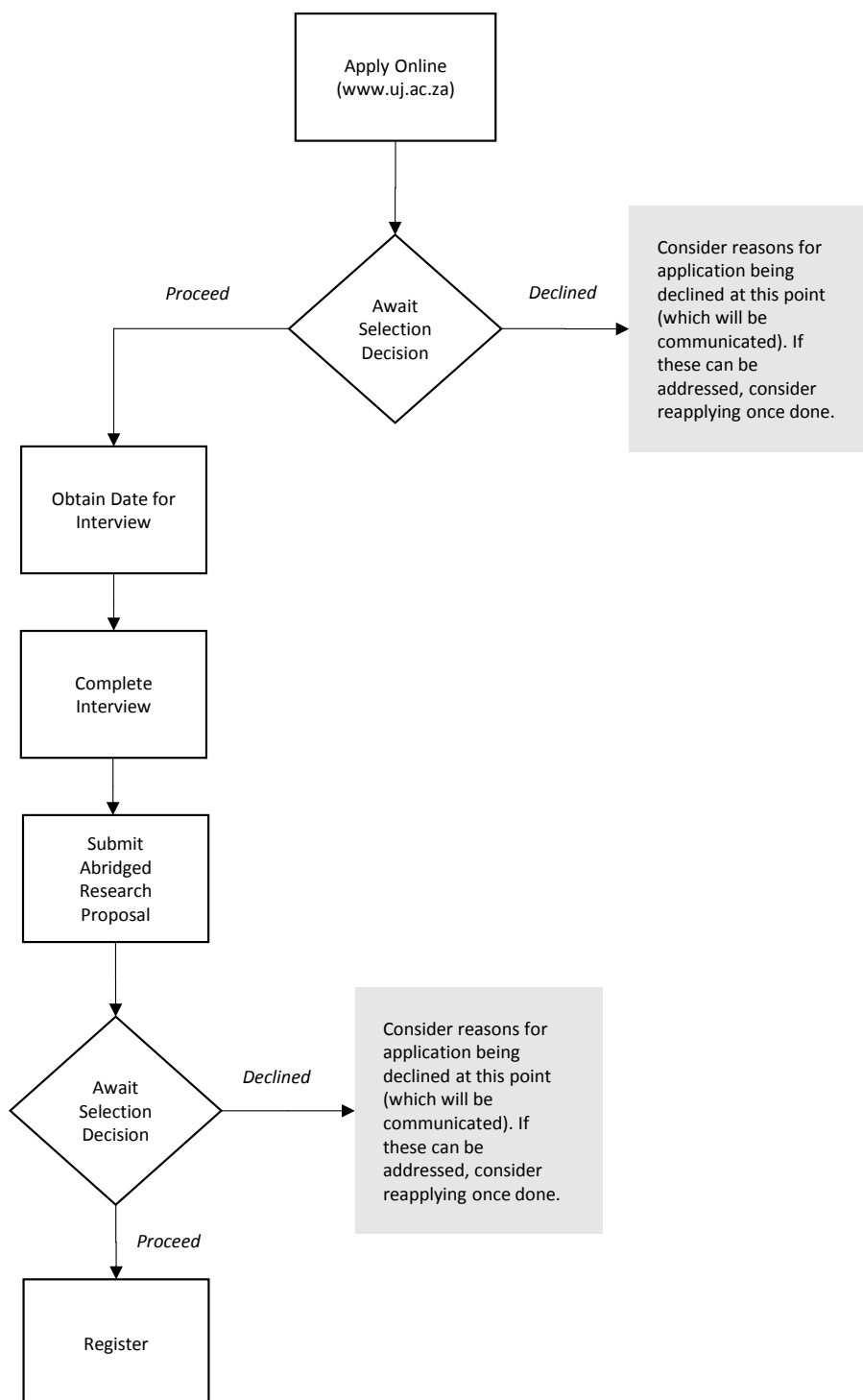
Yes, you may apply at any time. Please remember that the application and selection process is related to registration (for successful applicants) in either the first semester. The cut-off dates for applications are as follows:

Registration in First Semester
Last Working Day of October (preceding year)

If you apply after the cut-offs above, you will be considered for the following semester application cycle.

*What happens after I apply?*

Please have a look at the flow diagram below (next page) which gives an overview of the application and selection process.



*If I am selected, can I register and start the programme at any time?*

No registration is only possible at the beginning of each semester for that specific semester.

*Is there a limit on the number of places available on the programme and does this influence my chance of being selected?*

Yes there is a limit on the number of places available. The selection process is a competitive one and applicants will be ranked, based on the selection consideration above. Available places will be allocated to the top ranked applicants. If you participate in the selection process and we are not able to give you a place on the programme, you will be required to apply again.

*What is a research focus and how does this impact on my selection?*

Research focus refers to specific areas for research that have been chosen by the Department for future research activity (see Appendix A for more information). Alignment of your research to one of the Department's research focus areas is an important consideration in the selection process. This will be assessed in your abridged research proposal.

*What is an abridged research proposal and how important is it in the selection process?*

An abridged research proposal is a shortened version of a research proposal that you will be required to submit as part of the selection process. This will contain the details of your proposed research and will allow the Department to decide on its viability.

*What is the difference between full-time and part-time study in relation to the MEMC?*

If you are able to devote all of your time to the MEMC, and you have financial support in line with this (i.e. you are not working full- or part-time), you may register for the full-time programme. If you are working either full- or part-time you should register for the part-time programme. The Department will be part of the decision-making process regarding which option you choose (part- or full-time).

*If I am selected, will I need to re-register for every subsequent semester until I have qualified?*  
Yes.

*What is the shortest time that I could complete the MEMC in?*

One year, full-time or part-time.

*What is the longest time that I have to complete the MEMC?*

Two years, if you are registered full-time and three years if you are registered part-time.

*When I have completed my dissertation, how is my mark determined?*

Your dissertation will be assessed by two external assessors who will give you a mark based on a number of assessment criteria. The average of the two assessors marks will be your final dissertation mark. The pass mark is 50% and the qualification can be awarded *cum laude* if the final mark is greater than or equal to 75%.

## Appendix A



### DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS

#### 1. Purpose

The Department has established research focus areas in order to begin to develop research in line with a longer term strategy incorporating the development of existing research capabilities within the Department and research funding. It is the Department's intention that no more than 30% of the research carried out at Master's level from 2016 and undergraduate level from 2017 should lie outside of the research focus areas.

#### 2. Focus Areas

Currently there are three focus areas for research. Others may be added in the future as the Department's research strategy is updated from time to time.

##### 2.1. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS

An Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system can be defined as 'a system that provides for the arrangement of personnel, facilities and equipment for the effective and coordinated delivery in an appropriate geographical area of healthcare services under emergency conditions'.<sup>1</sup>

This research focus area includes, *inter alia*:

- Research on efficiency and effectiveness of EMS systems.
- Research on any aspect of quality or quality improvement in EMS systems.
- Research on the cost-effectiveness of EMS systems, or related problems.
- Research on response systems.
- Research investigating specific aspects of EMS systems such as operations, communications, transport, governance, finance, education and training, information systems or research in EMS systems.

##### 2.2. AIRWAY MANAGEMENT

Airway management involves any intervention or set of interventions aimed at opening, maintaining or protecting the airway in adult or paediatric patients in the pre-hospital environment.

This research focus area includes, *inter alia*:

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<sup>1</sup> Walz B, Krumpertman Z, Zigmont J. Glossary. Foundations of EMS Systems. New York: Delmar, Cengage Learning; 2011. P283-297.

- Basic descriptive research on the existing practice of pre-hospital airway management.
- Research on any aspect of education related to pre-hospital airway management.
- Research on equipment or other procedural aspects of pre-hospital airway management.
- Clinical research on the efficacy or safety of airway management interventions.
- Reviews or meta-analyses of any aspect of pre-hospital airway management.

### 2.3. CLINICAL SIMULATION

Clinical simulation can be defined as “a technique to replace real patient experiences with artificial, guided experiences that replicate substantial aspects of the real world in a fully interactive manner.”<sup>2</sup> The context of this research focus area for the Department is clinical simulation related to pre-hospital emergency care.

This research focus area includes, *inter alia*:

- Research on the practice of clinical simulation for learning purposes.
- Research on clinical simulation assessment, including the development of assessment tools and their associated validity and reliability or factors affecting these.
- Research on clinical simulation technology and equipment.

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<sup>2</sup> Bogossian F. Speaking the same language: defining simulation terms and concepts. Simulation Workshop at University of Johannesburg; April 2015