



Royal Tropical Institute

KIT Development Policy & Practice

# Netherlands Course in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

2012-2013



# Netherlands course in *Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*

The *Nederlands Tropen Cursus* (NTC) or Netherlands Course in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene provides essential preparation for health professionals such as medical doctors, nurses and midwives planning to work in low and middle income countries.

The NTC can be taken as a stand-alone course or as part of the Master in International Health (MIH). In the Netherlands, the NTC forms part of a post-graduate training programme for physicians leading to a diploma in tropical medicine. For more information, go to: [www.nvtg.org](http://www.nvtg.org)

The NTC is jointly organized by the Vrije Universiteit Medical Centre (VU) in Amsterdam, the University Hospital of the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT).

## *Objectives*

Many healthcare professionals want to contribute to health in low and middle income countries, but without proper preparation their impact in developing countries may be limited or even harmful. Knowledge of the context and of local health problems is vital. By following the NTC, participants will be able to:

- Identify and analyse interrelated determinants of health and major health problems of populations in low and middle income societies
- Plan sustainable improvements of health systems, taking into account diverse cultural settings and social and ethical responsibilities
- Critically collect, analyse and appraise qualitative and quantitative data relevant to the improvement of health and health care in low and middle income societies
- Clearly communicate and work professionally in a multidisciplinary team

## *Participants*

The course is aimed at physicians and other health professionals, such as nurses and midwives, who are planning to work in low and middle income countries or societies. They may be preparing to work at a general district hospital at the first level of referral, or are planning to participate in health care projects with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

## Programme structure

**The NTC is divided into 5 modules:**

- Introduction Module
- Determinants of Health
- Health Problems
- Basic Research Methods
- Health Systems

# *Programme*

## **Introduction Module**

This module aims to help students develop learning and communication skills needed for their studies and for their future practice and to examine cultural and international contexts.

## **Determinants of Health**

The factors that have the most significant influence on health are known as determinants of health. While health care services make a contribution to health status, most of the key determinants of health lie outside the direct influence of health care, such as gender, education, culture, employment and environment. This module aims at providing students with an overview of these determinants and with the policy tools devised to address them.

## **Health Problems**

Health care professionals need knowledge and skills to address the most important diseases and health problems occurring under resource-poor conditions. In this module, particular attention is given to the three main killer diseases: HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Sexual and reproductive health and health care for children are also discussed. Because of the poor diagnostic and therapeutic possibilities, a syndromatic approach is emphasized.

## **Basic Research Methods**

This module familiarizes students with quantitative and qualitative research methods and how to critically appraise literature. Principles of statistics, epidemiology and study design are treated here to enable students to answer questions such as: which determinants and/or risk factors of diseases are most important to address? Which intervention has the most impact? A socio-cultural perspective on health, illness and health care, medical anthropology and sociology will be used to examine questions such as why patients do or do not seek health care in time.

## **Health Systems**

Health systems in countries all over the world are facing challenges to address demographic changes like population growth, technological developments, and a more assertive demand for quality care. At the same time, many countries already have trouble achieving or maintaining access for the poor while containing costs. The emphasis in this module is on the practical implementation of health programmes and the organization of health care at district level, both public and private (NGOs).

## *Learning method*

The content of the course is oriented as much as possible to the working situation of the participants. Participants have intensive contacts with highly qualified staff who are active in the field. Methods are varied and include discussions, group work, lectures, case studies, exercises, serious gaming and self-study. Simulations and role plays are used to familiarize participants with problem-solving in cross-cultural management and planning. Reading material is prepared and distributed beforehand.

## *Study load*

The study load of the NTC course is 20 ECTS. The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) facilitates transfer of course credits between institutions at the same academic level. One ECTS requires 30 hours of student time, which includes class time and independent study.

## *Full-time or part-time study*

The full-time course takes 13 weeks. For participants who are not able to take 13 weeks off work, selected parts of the course can be followed after discussion with the course management.

## Admission criteria

- Academic training at least to the level of a bachelor's degree in medicine or any paramedical science
- Two years of relevant work experience
- Proven proficiency in spoken and written English
- Computer literacy is expected

## Graduation requirements

The NTC is assessed through one open book exam and one written assignment, covering the content of all modules.

## Application procedure

Please send the following documents:

- A completed NTC application form
- A one-page letter describing your reasons for wanting to follow the NTC
- Certified true copies of your diplomas and grade reports
- An up-to-date curriculum vitae and a list of publications if applicable
- Unless you are a native English speaker or have completed your higher education in English, enclose proof of English language proficiency in the form of the internationally recognized test TOEFL or IELTS. A minimum TOEFL score of 5.5 or a minimum IELTS score of 6.0 is required. For Dutch participants academic training is sufficient.

## Practical information

### Course dates

Two courses are offered each year.

The following dates are planned:

*12 March – 15 June 2012*

*10 Sept – 14 Dec 2012*

### Course fees

The course fee for participants registering in 2012 is € 5,960. This price includes course materials. The price does not include: *living expenses, transportation costs, insurance or any other incidental costs.*

### Location

Classes are held at KIT in Amsterdam.

### Accommodation

There is a severe shortage of student accommodation in Amsterdam and participants are advised to contact KIT for information. KIT will assist participants in their search for housing.

### Accreditation

The NTC is accredited by tropEd, a network of European institutions for higher education in international health.



### Master in International Health

The NTC can be followed as an independent course or as the start of a Master in International Health (MIH) offered at KIT and across Europe by tropEd members.

The MIH is designed to be completed within a minimum of one year (full-time) up to maximum of five years (part-time). For more information on the MIH, contact us for a course brochure or visit our website at [www.kit.nl/training](http://www.kit.nl/training).

## *Master courses at KIT*

- International Course in Health Development / Master of Public Health
- Master in International Health
- Master of Public Health - Specialization in HIV/AIDS

## *Advanced courses*

### **Global Health and Development**

- Advanced Course on Health Sector Reforms and Financing
- Control Strategies for Infectious and Non-Communicable Diseases
- Gender, Rights and Health
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Disease Control Programmes
- Governance and Human Resources for Health
- Health Systems Research
- Health Policy and Financing
- Human Resources for Health
- Implementing Quality Management in Diagnostic Laboratories
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Innovations in a Dynamic Health Systems Environment
- Sexual and Reproductive Health including HIV/AIDS

### **HIV and AIDS**

- Dynamics of the HIV and AIDS Epidemics and Effective Responses
- Health Sector Responses to HIV
- HIV Politics, Policy, Governance and Planning Mechanisms

### **Gender, Rights and Development**

- Tailor-made training
- Scheduled advanced courses

### **Sustainable Economic Development**

- Tailor-made training
- Scheduled advanced courses

## *Why study at KIT?*

- Up-to-date approach to complex public and international health issues
- Practice oriented
- Exchange between disciplines
- Interactive education
- Development of personal and professional competencies
- Network building
- Personal tutoring
- Participants from diverse backgrounds and countries
- Teachers: highly qualified specialists
- Positively reviewed by tropEd
- KIT: international centre of excellence in international health and development

## *Focus on HIV/AIDS*

*A Master of Public Health – Specialization in HIV/AIDS* is offered at KIT. For more information, visit [www.kit.nl/training](http://www.kit.nl/training).

## *WHO Collaborating Centre for HRH*

The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated KIT a collaborating centre for the training, retention and motivation of health care workers in developing countries. As such, KIT conducts research and advises countries on policy, planning and capacity development for HR management in the international health care sector.

## Contact information

**The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)  
KIT Development Policy & Practice**

**Area Education**

NTC Course Coordinator

P.O. BOX 95001

1090 HA Amsterdam

The Netherlands

**Telephone**

+31 (0)20 568 8218/8256

**Telefax**

+31 (0)20 568 8677

**E-mail**

[courses@kit.nl](mailto:courses@kit.nl)

**Website**

[www.kit.nl/training](http://www.kit.nl/training)