Netherlands Course in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

2015
Objectives
Many healthcare professionals want to contribute to health in low and middle income countries. In order to contribute meaningfully and appropriately, knowledge of the context and of local health problems is vital. By following the NTC, you 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. You may for example be preparing to work at a district hospital at the first level of referral, or you 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
Program

Introduction Module
This module aims to help you to develop learning and communication skills needed for the course and for your future practice. You will 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 you with an overview of these determinants and with the policy tools devised to address them.

Health Problems
You will 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 and 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 you 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 programs and the organization of health care at district level, both public and private (NGOs).

Learning methods
The content of the course is oriented as much as possible to the working situation of the participants. You will have intensive contacts with highly qualified staff who are active in the field. Methods are varied and you will learn through discussions, group work, lectures, case studies, exercises, serious gaming and self-study. Simulations and role plays are used to familiarize you with problem-solving in cross-cultural management and planning. Reading material is prepared and distributed beforehand. Online repositories are used for learning material; laptops and/or tablets are required.

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. If you are not able to take 13 weeks off work, selected parts of the course can be followed after discussion with the course management. It is also possible to follow one or a few selected sessions of the course.
Application procedure
The application package is due two months before the start of the course. Please upload your application online: http://application.kit.nl
The following documents should be uploaded:

- A one-page letter describing your motivation to follow the course
- 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 academic score of 6.0 or equivalent is required. It is possible to upload this information at a later moment if you have not taken this test yet. For Dutch participants academic training is sufficient. Visit our website for more extensive information: www.kit.nl/ntc

Course fees
The course fee for participants registering in 2015 is €6,080. This price includes course materials. The price does not include: living expenses, transportation costs, insurance or any other incidental costs.

Funding and financial assistance
The arrangement of financial support to cover all study costs is the responsibility of the applicant. For more information visit the KIT website: www.kit.nl/fellowships or www.grantfinder.nl.

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. For information on accommodation, visa and insurance requirements go to our website, www.kit.nl/NTC and see under practical information.

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

Practical information
Course dates
Two courses are offered each year. The following dates are planned:
9 March – 12 June 2015
14 September – 18 December 2015
7 March – 10 June 2016
Application deadline: two months before start of the course
Note: Candidates are advised to apply early as number of participants is limited and visa applications can take several months.

Master in International Health
The NTC can be followed as an independent course or you can decide to use it 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/MIH.
Master courses at KIT

- Master of Public Health/International Course in Health Development:
  - MPH - Track in Health Systems Policy and Management
  - MPH - Track in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
  - MPH - Track in HIV and AIDS
- Masters in International Health

KIT also organises a 3 months study programme:
- Netherlands Course in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Other advanced courses offered at KIT

Global Health and Development
- Towards achieving Universal Health Coverage: Advanced Course on Health Sector Reforms and Financing
- Advanced Course on Monitoring and Evaluation: Innovations in a Dynamic Health Systems Environment
- Analysing Disrupted Health Systems in countries in crisis
- Control Strategies for Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases
- Gender, Rights and Health (e-learning)
- Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Disease Control Programs
- Health Policy and Financing
- Qualitative methods in Health Systems Research
- Human Resources for Health

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights including HIV and AIDS
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights including HIV and AIDS (e-learning)
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: Organising Effective Responses

HIV and AIDS
- Analysing Dynamics of HIV and AIDS Epidemics & Prevention
- NEW: HIV: Policy, Governance and Financing (e-learning)
- Health sector responses to HIV: innovations and synergies
- NEW: Health Systems Strengthening and HIV (e-learning)

Other advanced courses

Gender, Rights and Development
- Gender, Rights and Health (e-learning)
- Tailor-made training

Sustainable Economic Development
- Tailor-made training

WHO Collaborating Centre for Human Resources for Health

The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated KIT an HRH 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.

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
- Accredited by NVAO
KIT is an expertise and knowledge centre for international and intercultural cooperation. KIT provides innovative solutions & approaches, advice, research, training & education for our clients to have more impact in health, economic, social & organisational development. Our work is evidence-based, designed for practical use and implementation.