

Admission Requirements



Eligibility

A candidate for the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Public Health should satisfy the following eligibility conditions as a prerequisite for joining the programme.

- a. *At least any one of the following qualifications*
 - i. A medical, allied health or a technical degree with atleast four years of full time formal study after 10+2, such as MBBS, B.Pharm, B.Sc Nursing, B.Tech/ BE etc. Medical degree refers to degrees recognized by the Medical Council of India. Allied health and technical degrees are those recognized by respective national councils like the Indian Nursing Council/ Indian Pharmacy Council/ AICTE etc.
 - ii. Any Graduate degree in Humanities/Physical or Social Sciences plus two years of full time study, preferably of interdisciplinary nature.
- b. *Demonstrate a special flair for interdisciplinary work either by way of a combination of study and work in more than one discipline, or a formal study in one discipline and a full time applied work in another area.*
- c. *Knowledge of elementary functions in mathematics.*
- d. *Basic skills in Personal Computing*
- e. *Academic and Business Communication skills.*
- f. *An interest and aptitude for public health.*

Admission Procedure

Application

An application for admission is included in this prospectus. A completed application form with copies of relevant certificates must be returned to the Institute on or before the notified deadline. The applications received will be screened by the Admissions Committee of the Institute. Candidates found eligible for the programme will be called for an 'entrance test' at the Institute.

Entrance Test

The entrance test has two components:

a. **A Basic Skills Test**

The basic skills test will assess the candidate's skills in the following areas.

1) *Numeracy, Basic mathematics and Statistics*

Topics covered include: basics of fractions and decimals; ratios, proportions and percentages; basic algebra; solution of simple linear equations; graphing of equations; factoring; progressions and logarithms; basic ideas of sets; inequalities; basics of probability and statistics.

2) *Academic and Business Communication*

Topics covered include: the communication process including nonverbal and verbal channels; interpretation of words and other symbols; defining the purpose of the message, analyzing the audience, establishing the main idea, and choosing the appropriate channel and medium for communication; application of standard English including accepted grammar; correct punctuation and proper sentence and paragraph construction; skills for fluent speaking; communication via electronic media; effective use of media and audiovisual aids in presentations; bibliographic search.

3) *Personal Computing*

Areas covered include: key board operations; mouse operation; printer handling; direct printing and network printing; creating files / folders; file operations; navigation; word processing; use of spread sheets; database operations; presentation graphics; Internet search skills.

b. A Personality and Public Health Orientation Test:

This will be in the form of interviews. At least two faculty members will discuss with the candidate about his/her interests, career plans, and how the proposed career path of public health will help the candidate. Faculty members will be interested to learn about the candidate's interests, and attitude towards public health research, management and policy.

The Admissions Committee may waive the requirement of appearing for the Numeracy , Basic mathematics and Statistics and /or Academic and Business Communication tests in lieu of satisfactory performance of the candidate in comparable tests. The candidate's performance in GRE, GMAT, CAT, MAT, TOEFL, IELTS or other equivalent tests may be considered for waiver of Numeracy , Basic mathematics and Statistics and/or Academic and Business Communication tests. The request for waiver and the relevant test scores should be submitted along with the application form.

Selection

Admission to the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Public Health Programme will be on the basis of the candidate's qualifications, experience and performance in the entrance test and interviews. Successful candidates will be informed of the result within two business days of last test. The teaching methodology adopted at IHS requires students to have good computing skills and good oral and written communication skills. The basic skills test is used to assess the candidate's skills in these areas. Those not successful in this test, but found otherwise eligible for admission, may be selected for admission to the programme provisionally. It is expected that such students will attend preparatory courses in the subjects prior to commencement of the programme. On successful completion of these courses they will be allowed to continue the programme.

Ajay. K. Tripathy
APH student from Orissa



As a social worker in tribal areas of Orissa and an United Nations volunteer in the Republic of Maldives, I understood the importance of public health research and management in improving health status of communities. I obtained a diploma in Community Health Management from the Christian Medical College, Vellore, and then worked for OVHA- a federation of voluntary health organisations working in the state of Orissa, eventually becoming its Executive Director. Twelve years of experience in handling important public health assignments made me realize that a formal education in public health is vital in providing better health services. However my attempts in this direction, left me disillusioned with the quality of public health training available in the country, so much so, I discontinued the Masters in Public Health course I had enrolled for and was exploring possibilities of pursuing higher education abroad. It was then that I chanced to learn about the APH programme introduced by the IHS. The wide range of research carried out by the Institute, the multidisciplinary faculty resources and the well designed and highly relevant curriculum, were reasons enough for me to apply to the programme. The high standards maintained by the Institute was evident at stage of filling up of the application itself. Appearing for the series of written tests and interviews was a valuable learning experience in itself and was helpful in making me better aware of my level of knowledge and skills. Honestly, I would never have felt disappointed if found unsuitable in the entrance test as the tests were quite genuine and transparent. The IHS is perhaps the only institution in developing world where a true multidisciplinary team works under a single roof for the cause of public health. As a student, I found that the intellectual and scientific environment of the Institute always boosts your morale for superb performance. The teaching is highly innovative and even examinations are considered as learning tools. I am grateful to the Sir Ratan Tata Trust for providing me an educational grant to pursue the APH Programme.

Registration for the Programme

All those selected for admission must register for the programme by the date notified in the academic calendar. Students who have gained financial and administrative clearance will be registered for the First Semester. Students should register for each subsequent semester to continue in the programme.

Administrative Clearance

Administrative clearance is granted to new students to register for the first semester after verification of the original certificates in support of the student's academic and professional qualifications. Students who are not in a position to produce the original certificates will be registered provisionally. It is expected that they submit the original certificates for verification before 15th January 2004, failing which their registration will be canceled. New students must produce three recent Passport Size Photographs and two sources of identification at time of registration.

- Photo Id - i.e., Driving license, Passport, Credit Card, College Photo Id, Electoral Photo Id, Photo Id issued by post office or Bank pass book with photograph. Any one of them.
- Other source - Household Ration card, Electricity / water / Telephone bills. Any one of them.

Administrative clearance is granted to continuing students to register for the remaining semesters, subject to his/ her student status and concurrence of his/her Faculty Advisor and the Programme Coordinator

Financial Clearance

Financial clearance is granted to new students to register for the programme after receipt of payment of the prescribed tuition and other relevant fees for the first semester. New students who fail to obtain financial clearance by 31 January 2004 for first semester registration, will be administratively withdrawn from the Institute of Health Systems. Details of obtaining financial clearance is provided in the "Financial Information" section of this prospectus.

On completion of registration procedures, new students will be issued an IHS-ID card, the IHS APH Handbook, and the course material packets for the courses registered in the first semester.

"Adequate operational research studies do not precede initiation of major national programmes; there are many operational problems in these programmes which are realized at the time of implementation and time is lost in rectifying these. The programme managers at various levels do not have adequate training and expertise; this has been one of the major bottlenecks in many health ...programmes and has resulted in poor implementation... Special emphasis will have to create a cadre of well trained experts as programme managers"

- *Planning Commission Steering Committee on development of human resources for health*
(Bajaj et al., 1997).