



**HZI** HELMHOLTZ  
Centre for Infection Research



Universität  
Münster



UNIVERSITÄTS  
KLINIKUM  
FREIBURG



## POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME (2025- 2026)

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH WITH FOCUS ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES EPIDEMIOLOGY) (MSPE)

#### NOZGEKA background information

University of Livingstonia and the Mzuzu University in Malawi partner with the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research (HZI), the University of Münster, and the University of Freiburg in Germany to implement the pandemic preparedness (NOZGEKA) project. NOZGEKA is an initiative funded by the German Academic Exchange Service from 2023 -2026. The project has established a Master of Science in Public Health Program with a focus on Infectious Diseases Epidemiology (MSPE). The program is implemented at the University of Livingstonia and Mzuzu University in Malawi. The program is registered by the national council of higher education in Malawi.

#### Project Rationale

Infectious diseases remain a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. New pathogens continue to emerge, causing unforeseen outbreaks leading to events like the influenza pandemic in 2009, the Zika epidemic in 2016, and the recent SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Infectious diseases epidemiology as a profession is key to ensure pandemic preparedness on a high level, however, in Malawi as in many other countries education options, expertise and capacity for infectious diseases epidemiology, both applied and theoretical, is lacking. Therefore, introduction of this postgraduate program by University of Livingstonia and Mzuzu University will help to fill the gap in Malawi, Southern African Development Community (SADC), and sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

#### MSPE program description

This Master of Science in Public Health with a focus on Infectious Diseases Epidemiology (MSPE) is a two-year postgraduate program comprising of 120 Credits. The delivery of modules will be on a block release of specified duration spread throughout the study period; the second year will focus on the research-based MSPE thesis. This program will contribute to training staff already in working broadly in the field of epidemiology and public health as well as newly graduated students into experts with international standards in infectious diseases epidemiology. After successful completion of the training program, graduates shall be qualified to perform high standard epidemiological studies and infectious diseases modelling. They will also effectively leading public health responses in times of epidemics and pandemics as well as routine endemic diseases control programs in Malawi and beyond. This postgraduate program will mainly focus on:

- fundamentals of epidemiology and biostatistics, clinical basics of communicable diseases, population health, vaccines and vaccinology,

- Advanced methods in epidemiology and statistics and designing and evaluation of interventions for infectious diseases
- Dynamics and transmissions of infectious diseases and mathematical modelling of infectious diseases dynamics
- Spatial epidemiology and geographical information systems, surveillance and outbreak management, digital tools used in infectious diseases control, climate change and infectious diseases

### Entry requirements

Eligible candidates should possess a first degree in one of the following disciplines: Medicine, Environmental health, Public Health, Epidemiology, Clinical studies, Nursing, Biomedical and Biological Sciences, Biostatistics, Social Sciences or other related studies from accredited institutions.

### Documents required for application and application process

Interested candidates should submit their complete applications as follows:

- A completed application form,
- Authenticated copies of academic qualifications,
- Authenticated academic transcripts,
- A curriculum vitae up to 3 pages,
- A motivation letter 700 - 1000 words with font sizes 11.
- Two reference letters (one academic and one professional or 2 academic references),
- A copy of national IDs for Malawians or passports copies for international applicants

### Application process and contacts

Apply online here: <https://forms.gle/BwaBtYJyxjK7c1Sf7>. During the application, name your documents as follows: **Surname Firstname MSPE Application 2025**. When you face technical problems in the application process, contact: [nozgeka@helmholtz-hzi.de](mailto:nozgeka@helmholtz-hzi.de).

### Application fees and deadlines

In addition to stated documents, applicants are required to pay a non-refundable application fee of **MK25, 000.00** for Malawians and **US\$25.00** for international applicants. No application will be evaluated without the payment of the application fees. Application deadline is **8th February, 2025**.

**Deposit application fees to the following account:**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Account Number | <b>1470000579572</b>                        |
| Account Name   | <b>UNILIA Public Health Project Account</b> |
| Bank           | <b>FDH</b>                                  |
| Branch         | <b>MZUZU</b>                                |

## Selection Process

All documents submitted for the application will be evaluated against the standard criteria. Potential candidates will be contacted for interviews. Thereafter successful candidates will be informed within February 2025.

## Tuition fee structure and payment methods

Fees will be MK2, 200,000 per year for Malawians and US\$5000 per year for international students. The tuition fees exclude stationery, research-related costs, catering and accommodation costs. Selected candidates will have to find their own accommodation and catering services. Fees may be adjusted depending on the prevailing circumstances.

## Teaching locations and modes of delivery

The mode of delivery is blended; however, main teaching locations are Laws Campus, University of Livingstonia in Rumphi and Mzuzu University in Mzuzu. Students will register for semesters 1&3 at UNILIA and semesters 2&4 at MZUNI

## Additional Information

For more details about the program, refer to the consortium website: [www.nozgeka.eu](http://www.nozgeka.eu) or contact the deans at [deanappliedsciences@unilia.ac.mw](mailto:deanappliedsciences@unilia.ac.mw) or [deanofhs@mzuni.ac.mw](mailto:deanofhs@mzuni.ac.mw) .

**NB: Classes will commence on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2025**

## Scholarships/Funding

Currently, there are no scholarships available within the consortium. As such, we encourage candidates to look for scholarships from other sources.