Health care has become one of the most complex policy areas of modern societies. The sharp increase in health care expenditures over recent decades requires difficult choices for societies and individuals alike. Health care leaders, managers, policymakers and analysts must confront complexities in the organisation, financing and regulation of health systems, nationally and internationally. Effective leadership and management, including an understanding of the economics and governance of health policy, are vital to solve the increasingly difficult issues facing the health care sector.

The multidisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Health Policy and Leadership provides a mixed-skills portfolio of leadership and management training with economics and policy analysis. To understand the complexities of health care systems, the course focuses on both theoretical insights and practical problem-solving, with an international orientation. Graduates will understand how to structure the organisation of health care systems to balance efficiency and equity, how health care organisations can cope with global health trends such as ageing and lifestyle changes, and how good management and leadership are vital to solving the array of difficult challenges facing the health care sector.

As a professional qualification, the Graduate Certificate in Health Policy and Leadership responds to growing demands by employers for multi-skilled health sector professionals. By fostering capacity in strategic health leadership, health care governance, and health economics and finance, it will up-skill those already employed in the health sector, while enhancing the value of new entrants or those seeking a career change. The multidisciplinary focus makes use of applied comparative analyses of health care systems globally and ensures that all graduates understand the economic, political and managerial context of health care policies and organisations. Graduates will be well-placed for careers in health care organisations in the private and public sector, as well as in international organisations (like the WHO, OECD, World Bank etc.), national medical associations, consultancy firms, insurance companies, medical technology agencies, hospitals, advisory boards, and government and non-government health bodies.
Unit Structure

There are four units in the Graduate Certificate in Health Policy and Leadership. They are Health Economics and Finance, Strategic Health Leadership and Management, Health Policy Governance and Financial Management Decision Making.

- Health Economics and Finance introduces students to key conceptual frameworks and principles of health care economics. It examines how both Australian and international health care systems are financed and funded.
- Strategic Health Leadership and Management is a unit designed to provide students with knowledge on leadership and managerial approaches pertaining to health care organisations.
- Health Policy Governance examines national and international health care policy from a governance perspective. Governance has become a central concept in many disciplines studying social coordination (e.g. the political sciences, public administration, management, economics and law).
- Financial Management Decision Making explores sound financial management of an organisations working capital and productive assets in order to create value and organisational agility consistent with organisational strategy.

Academics

**Dr. Katie Attwell**

is a political scientist specialising in community engagement around public health dilemmas. She has researched, designed and delivered a public health campaign, drawing upon political research to identify and values in challenging vaccine hesitancy amongst alternative-lifestyle parents. Her next project involves being Chief Investigator of a national team investigating the values and attitudes of midwives towards immunisation. In the longer term, Dr. Attwell intends to explore, as part of a collaborative research project, efforts around the globe to engage with vaccine hesitancy at the community level.

**Dr. Martin Whitely**

is a health and mental health advocate, former politician and author. While in politics he influenced Australian paediatric mental health practice, particularly Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) child prescribing practices within Western Australia. A focus of his advocacy has been exposing and reducing ‘regulatory capture’, primarily by the pharmaceutical industry of research, treatment guidelines, and prescription drug licensing and safety monitoring. He also examines ‘diagnostic creep’, the loosening of the diagnostic criteria of psychiatric disorders, potentially leading to inappropriate labeling and harmful over-medication.

**Alain St. Flour**

is the Executive Director of Finance for the North Metropolitan Health Service, Chief Finance Officer of the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Trust, and Adjunct Professor of the School of Management and Governance for Murdoch University. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (majoring in economics and financial studies) from Macquarie University, Sydney and a Masters degree in Professional Accounting from the University of Notre Dame, Perth. He is a Certified Practicing Accountant, a Fellow of the College of Health Service Managers and an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. He also spent four years consulting as a financial adviser to AUSAID working on health sector reform projects in the pacific including the Kingdom of Tonga and the Republic of Nauru.

**Dr. Xiaohui Zhang**

is a lecturer in economics in the School of Management and Governance, Murdoch University. Coming from a mathematics background, she obtained her PhD in Health Economics and Econometrics from Monash University in 2009. Before joining Murdoch University in 2013, she was working at Monash University as a research fellow. One of her major research areas is health Economics including individual health status, health services utilisation, private health insurance purchasing decision, chronic diseases, childhood obesity and hospital performance. She also has expertise in econometrics and business statistics.

Fees


Want to know more?

Enrolments open soon for 2015.
To register your interest, please contact Dr Francesco Paolucci on (08) 9360 7237 or email f.paolucci@murdoch.edu.au

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The information contained in this publication was correct as at September 2014, but is subject to amendment without notice. The University reserves the right to cancel, without notice, any units or courses if the number of students enrolled in these falls below limits set by the University.

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