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## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE

The International Health Research Institute (IHRI) is committed to a student-centred and transparent admissions process. We welcome applications from diverse backgrounds and strive to provide clear and predictable admission criteria. This policy outlines the procedures and criteria for admission to IHRI's academic programs.

### Direct Entry

All admissions to IHRI's academic programs are direct entry. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is not available for Level 7 (Master's) and Level 8 (Doctoral) programs.

### Application Process

Online Application: Prospective students apply online through the IHRI Admissions Portal.

Required Documentation: Applicants must upload the following documents:

- Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC) Statement of Comparability or Equivalency
  - Or a copy of their highest qualification and transcript.
- Evidence of English language proficiency, as detailed in Section 5 of this policy.
- Summary of Resume/Curriculum Vitae.

- A short statement on research interests or topics.

## Selection Process

Applications are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Meeting Entry Requirements: Applicants must fulfil the specific entry requirements for their chosen program.
- Verification of Qualifications: Prior degree certifications are verified through the MQRIC (Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre) process. Applicants must provide a Statement of Comparability or Equivalency issued by the Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC).
- Suitability and Motivation: An interview assesses the applicant's suitability for the program and their motivation for pursuing it.

## Entry-Level Requirements

Level 7 Master's Courses:

- Academic Entry Requirement: An appropriate MQF/EQF Level 6 degree or equivalent and three years of work experience.
- Basic digital competencies to work with the institution's digital learning platform.

## Level 8 Doctoral Degree Courses:

- Academic Entry Requirement: A relevant MQF/EQF Level 7 degree or equivalent, with a minimum of 5 years of work experience in an allied health area or other professional fields at a mid-to-senior level. Interview with the course coordinator or nominee.
- Non-native English-speaking applicants: An IELTS score of 6 or higher (exemptions may be available for specific qualifications).
- Basic digital competencies.

## Admission Decision

**Acceptance:** Candidates who meet all criteria will receive an official offer letter. To secure their place, they must formally accept and submit a non-refundable registration fee.

**Rejection:** Applications may be rejected for the following reasons:

- Not meeting the entry requirements for the chosen program.
- Failure to provide valid or verifiable documentation.
- Unsuitability for the program based on the interview assessment (see Section 7).
- Insufficient capacity in the program.

**Conditional:**

**Waitlist:** In cases where a candidate meets the admission criteria but the program is at full capacity, they may be placed on a waitlist.

- Notification: Applicants will be formally notified of their waitlist status.

- Process: Waitlisted candidates will be contacted if a place becomes available. Offers are made based on the order of the waitlist.
- Timeframe: A candidate offered a place from the waitlist will be given a specific timeframe to accept the offer.
- No Guarantee: Placement on the waitlist does not guarantee an admission offer.

## Interview-Based Rejection Criteria

Rejection based on the interview assessment may be due to one or more of the following:

- Lack of Alignment with Program Goals: The applicant's goals and motivations do not align with the program's outcomes or the institute's mission.
- Insufficient Academic Preparedness: Despite meeting formal requirements, the applicant lacks the foundational knowledge or critical thinking skills for the program.
- Inadequate Communication Skills: The applicant struggles to articulate their thoughts, engage in academic discourse, or communicate effectively.
- Unprofessional Conduct: The applicant exhibits unprofessional behaviour during the interview.
- Lack of Commitment or Motivation: The applicant appears disengaged, uninterested, or lacking in the necessary motivation and commitment.
- Ethical Concerns: The applicant expresses views or experiences that raise ethical concerns regarding their suitability for research or professional practice.
- Poor Fit with Learning Environment: The applicant's learning style, personality, or expectations are incompatible with IHRI's online, collaborative, and research-intensive environment.

## Transparency and Communication

- Published Criteria: The interview-based rejection criteria are published on the IHRI website and in application materials.
- Specific Feedback: Applicants rejected based on the interview receive specific and constructive feedback.
- Interviewer Training: Interviewers are trained on the criteria and apply them consistently and fairly.
- Documentation: Clear records of interview assessments, including justifications for rejection, are maintained.
- Communication: Throughout the admissions process, applicants receive clear communication regarding program details, payment procedures, and enrollment.

## Appealing an Admission Decision

**Right to Appeal:** Applicants denied admission have the right to appeal the decision in writing to Student Services within 10 working days.

**Appeal Content:** The appeal must include applicant information and clear grounds for appeal (new information, extenuating circumstances, or procedural concerns).

## Appeal Process

As set out in the Student Complaint and Procedures.

## Commitment to Fairness and Equity

IHRI is committed to ensuring that all applicants are treated fairly and that admissions decisions are based on a comprehensive and equitable evaluation process.