



University of Adelaide, Department of Public Health

12-Day Intensive Course in Occupational and Environmental Health for Military Health Personnel

Background

The University of Adelaide, through the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health, offers a 12-day intensive introductory course in Occupational and Environmental Health (OEH) for military health personnel.

This course is pitched at the postgraduate level and is equivalent to the University of Adelaide Master of Public Health course *7113HO Environmental and Occupational Health*, which is also a core course in the University of Queensland MPH (Defence).

The course is held every year at the RAAF Base, Edinburgh in Adelaide, South Australia, commencing in mid August. Accommodation is at the Messes at RAAF Base Edinburgh and will be arranged for you following successful nomination.

Assumed Prior Knowledge and English Language Proficiency

There are no formal academic prerequisites. However, participants would benefit from some background reading in toxicology and epidemiology.

For international students, the required minimum English language proficiency corresponds to an overall IELTS score of 6.5, and a minimum of 6.0 in each category.

Aims of Course

Using a variety of scenarios relevant to military personnel, the course aims to:

- (1) Introduce a range of environmental factors which may pose a risk to the health of military populations
- (2) Introduce risk assessment methods for evaluating and controlling such risks
- (3) Discuss a variety of diseases associated with exposure to common Military occupational and environmental factors, and approaches to investigating the work-relatedness of disease
- (4) To briefly introduce the historical, legislative and administrative aspects of occupational and environmental health and its implications for the ADF.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the nature of environmental hazards, and the ways in which they impinge upon the ADF, communities and occupational groups.
2. Outline the types of factors that influence the distribution of health disorders, within an exposed population.
3. Explain "Risk" as a central concept in describing, evaluating and managing OEH problems.
4. Describe the role of key research disciplines (including epidemiology, toxicology, environmental measurement, and occupational hygiene) in addressing the study and management of these problems.

Alignment with Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine Competencies:

Clinical: 1.1(c); 1.2(a); 1.2(c), 1.2(e); 1.3(c)
Workplace Assessments: 2.2.1; 2.2.2;
Critical Appraisal of OHS Information: 3.2.1; 3.2.3(b)
Legislation and Medico-Legal: 7.2 (a-e)
Environment: 9.2(c)

Course Structure:

First week – occupational health and safety

Second week – environmental health

The mornings are usually dedicated to lectures, while the afternoons generally comprise field visits, tutorials, case studies or group project work.

Topics Covered:

OHS Hazard Management; Disease Causation; OHS Legislation; Hazardous Substances; Health Surveillance; Musculoskeletal Disorders and Injury Management, Occupational Stress and PTSD; Occupational Respiratory Disease; Heat Stress; Noise Management; Critical Appraisal of OEH Literature; Ionising and Non-Ionising Radiation; Hazard Controls (Engineering controls, PPE);

Environmental Health Risk Assessment; Air, Water and Food Quality; Waste Management; Infectious Disease; Outbreak Investigation; Global Environmental Health; Emerging ADF OEH Issues; OEH Service Models; Risk Communication.

Environmental Health Projects: (Three groups)

In the second week, students participate in group work, applying the *EnHealth* environmental health risk assessment framework to a case study.

Assessment:

Short answer and multiple choice written examination; Oral presentation of EH risk assessment project; Tutorial assignments.

RAAF member's enrolment:

This course is centrally funded for RAAF, so members wishing to complete the course are to gain permission from their CO's and then be nominated on PMKEYS using the course number below.

Army and Navy member's enrolment:

Army and Navy do not centrally fund this course. Members wishing to complete the course will need to source funding through your unit for cost of course (**\$1550**) plus travel etc. Once you have obtained written funding approval, contact the Adelaide liaison and she will arrange nomination on pmkeys.

Civilian Enrolment:

Contact Department of Public Health as per below.

Course PMKeys number: 201307

Dates: TBA

Contacts: For more information please contact Adelaide Liaison on 08 8303 6962 or at michel.devine@adelaide.edu.au, or the Postgraduate Secretary, Department of Public Health, University of Adelaide. Phone: (08) 8303 4637 or fax (08) 8303 6885. Email: publichealth@adelaide.edu.au

N.B. On online version of the course is also available. It is offered over a three month period, commencing in late February each year. For further details, please contact the Department of Public Health, as above.