



## POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME (2026- 2027)

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

#### NOZGEKA background information

University of Livingstonia and 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, the introduction of this postgraduate program by the University of Livingstonia and Mzuzu University will help to fill the gap in Malawi, the 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 disease modelling. They will also effectively lead 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 the application and the 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 (Max. 3 pages),
- A short motivation letter (Max. 700 words excluding addresses and signatures, with font size 12).
- Two reference letters (one academic and one professional or 2 academic references),
- For those employed, a letter of release from the human resources department. Must include active contact details e.g. emails and phone.
- A copy of national IDs for Malawians or passport copies for international applicants

## Application process and contacts

Apply online using this link: <https://forms.gle/1c6oyucJFkrpHH2Z6>. During the application, name your documents as follows: **Surname Firstname MSPE Application 2025**. When you encounter technical issues during the application process, please contact nozeka@helmholtz-hzi.de, and alternatively, you may send your application to:

*The University Registrar,  
Mzuzu University,  
Private Bag 201,  
Luwinga, Mzuzu 2*

## Application fees and deadlines

In addition to stated documents, applicants are required to pay a non-refundable application fee of **MK30, 000.00** for Malawians and **US\$60.00** for international applicants.

No application will be evaluated without the payment of the application fees. Application deadline is **31<sup>st</sup> January 2026**.

**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 in February 2026.

## **Tuition fee structure and payment methods**

Fees will be **MK3, 008,000.00** per year for Malawians and **US\$3,333.00** 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. Candidates are advised to budget for an estimated amount of **MK410,000.00, or US\$450. 00** per academic year for books and stationery requirements.

**NOTE: Fees are subject to change from time to time.**

## **Teaching locations and modes of delivery**

The mode of delivery is blended; however, the main teaching locations are Laws Campus, University of Livingstonia in Rumphi, and Mzuzu University in Mzuzu. Students for 2026/ 2027 will register at Mzuzu University.

## **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 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2026**

## **Scholarships/Funding**

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