

**INFORMATION BOOKLET
OF
MD/MS PROGRAM**



***Patan Academy of Health Sciences
School of Medicine
(PAHS-SOM)
Lalitpur, Nepal***

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PAHS MISSION STATEMENT

Patan Academy of Health Sciences is dedicated to sustained improvement of the health of the people in Nepal, especially those who are poor and living in rural areas, through innovation, equity, excellence and love in education, service and research.

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1. Introduction

Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) is a public, autonomous, not-for-profit, Health Science University established in 2064 B.S. (2008 A.D.) with the charter granted by the Parliament of Nepal. PAHS aims to work in close partnership with the National Health System to improve the health care services in the remote/rural areas through producing technically competent and socially responsible health care personnel, facilitating their deployment in the underserved rural areas and providing the needed technical and professional support while they work there.

In order to achieve this goal, PAHS School of Medicine has adopted innovative strategies in medical education, especially in areas such as student selection, curriculum, teaching-learning methodology, student assessment, faculty recruitment and community engagement. PAHS Undergraduate and Post Graduate curriculum focus on holistic care of the individual and community.

By helping acquire the required competencies and instilling values of social responsibility in its graduates, PAHS intends to inspire/motivate and enable them to become health care providers in the challenging settings of rural Nepal, as well as to become future leaders of Nepal's health care system.

PAHS School of Medicine runs the Post Graduate training at Patan Hospital, the tertiary care institution, upon which PAHS is founded and which provides a natural ambience for learning holistic and compassionate care. Its history of more than 25 years (more than 50 years if one takes into account its mother institution Shanta Bhawan) with an enormous trust that the general public places on it, provides the very basis for this.

PAHS has built a rich network with prestigious academic and medical education leaders in many universities around the world so as to learn and benefit from the national as well as international experiences and best practices for the proper development, effective implementation

and the continuous improvement of the quality of its academic programs.

The clinical Post Graduate program at PAHS is sponsored by Ministry of Health, which supports the tuition fee and subsistence allowance. Upon graduation the candidate will have to work for a defined period as designated by the ministry.

2. Overview of PAHS MD/MS Curriculum

The total duration of PAHS MD/MS curriculum is three years. PAHS has opted for a competency based curriculum for its MD/MS program.

Most of the training/residency will be at Patan Hospital. During the training period, the trainee may have one or more short clinical postings at other hospitals/institutes for sub-specialty exposure as per the need of respective disciplines. They will also be posted to Community/Peripheral Health Facility of the Distributive Learning Sites of PAHS.

As the competency based Post Graduate training program requires demonstration and documentation of the competencies defined under each discipline, assessment of the trainees will be continuous, throughout the training period and the formative assessments will be given significant value in the overall evaluation.

The resident will have to be certified **competent** in the predefined discipline specific Clinical and Procedural skill **EPAs (Entrustable Professional Activities)** to be eligible to sit in the final summative examination.

Before the final exam, in addition to the EPAs, the resident also has to be certified in each of the eight Core Competencies of PAHS PG curriculum listed below:

- Professionalism
- Patient centered care
- Procedural skills

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- Clinical Reasoning
 - Communication
 - Scholarship
 - Leadership
 - Community orientation

Thesis writing is a mandatory requirement for the MD/MS trainee and the trainee is also required to produce a publishable article from the thesis.

3. Teaching-Learning Methods

Teaching-Learning methods applied at PAHS School of Medicine for MD/MS program are as follows:

- Small group discussions
- Case Presentation and Case based Discussion
- Seminars/Lectures/Journal club
- Core content review
- Ward based teachings
- Ward work/ward rounds
- Outpatient clinic exposures
- Skill teaching/Practical sessions/Demonstrations
- Procedural skill teaching
- Operation theater exposures
- Clinico-radiological and clinico-pathological meetings
- Clinical audits/Quality Improvement projects

4. Student Assessment Scheme

The principle of '**Assessment drives learning**' has been the fundamental premise for developing the student assessment scheme. Students will be assessed not only in the area of knowledge and skills but also in the areas of attitudes/behavior and professionalism. Students will be subjected to and are required to do well in the Formative as well as Summative Assessments.

Formative/Continuous Assessments: There will be formative/continuous assessments to assess the mastery of both content (knowledge and skills) and the process (learning process and development of professional values and behaviors). It will be done on a regular basis to provide both the students and the faculty with appropriate and timely feedback regarding their academic performance. This will not only help them identify their deficiencies but also prompt them to take corrective measures on time.

Comprehensive Summative Examinations: There will be two Annual exams and the Final exam at the end of 3rd year. All three exams will have Theory and Practical exams. The Internal assessment marks (marks from the continuous assessment) will have significant weightage and the marks obtained in the first and second year annual exams will contribute to a significant proportion in the final total aggregate marks. There will be marks allocated for thesis work, thesis presentation and defense, and for producing a publishable article.

If the resident fails to be certified competent in the EPAs and/or remain unsatisfactory in any of the eight Core Competencies, he/she will not be eligible to sit for the final exam at the end of third year and has to continue the residency till he/she will be certified competent.

It is the responsibility of the resident to get his/her EPA and core competencies certified in due time.

If resident is already certified for the EPAs and Core Competencies but fails the final exam, he/she need not continue the residency and can only appear in the exam.

5. Teaching Facilities, Teaching Hospitals and Training Sites

Besides the usual classrooms, a well-resourced library, e-resource center with computers, internet facilities and well equipped laboratories will be available to students. In addition, adequate rooms

will be available for the purpose of running the small group learning tutorial sessions.

Patan Hospital is the principal teaching hospital of PAHS. PAHS has also been building partnership with other hospitals, Ministry of Health, local bodies and communities in selecting appropriate training sites for distributive learning. PAHS now has four hospitals as the distributive teaching sites: District Hospital Gorkha, Aampipal Hospital, District Hospital Tamghas, Gulmi and Hetauda Hospital.

6. Eligibility Criteria

- The applicant must be a Nepalese Citizen.
- The applicant should not have exceeded fifty years of age on the last date of submission of application.
- The applicant must have passed MBBS or equivalent from institutions recognized by Nepal Medical Council.
- The applicant should have permanent/temporary registration from Nepal Medical Council. Any candidate whose council registration is currently under suspension will not be eligible for application.
- The applicant must have completed one year of service in a recognized health institution by the last date of submission of application.
- The applicant who has completed MBBS or equivalent studies under scholarship/sponsorship must have completed mandatory obligation/service bond under the scholarship/sponsorship agreement.

Note:

- Candidates currently working in any health facility/institute should have 'No Objection Letter' from their respective institutes.

7. Number and Types of Seats

The number of seats in each discipline will be notified later on the PAHS website following the decision from the regulatory authority.

Reservation: There will be reserved seats as stipulated by the PAHS Act.

Ten percent of seats have been reserved for those who are permanent resident of 'village' (Gaunpalika) and have studied grade 8,9,10 and passed SLC/SEE from 'public school' and belong to any of the following categories: Female, Dalit, Adibashi/Janajati, Madhesi or Permanent resident of *Backward region.

The remaining 90% seats will be of open category.

The applicant in the reservation category will have to meet the minimum standard set by PAHS in the entrance exam, failing which the seat will be awarded to the candidate in the open category on the merit basis.

8. Scholarship/Subsistence Allowance and Mandatory Service Obligation

All the selected candidates for MD/MS program will be provided with a subsistence allowance (stipend) for **3 academic years only**. If required competencies are not met, the training period beyond three years will not be remunerated. The allowance will be subject to tax deduction as per the government rules/regulations.

After the completion of training, all the candidates will have to work for a defined period of time as a mandatory service obligation at designated health facility as per the regulation of Ministry of Health.

9. Student Selection Process

Entrance Exam:

The selection process employs written test consisting of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and Situational Judgment Tests (SJTs).

MCQs: There will be MCQs based on the undergraduate medical curriculum and this test aims at assessing the candidate's core medical knowledge.

SJTs: Situational Judgment Tests are Aptitude tests used to assess individual's reaction to a number of hypothetical scenarios. The content of SJTs reflects the work, education or training related situations. The test has been shown to predict performances across a range of medical professionals and medical student admission. It has added value (incremental validity) over other selection methods.

Result Processing:

The applicants should obtain minimum of 50% score in both Paper I (MCQ) and Paper II (SJT) separately, to pass the entrance examination. Preferential marks will be given to candidates, working in the Government Health system, who have passed the entrance exam. Based on the scores of the written exam and the additional preferential scores (as per number of years worked and Human Development Index-HDI of the work place), a merit list (**Master List**) will be prepared. Also a separate list of successful candidates under reservation category will be prepared.

The result will be prepared based on the total scores. The result processing will be as follows:

- I. A merit list, of all the applicants who have passed, will be prepared (**Master list**).
- II. Candidates for the 90% of the total seat will be selected from this Merit list.

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- III. For the remaining 10% (Reservation) seats, the highest ranking candidates from the list of applicants under reservation category, excluding the candidates who have already been selected as above (Refer to II), will be selected.
 - IV. The list of successful candidates combining II and III, equal to the number of total seats, will be prepared.

If none of the applicants in the reserved category meet the minimal standard set by PAHS in the entrance exam or if there is no eligible applicant from this category, such seat will go to the best candidate among the open/general category.

Tie:

In the event that there is a tie in the total score, the aggregate percentage in the MBBS or equivalent will be taken as a deciding factor. In case of second tie, the MCQ score in entrance test and in case of third tie, SJT score in entrance test will be taken respectively as the deciding factors.

10. Counseling and Subject allocation

The qualified candidates will be called for open house counseling followed by individual counseling. Seats in different subjects will be allocated based on the preference of the students in the list, in the order of merit.

The first list will include top ranking candidates equal to the number of seats, which will be inclusive of 10% candidates from reservation category.

If any seats remain vacant, during the process of counseling and seat allocation, the seats will be allotted to the remaining applicants on merit basis. If the reservation seats remain vacant, the candidate from the reservation category will be called based on the merit list. In case the seats in open category remain vacant, the candidate from the **Master list** will be called.

The candidates must be physically present at the time of counseling.

11. Admission Process

The successful applicants will have to complete the admission process within the officially announced time frame. Failure to do so will automatically lead to cancellation of the seat for the candidate.

Subsequent Counseling

If there are any seats which have not been filled at the end of the date announced, applicants will be called for subsequent counseling according to the merit.

The decision of the Admission Committee will be final.

At the time of admission, the selected candidates must bring the original copies of the following documents and failure to do so will result in cancellation of admission process.

- Citizenship certificate
- Mark Sheet of SLC/SEE or equivalent
- Mark Sheet/ Transcript of 10+2 or equivalent
- Transcript and Certificate of MBBS or equivalent
- Internship completion Certificate
- Migration Certificate
- Nepal Medical Council Registration Certificate (Temporary/Permanent)
- Certificate of work experience (post Internship)
- Leave approval letter from Ministry of Health for permanent Government employee
- No objection letter from currently working institute
- For candidates under reservation category, the original copies of submitted additional mandatory documents

12. Fee Structure

Candidates selected for admission into the MD/MS program at PAHS do not have to pay the Tuition fee. They are required to pay the following fees (Table 1) within the given timeframe.

Students and their guardians are requested to deposit all the fees within the given timeframe. There will be a late fee charge of Rs. 150/day if the dues are not cleared within the given timeframe.

Table 1: Fees to be paid by the selected candidates

Registration Fee	Rs. 40,000 (one time)
Nepal Medical Council Fee	Rs. 8,000 (one time)
Thesis Evaluation	Rs. 30,000 (one time)
Deposit (refundable)	Rs. 20,000 (one time)
Library Fee	Rs. 10,000 (per annum)
Examination Fee	Rs. 30,000 (per annum)
Examination Fee for Supplementary Exam (in case of failure)	Rs. 20,000 (per attempt)
Health Insurance Fee	Rs. 3,000 (per annum)

13. Mandatory Service Obligation

All candidates who have been selected for MD/MS will have their tuition fee waived. They will have to sign a written agreement agreeing to fulfill the required mandatory service obligation before they are admitted into the program. Parents/guardians of these candidates will also be required to be present for endorsing the bond. Under no circumstances will any candidate be exempted from this obligation. PAHS Act mandates the provision of withholding candidates' final certificate till the obligation has been fulfilled.

14. Examination Centre

The entrance examination will be held in Kathmandu. The Center will be notified at the time of distribution of Admission Card.

15. How to Apply

Applicants should buy the Application Form from PAHS Admission Information Desk with a bank voucher for Rs. 500 from any branch of Laxmi Bank or Agricultural Development Bank. **The bank account number for PAHS is 00181040000455 (Laxmi Bank) and 0211600180090014 (Agricultural Development Bank).** The form should be submitted at PAHS with a bank voucher of Rs. 4,500 as Examination Fee from the bank mentioned above.

Early submission is advised to allow adequate time required for rectification of any shortcomings in the form or timely submission of required documents.

Applicants will be informed of the dates of distribution of the Admit card required for sitting in the entrance exam during registration. Applicants will be informed of dates of the entrance exam and exam center at the time of distribution of Admit card.

PAHS Admission Committee reserves the right to disqualify forms which are improperly or incompletely filled or if the required documents are missing. Hence, candidates are strongly advised to read the instructions for filling the application form carefully and do a thorough check to ensure that all fields on the application form are filled properly and all required documents have been submitted along with it.

16. Health Checkup

All students need to fill a 'Self Declaration form of Health Status', provided by PAHS at the time of admission. The information will be kept confidential. The Students will have to undergo a health

examination at Patan Hospital upon their selection. They will have to pay the general health check-up fee for this. Their personal health files will be created, and remedial measures will be taken if needed. The students need to be immunized against Hepatitis B and the evidence of such should be presented at the time of medical check up.

17. Sample SJT

Part 1

You have just completed your MBBS exam and are flying to Bangkok for a holiday. On the flight, a passenger collapses and the flight attendant asks for a doctor. You have never attended a sick patient, independently before.

Rank in order the following actions in response to this situation (1= Most appropriate; 5= Least appropriate).

- A. You will keep quiet
- B. You will tell the flight attendant that you are not confident seeing the patient
- C. You will assess the patient
- D. You will ask the pilot for emergency landing
- E. You will ask if there is any other doctor on board

	1	2	3	4	5
A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Disclaimer: The above examples are only for demonstration and the answers are not necessarily correct)

Part 2

You have just completed your MBBS exam and are travelling on a ship for a holiday. On the ship, a passenger collapses and the attendant asks for a doctor. You have never attended to a sick patient, independently before.

Choose the **THREE most appropriate** actions to take in this situation

- A. You keep quiet
- B. You tell the attendant that you are not confident seeing the patient
- C. You assess the patient
- D. You ask the Captain to call for an air ambulance
- E. You ask if there is any other doctor on board
- F. You decline to attend as you are on a holiday
- G. You telephone your consultant for advice

A B C D E F G



(Disclaimer: The above examples are only for demonstration and the answers are not necessarily correct)

References:

1. ***Backward region** is defined as following districts Humla, Jumla, Mugu, Dolpa, Kalikot, Achham, Bajhang, Bajura, Jajarkot. (Sambhidhan Sabha Sadasya Nirwachan Ain 2064 and Sambhidhan Sabha Sadasya Nirwachan Niayamawali, 2064,dapha 7,updapha (3) anasuchi-1)
2. **HDI** will be as per the latest document published by National Planning Commission/UNDP.

Good Luck!



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