

HOW DO I BECOME A GENETIC COUNSELOR?

You have to complete a postgraduate MSc degree in genetic counselling (course work and dissertation masters degree offered at UCT division of Human Genetics and Division Human Genetics at WITS and the NHLS) followed by an additional year internship at an accredited training facility.

You can apply for the MSc course in genetic counselling with an Honours degree (4 year degree) in human genetics or with qualifications and experience in allied health fields such as Social Work, Nursing or Psychology with a basic knowledge of genetics. Some students may be required to complete a pre-learning programme and write an entry examination.

You must be good at dealing with people and helping them through difficult times; you must be a good listener and be able to explain complicated and abstract medical concepts to lay persons at all levels.

You must be empathic and be able to cope with the stress of helping patients deal with their emotions and reactions to being told they (or their child) have a serious condition.

CONTACT DETAILS:



Johannesburg

Division of Human Genetics

WITS and NHLS

Tel: 011 489 9224

Fax: 011 489 9226

E-mail: human.genetics@nhls.ac.za



Cape Town

Division of Human Genetics

UCT

Tel: 021 406 6297

Fax: 021 406 6826

