

Afe Babalola Centre for Transnational Education at King's College London

Foundation Certificate in Applied Health

Online, Full-time



Key information – inaugural cohort:

Study mode: 100% online
Duration: 1 year, full-time
Start date: 14 September 2026
Application deadline: 15th May 2026
Tuition fees: 100% fee waiver for successful applicants

Course overview

The Foundation Certificate in Applied Health is an innovative online programme designed to open doors to higher education and health-related careers for talented and motivated young people across Sub-Saharan Africa. Co-created by the Afe Babalola Centre for Transnational Education at King's College London, in partnership with leading African universities, community organisations and government bodies, the programme provides an accessible and supportive pathway for learners who have strong school results but face barriers to direct entry into university.

Delivered entirely online and optimised for mobile access, the programme combines academic rigour with flexibility and care. Through interactive learning activities, real-world case studies and collaborative projects grounded in African health contexts, you will develop the subject knowledge, study skills and confidence needed to succeed in higher education. Alongside core academic content, you will be supported to build your independence, resilience and a strong sense of purpose as you prepare to make a positive contribution to your community and the world.

Why choose this online Foundation Certificate?



Designed with African partners, for learners like you

Developed in collaboration with universities, regulators and health experts across Sub-Saharan Africa, ensuring that what you study is relevant to your ambitions and the challenges facing your community



Accessible, flexible and mobile-first

You will study 100% online through a platform designed to work on mobile devices and low bandwidth, giving you the freedom to balance your studies with family, work and community commitments



Strong foundation for higher education and health careers

You will build essential knowledge in science, maths and academic English, alongside critical thinking and study skills that prepare you for university-level study and future careers in health



Supportive and student-centred

You will benefit from small-group teaching, personal tutoring and regular feedback, helping you stay motivated, build confidence and succeed in an online learning environment

Delivered across multiple African contexts, this programme brings together students from across the continent. You will learn, collaborate and exchange ideas with peers from different countries. This creates a rich, transnational learning community that reflects realities across the continent and provide a contextualised and diverse experience.

What can you do next with a Foundation Certificate?

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The Foundation Certificate in Applied Health is designed to support your journey into higher education and health-related education and employment pathways across Sub-Saharan Africa. Successful completion of the programme will demonstrate that you have the academic knowledge, study skills and readiness required for further study at undergraduate level. You will be equipped with practical health knowledge and skills that will make you ready to be employed and able to address primary health challenges at the grassroots level. You may also choose to pursue further technical education. Progression rules will vary by country and institution.

Please note: Progression is subject to successful completion of the Foundation Certificate, meeting specific grade requirements, and the admissions criteria of the receiving institution. The Afe Babalola Centre works closely with partner universities and government & regulatory bodies to strengthen and expand progression pathways over time.

About the Afe Babalola Centre for Transnational Education

Established in 2023, the Afe Babalola Centre enables King's and its network of partners to provide young Africans with access to education and opportunities which they would otherwise not have. The vision for the Centre is based on the power of education to empower and enable Africa's talented young people to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the world.

Funded by the Nigerian philanthropist and lawyer, Aare Afe Babalola, the Centre is supporting Africa's best minds to become local, national and global leaders. The Centre is home to a sustainable programme of global education and collaboration to share best practice, develop new approaches to learning, and benefit generations to come.

[Find out more about Aare Afe Babalola and the Centre's story.](#)

What you will study

This forward-thinking Foundation Certificate gives you a carefully structured introduction to applied health, combining core academic subjects with practical skills and real-world application. The programme is made up of eight compulsory modules (125 UK credits in total), culminating in a capstone project focused on innovation in community healthcare.

You will study:

1. **Study Skills:** This short induction module will prepare you for successful online study. It introduces essential study skills and practices you will need to succeed in an online learning environment. You will learn how to navigate the virtual learning environment, access course materials, communicate with tutors, and submit your assignments. The module will also guide you to develop strategies for managing your time and planning your studies effectively, both independently and in collaboration with peers.
2. **English for Scientific Academic Purposes:** This module will support you to develop the academic English skills required for further study in the health sciences. It introduces the language, skills, and academic literacies that will help you succeed both in the foundation programme and in future undergraduate or diploma courses, as well as in your professional life. You will build your competence in the four core language skills (namely reading, writing, listening, and speaking) through integrated activities that focus on scientific and health-related contexts.
3. **Maths and Data Analysis:** This module explores fundamental principles of algebra and functions, basic calculus concepts, introductory trigonometry, probability and statistics, and focuses on their practical application in health sciences contexts relevant to African communities. The module is delivered through a combination of guided instruction and structured problem-solving activities. These will support you to develop your understanding of key mathematical and statistical concepts so that you are able to apply established techniques and discuss them in familiar health contexts.
4. **Biology:** The biology module introduces you to the foundations of life sciences that underpin health and medical studies. You will explore key topics such as cell structure, human anatomy and physiology, genetics, immunology and microbiology, with a focus on how these systems work together to support health. Through interactive learning activities and guided simulations, you will develop your understanding of biological processes and begin to interpret simple experimental results. The module helps you build scientific vocabulary and confidence, while encouraging you to think critically about how biology relates to health challenges in real-world and African contexts.

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5. **Physics and Chemistry:** This module introduces you to essential physics and chemistry concepts that support understanding in life and medical sciences. You will explore topics such as motion, energy, waves, electricity and radiation, alongside core chemistry principles including atomic structure, chemical bonding and basic organic chemistry. You will learn how these concepts explain biological systems and medical technologies, and practise applying them to familiar and practical situations. The module is designed to build your confidence in problem-solving, interpreting graphs and explaining scientific ideas clearly, providing a strong foundation for future health-related study.
6. **Applied Critical Thinking:** This module encourages you to use evidence and reasoning to make sense of complex issues that affect communities and societies. Throughout the module, you will be challenged to move beyond surface learning by analysing and evaluating information, data and case studies through structured critical thinking frameworks. The emphasis is on questioning assumptions, weighing evidence, and developing reasoned arguments that demonstrate clarity, rigour and creativity.
7. **Applied Health Sciences:** This module introduces you to the core ideas of public health, health promotion and community wellbeing. You will explore how social, cultural and economic factors influence health outcomes, and examine major health challenges facing communities across Sub-Saharan Africa. Through case studies and discussions, you will consider the role of individuals, communities and policies in promoting health and preventing illness. The module encourages you to reflect on values, citizenship and responsibility, helping you understand how applied health knowledge can be used to support positive change in your local context.
8. **Innovation in Community Healthcare (Capstone):** The capstone module gives you the opportunity to bring everything you have learned together by working on a real health-related challenge from your own community. You will identify a local issue, explore existing approaches to addressing it, and design a simple, realistic and culturally relevant health intervention. You will be supported to develop basic project design, communication and reflection skills, producing both a written project and a reflective account of your learning. This module helps you build confidence as a problem-solver and active citizen, while demonstrating your readiness to progress to higher education or health-related pathways.

Alongside the core curriculum, you will also be able to access optional, complementary skills-based short courses to help you develop digital, employability and entrepreneurial capabilities.

How you'll be assessed

Assessment on the Foundation Certificate in Applied Health is designed to support your learning, build your confidence and help you demonstrate your progress in different ways. You will be assessed through a combination of:



Written course work

Including essays, case studies, reflective assignments and a project proposal and a final Capstone Project that brings together learning from across the programme and responds to a real applied health challenge/issue in specific contexts.



Presentations and posters

Enabling you to communicate ideas visually and orally



Written and timed online exams

To assess your knowledge in key scientific subjects

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Entry requirements & selection criteria

Candidates will be assessed against these criteria at each step of the application process to ensure consistency and fairness.

Eligibility Criteria (Essential)	
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18-25 years (Verified via ID, transcript or school leaving certificate)
English language requirements	<p>You hold one of the following qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nigerian West African Senior School Certificate WAEC: C6 or above Nigerian Senior School Certificate Examination NECO: C6 or above Ghana West African Senior School Certificate WASSCE: C6 or above Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education KCSE: C or above South African National Senior Certificate NSC: 4 or above
Academic requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic requirements: 5 O'Level Credits (equivalent to GCSE in UK context) or above, in English, maths, biology, chemistry and physics (for Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya) and in English, maths, life science, physical science and any other subject (for South Africa) You will be required to provide verified copies of your official Transcript or Certificate stating your formal grade at the moment of application Results from more than one sitting are accepted (but might restrict progression into some universities)
Geographic focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must be domiciled in a Sub-Saharan African country
Access to technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You own a mobile phone and/or you have access to laptop or desktop PC (may be yours or belonging to a friend or family member or a group, but you should have access to use it for the purpose of this course) You have access to the internet
Commitment to full-time study & conflicting commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can set aside regular time each week to attend online sessions, complete learning activities and meet assessment deadlines You understand the importance of consistent engagement and are prepared to take responsibility for managing your studies Where relevant, you have discussed your study plans with family, employers or sponsors to ensure you can fully participate in the programme You are NOT currently enrolled, and have NOT been enrolled in HE before. Applications from candidates already enrolled in a formally awarded qualification at the time of programme start will not be able to enrol on this course.

Selection Criteria	
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are bright and talented, but may have faced barriers to direct entry into university, such as financial hardship, displacement, caring responsibilities or other challenges
Experience and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You show evidence of engagement with learning, for example through school, community activities, volunteering, work or informal study You may have experience supporting others in your family or community through community service, voluntary or paid work, work shadowing or health-related engagement You demonstrate basic digital skills and a willingness to learn how to use online learning tools effectively
Motivation and impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can clearly explain why you want to study applied health and how this programme fits into your future goals You are motivated to use your learning to make a positive difference in your community, whether through further study, employment or service You show resilience, determination and a readiness to develop as an independent learner

Application process

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Step One: Initial application to the Afe Babalola Centre: You will be asked to complete an application form, which will include submission of written personal statements based on prompts, jointly with individual screening questions.

Deadline for step 1 of the application process is 15 May 2026 – 23:59 (EAT).

Step Two:

- **Shortlisting and review by Oversight Panel review:** Applications will be reviewed and shortlisted by members of the Afe Babalola Centre and African Leadership Centre. Applications that are closely matched or present unique strengths and challenges will be referred to an oversight panel of King's Academics and representatives of partner institutions on the African continent. The panel will provide an independent, balanced review to ensure transparency and fairness.

Outcome communicated by 30 May 2026.

- **Formal application to King's for shortlisted applicants:** Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a second stage application for King's College London. These stage-two applications will be assessed by the Programme Director and Academic team at King's for academic merit, experience and alignment with the Afe Babalola Centre's objectives.

Deadline for step 2 of the application process is 30 June 2026 – 12pm (GMT).

Step Three: Communication of results and Enrolment: All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application to King's on a rolling basis, with feedback provided where possible to support future development. Successful applicants will be provided with further details on how to enroll ahead of the programme starting in September 2026.

You have the potential. We'll help you unleash it. Take charge of your future today.

Apply by creating an account and filling the form supported by the African Leadership Centre's application portal:

Note this programme is only open for application to candidates that have been invited to apply by the Afe Babalola Centre and its partner organisations.

If you are not sure if you meet the requirements, if the course is right for you, or if you are experiencing issues with your application? **Speak to our team to get tailored support: General enquiries:**

**Central.hub abc@africanleadershipcentre.org
Technical queries: technical@abceduonline.com**

