

Core Module: Fundamentals of Implementation Science

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: 5–9 October 2026

ZQF LEVEL: 8

OBJECTIVE:

To provide a foundational introduction to the field of Implementation Science (IS) and its value in addressing the persistent gap between what is known to work and what is actually delivered in health systems (the “know-do gap”).

This module establishes what implementation science is, how it differs from efficacy and effectiveness research, quality improvement, and dissemination research, and where it sits on the continuum from discovery to delivery. Participants will be equipped to diagnose implementation challenges in real non-communicable disease (NCD) programmes drawn from their own working contexts.

Upon completion of this module, learners will be able to:

- Define implementation science, the know-do gap, and the implementation–continuum.
- Distinguish implementation research from efficacy and effectiveness research, quality improvement, dissemination research, and implementation practice.
- Navigate and select major categories of implementation science theories, models and frameworks.
- Apply Implementation Science frameworks, e.g., CFIR 2.0 or RE-AIM, to a real NCD programme to diagnose determinants.
- Explain the core constructs of the field (context, evidence-based practices, implementation strategies, and implementation outcomes).
- Characterise adaptations using FRAME/FRAME-IS and understand the fidelity–adaptation tension.
- Apply an equity lens and critically appraise the epistemic assumptions embedded in implementation science frameworks in African health system contexts.
- Formulate a well-specified, equity-sensitive implementation science research question grounded in the participant’s own professional setting.
- Communicate an implementation diagnosis to a non-academic audience such as a clinic manager or district health director.

Entry Criteria

A Bachelor’s degree (NQF Level 7) in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, environmental health, biomedical sciences, or a related discipline from a recognised institution; or a Level 6 Diploma with at least three years’ relevant professional experience in a health service, programme management, or policy role, considered case-by-case under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Current or recent engagement in health service delivery, programme implementation, management, policy, or research is strongly recommended, as assessments draw on participants’ own professional contexts.

Certification & Credits

CERTIFICATE LEVEL / TYPE: [To Be Confirmed]

CREDIT VALUE: 7 Credits (ZQF Level 8)

This Core Module, valued at ZAR 6,000 (~EUR 300), is fully funded. There are no course fees during the pilot phase.



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