

The course aims for participants to find, appraise, interpret and consider the use of systematic reviews of effects.

The **course duration is 6 weeks** (excluding orientation) and requires about 2-4 hours of effort a week.

At the end of the course, participants should be able to:

1. Outline the rationale for research synthesis and phrasing questions
2. Identify the principles of randomised controlled trials and risk of bias
3. Find, read and appraise systematic reviews (SRs)
4. Interpret findings of reviews of effects, including statistical interpretation of meta-analysis
5. Be able to interpret a GRADE profile and Summary of Findings table
6. Outline key components of a systematic review of effects that need to be considered in applying to health policy and practice

Upon successful completion of the course and assessment, participants receive a **certificate of competence** from Stellenbosch University.

Time/Topic	Topic
Week 1	Introduction, Orientation to online site
Week 2	Evidence based practice and Phrasing questions
Week 3	Randomised Controlled Trials and Risk of bias
Week 4	Finding, reading and appraising SRs
Week 5	Interpreting SR results
Week 6	GRADE and Summary of Findings tables
Week 7	Knowledge translation
Week 8-11	Post Course Readings, access and discussions

The primer in systematic review course is interactive, fun and informative. Whether you are a clinician, policy maker or researcher, if you want to know more about finding, appraising, and using the best available evidence then this course is for you.

The course runs from 23 April – 9 July, cost is R2000 or \$155. For application details, contact Liesel Esterhuizen (lesterhuizen@sun.ac.za).

This course was developed by the Effective Health Care Research Programme Consortium in 2012, funded by UK aid from the UK Government for the benefit of developing countries (Grant: 5242).

Set up in an online format was supported by GESI.