

Medical students return from Cuba

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The University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) is preparing to welcome 96 medical students returning home after 5 years of study in Cuba. The Nelson Mandela Fidel Castro Collaboration students are part of the Cuba-South Africa Medical Training Programme. They will now continue and complete their final year of studies and training at the UKZN Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine.

The students will receive training at the regional hospitals of Stanger, R.K. Khan, Prince Mshiyeni, and King Edward, with clinical rotations to Greytown, Christ the King, G.J. Crookes and Wentworth hospitals.

The student training at these hospitals is made possible through the joint establishment of the Decentralised Clinical Training Programme (DCTP) by UKZN and the KZN Department of Health.

The DCTP is an initiative to train UKZN students in regional and district hospitals in KZN and will eventually include training in Community Health Clinics and Community Health Centres in rural areas. It also allows for the transformation of the curriculum to ensure that it produces 'fit for purpose' health professionals serving the needs of all communities in KZN and not only those in the main

metropolitan areas. The programme is centred on a primary health care curriculum that is in line with the National Health Insurance.

UKZN has secured accommodation and transport for the students in and around the teaching hospitals. The students will rotate through clinical block teaching of surgical practice, obstetrics and gynaecology, internal medicine, child health, primary care and mental health.

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