

# Exploring the Perception of Academics and Students in the Development of Managerial Level Competencies in a Multiple Case of the MBA Healthcare Management Providers

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## ABSTRACT

The research project sought to ask whether academic staff and students perceive the MBA in Healthcare Management, as an effective programme in the development of higher-level knowledge, skills, and behaviour (KSBs). In fact, MBA in Healthcare Management brings together contemporary academic theory and research with a practical understanding of activities within the sector. The study was underpinned by a model proposed by Edmund (2007), where a successful work-integrated programme is compared to students, organisations, and the institutions of learning in a training-approach. In the context of this inquiry, the learning journey begins with (MBA student-employer relations), followed by education (student relations-university) and codification of knowledge (employer-learning provider relationship education). The argument put forward in this research project is that student's educational decisions and their pathway choice, in terms of the cost and benefit analysis, are subject to several interpretations as currently presented. Hence, a new message is required to reposition the programme narrative, especially for students on integrated work route. The study findings established that the MBA Healthcare Management students are well-equipped with advanced methodological and theoretical KSBs, and they are trained to analyse and manage ever-changing workplace, to be self-reliant, adaptable, and confident in their discipline as it develops over time. The study results confirmed that the MBA healthcare management pathway is very efficient in the development of managerial-level competences for management professionals, and it contributes positively to the needs of the sector in terms of strategic management.

**Keywords:** attitude-to-work; knowledge; skills