“The faculty was amazing, inside and outside of the classroom... The networking between those in this class was incredible... I am just starting my career, and it has changed my plan concerning my education for the upcoming years due to these conversations.”

QUALITATIVE METHODS PARTICIPANT
A course focused on the principles and rigorous application of qualitative methods in formative, operational, evaluation and policy research in infectious disease in diverse global settings. Participants will work in small groups to develop qualitative research protocols.

COURSE DIRECTORS
Amrita Daftary, PhD, MPH  
Assistant Professor, Global Health  
School of Health Policy & Management  
Dahdaleh Institute of Global Health Research  
York University, Toronto, Canada  
Nora Engel, PhD  
Assistant Professor Global Health, Department of Health, Ethics and Society/ CAPHRI, Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences  
Maastricht University, Netherlands

COURSE FACULTY
Course Faculty  
Amrita Daftary, PhD, MPH – York University  
Nora Engel, PhD – Maastricht University  
Jennifer Furin, MD, PhD – Harvard University  
Joanne Mantell, PhD – Columbia University  
Andy McDowell, PhD – Tulane University  
Guest Speakers  
Matthew Hunt, PhD, PT – McGill University  
Madhukar Pai, MD, PhD – McGill University

Faculty are still being confirmed and there may be changes to the above list.

CONTENT
Qualitative methods can assess the social and behavioural contexts, and the complex determinants, impacts and outcomes of illness, healthcare seeking and disease control efforts, including public health programs, policies, and technologies. There is growing interest to integrate qualitative methods into traditional operational and biomedical research to improve our understanding of healthcare seeking behaviour, challenges to health service delivery, and to better understand how and why some interventions and technologies are successfully (or less successfully) implemented. This course will build participants’ capacity and research literacy to use qualitative methods to inform, innovate, contextualize, evaluate, and strengthen the delivery and utilization of healthcare services and technologies for infectious diseases (e.g., tuberculosis, HIV, malaria, Ebola) in lower- and middle-income settings.

The course will be interactive, and utilize case studies and practical exercises to cover the following topics in qualitative research:

1. Study designs and methodologies
2. Theoretical frameworks
3. Focus groups, observation and interviews: designs, skills and implementation
4. Approaches and methods for analysis
5. Multiple methods: integrating and sequencing qualitative and quantitative methods
6. Sampling and participant recruitment
7. Data management and storage
8. Ethics and evaluation criteria
9. Dissemination

Each day will begin with expert lectures on qualitative study design, implementation, analysis, and dissemination; followed by group exercises to apply and practice the lessons learned as well as short topical presentations and/or panel discussions. The day ends with small group sessions to develop protocols that are implementable over the subsequent year, under the mentorship of course faculty and will be presented at the end of the course.

OBJECTIVES
To be introduced to the principles and methods of qualitative research.

TARGET AUDIENCE
- Persons with a strong interest in qualitative and mixed methods, and little/no prior experience
- Persons involved in infectious disease programs, including program managers, innovators and M&E officers
- Junior faculty, doctoral and postdoctoral fellows engaged in global health research
- Clinical researchers and residents working internationally
- Research staff, including study coordinators, with an interest in international work
- Representatives of funding and/or advocacy bodies, grant reviewers

ENROLMENT
Maximum of 40 participants.