

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Global Maternal Health
Award	MSc
School	School of Health & Psychological Sciences
Department or equivalent	Midwifery and Radiography
Programme code	PSGLMH
Type of study	Online (Full time or part time) with the option of studying up to 2 elective modules via an on-site intensive mode.
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90
Partner (partnership programmes only)	n/a
Type of partnership	n/a

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The Global Maternal Health Master's is a flexible programme that equips and enhances your leadership skills and knowledge at an advanced academic and practice level, with a particular focus on international aspects of childbirth and maternal health. It seeks to prepare advanced research-aware practitioners and leaders that will help to transform health services to better meet the changing landscape of global policies, evidence and maternal and infant health priorities and needs. This programme has a broad focus from the local to international health needs, from global maternal health policy to national and local variations in the ways in which maternity care is conceptualised, managed and provided.

Background

Global health policy until recently focused particularly on the United Nations' (UN) Millennium Development goals, but it now increasingly recognises the need for a more socially-and ethically informed model of service design. In the era of the UN Sustainable Development Goals there is a renewed focus on implementing and scaling-up midwife-led services that incorporate respectful and humanised care that is sustainable and based on best clinical and sociological evidence. Scarce human resources for health need to be managed judiciously and appropriately and evidence-based uses of technology will help to stem the tide of rising and highly inequitable uses of birth interventions and facilities – the twin problems of 'too much too soon' or 'too little too late' in many low, middle and high-income countries. The key influence of social determinants and the vital role of midwifery care in maternal health is being

increasingly acknowledged in global policy forums, with the emergence of very robust evidence on the role of midwife-led care in safe, good quality and affordable maternity services. Additionally, it is recognised that many countries require expansion of community-based facilities and community-based interventions to improve maternal and infant health outcomes in the context of scarcity and inequality. The 2018 World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for maternity care reflect this paradigm shift and will require development of a higher-level skills in order to scale-up service innovations and midwifery education in future.

Responding to women's experiences of care will also drive quality improvement and this will result in an increased focus on social models of care with women and families' needs at its very heart (DH, 2010). This is reflected internationally in movements for 'rehumanisation' of maternity care and in current WHO maternity care policies, mother-baby-friendly and respectful care initiatives.

About the Programme

The programme offers teaching in the latest research and theoretical and clinical developments relating to public health and healthcare provision in an international context and focusing particularly on maternal health. It develops your research skills and critical thinking and provides the opportunity to undertake an international elective placement and to conduct a research project, and an innovation and evaluation project under expert supervision, laying the foundations for independent research and service development in the future. You will have the opportunity to discuss key debates in global maternal health and healthcare provision in multi-professional and interdisciplinary contexts. You will gain a solid foundation of research skills and applied data analysis to support and extend your role as an evidence-based practitioner, researcher, educator, or development worker.

There are 3 exit routes from the programme. Each built on the previous stage, as follows:

1. Postgraduate Certificate level - exiting at this level means that you will have examined evidence and frameworks related to global maternal health and synthesised and applied these to practice. You will have gained critical insight into problems that may arise in this area and will have considered problem solving mechanisms.
2. Postgraduate Diploma - exiting at this level means that you will have explored knowledge related to the field of global maternity care from different perspectives thereby broadening your expertise and skills. You will also have critically evaluated current evidence in the field and provided appropriate critiques of knowledge and techniques in relation to this.

3. MSc in Global Maternal Health - exiting at this level means that you will have demonstrated original application of knowledge to the field of maternity care internationally and its implementation in global policies and contexts.

Aims

The aim of this programme is to develop graduates who will be able to:

- Develop the ability to exercise initiative and personal responsibility, decision making in complex and unpredictable situations within the field of midwifery and/or maternal and infant health.
- Develop the scope of your knowledge of global maternal health issues, including a critical perspective on international development and maternity service provision
- Develop theoretical and methodological knowledge to underpin your capacity to critically analyse systems of care and propose service improvements
- Organise and appraise independent learning required for continuing professional development
- Critically appraise and be open to new ideas, and challenge traditional ways of working.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Critically appraise the nature of health and social care provision internationally with respect to maternal and infant health.
- Examine and critically appraise contemporary midwifery and maternal health knowledge and apply such knowledge to your decision-making.
- Critically appraise research methodologies and their relevance to your practice.
- Critically evaluate and synthesise principles of research design and statistics.
- Produce an evidence-based dissertation project that is of a publishable standard (applicable at MSc level).

Skills:

- Critically appraise, evaluate and integrate theories and perspectives relating to maternal health and maternity care and articulate implications for practice development and innovation.
- Critically appraise the maternal health impact of global policies, including social, financing and public health policies and the implications for midwifery roles and the organisation of maternity care.

- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in midwifery and maternal health practice.
- Develop research designs appropriate to research questions/hypotheses, and select and implement appropriate analyses of data.

Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate practice that shows equity and consideration of ethical dimensions of international and national health and social care policies in your analysis of health policies and systems.
- Show an insight into and respect for the experience of service users, their relatives and other health, social work and social care providers and participants in research.
- Demonstrate practice that is non-discriminatory to health and social care clients and their communities in critically analysing current evidence and its application.
- Comply with ethics requirements for conduct of research with human participants through management of your dissertation project.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

This programme aims to provide you with the opportunity to create a challenging and rewarding master's pathway. To be accessible to international students, the programme is designed as an online programme (full time or part time) with the option of studying up to two modules face-to-face on-site at the University in intensive mode. Online teaching is provided via the university's virtual learning platform Moodle, using a highly interactive approach alongside personal tutorial support.

You will have a discussion with your programme director prior to starting the programme to help you to choose among the options available.

Modules are run by experienced practitioners and leading researchers, using a variety of direct and interactive teaching methods. You will learn in multi-disciplinary groups for your research modules and in a small discipline-specific group for your maternal health modules. You will study via our online learning platform Moodle using interactive approaches and will be supported and encouraged to participate in independent learning.

You will experience a range of teaching and learning strategies throughout the programme aimed at developing and accessing different knowledge, skills and attitudes. Core content is provided through our online learning platforms Moodle and Teams, and may include module workbooks, video or podcast-style lectures and complementary materials. You are expected to engage in a series of interactive online activities such as seminars, debates, action-learning sets or role-play activities. The approach will include a mix of synchronous (in real-time) online seminars, with time zones adjusted, as far as possible, to students' home locations, and asynchronous (taking place over a period of time) discussion forums.

You will be allocated a personal tutor who will provide pastoral support and overall academic guidance throughout the course.

If you choose to opt for one of the intensive on-site approach modules for your elective(s), learning approaches and time commitment will be similar to those in our core modules but you will interact with your peers face-to-face at our campus in London, working intensively over a one-week period (30 hours).

One of your modules, which is focused on service innovation and improvement, involves a work-based project (placement). In this project, you will conduct a situational analysis, plan and implement a small improvement project. This placement will normally be in your own workplace but may optionally involve an international placement in a setting of your choice, or with the WHO Maternal Health division, planned and agreed in consultation with your module leader.

There will be an online induction package provided to introduce you to the programme, to your fellow students and lecturers and to support you in using the various learning platforms, tools and library facilities.

You will require access to a computer with a good internet connection.

Time commitments

Full-time: one year (two days a week) for module activities, and remaining time for independent study (course readings and research) plus four months for dissertation.

Part-time: two years (one day a week) for module activities and 1.5 days for independent study, plus up to one year for dissertation.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

A variety of assessment methods are used to assess the programme' learning outcomes. The choice of assessment method will be influenced by the focus and learning outcomes of the modules.

Assessment strategies include essays, coursework, reports, seminar presentations, and service improvement proposals or portfolios. You will be expected to take part in formative assessment activities during the modules in addition to the summative assessments for each module; these are designed to support your learning and your success in summative assessments. The choice of assessment method will be influenced by the focus and learning outcomes of each module.

At master's level these strategies are aimed at developing your ability to challenge current limits of theory research and practice and creatively use solutions to solve problems. You are expected to engage in full professional and academic communication, critically debating and evaluating personal performance and that of others.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks.

Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These will be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task. Your assessment feedback will be given in relation to these criteria.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at: https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/452565/Assessment-and-Feedback-Policy...pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

The Pass mark for each module is 50%.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, the following will apply:

1. Resit: if you do not pass at the first attempt, you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass the requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/453652/s19.pdf

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	67
Dissertation	7	60	33

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

Postgraduate Certificate:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	60	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Part 1 – Taught Component

You will study five core modules plus two elective 15 credit modules. These provide the 120 credits which are required for you to proceed to your dissertation.

If you are part-time, you will take up to two modules per term over the two years. If you are full-time, you will take up to four modules per term over one year, including your dissertation module (see part 2 below).

The elective module list is not binding, as new modules may become available from time to time and will be offered if they are appropriate. Similarly, some modules may become obsolete, and will be replaced with new modules. You will find your core modules listed in the table below.

You are normally required to complete all the taught* modules successfully before progressing to the dissertation. (*Here taught may apply to online modules and does not imply face-to-face teaching.)

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Can be Compensated?	Level
Implementing Midwife-led Models of Care (online)	GHM001	15	Core	No	7
Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis (online)	HRM021	15	Core	No	7
Advancing Midwifery Knowledge: Profession, Theory and Practice (online)	APM019	15	Core	No	7
Global Maternal Health Issues (online)	GHM002	15	Core	No	7
Global Maternal Health Implementation and Innovation Project (online)	GHM003	30	Core	No	7
Elective module from the range of MSc discipline specific or other modules offered in the School. <i>For example:</i> Philosophy, Knowledge, Skills and Evidence for Optimum Birth (APM044, face to face intensive); Facilitating Group Antenatal Care (APM043; face to face intensive)	n/a	15	Elective	n/a	7
Elective module from the range of MSc discipline specific or other modules offered in the School. <i>For example:</i> Global Health (PHM003, online); The Health Policy Process, Politics and Power (HPM001, online); International Health Systems (HPM004, online); Social Determinants of Health (PHM004, online)	n/a	15	Elective	n/a	7

Part 2 - Dissertation Component

The dissertation is a core module for completion of the MSc. See the dissertation module and dissertation handbook for more information.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Dissertation	APM002	60	Core	No	7

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

This programme has been developed to allow you the greatest possible flexibility in developing specialist skills and knowledge at a highly demanding academic and practical level. The programme will prepare you for a range of roles including Midwife Consultant; Clinical Leadership; Academic; International development related work; Maternity or public health policy work; international practice roles.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to:

<http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

You will be able to base your dissertation work on a relevant policy or practice issue in your home or an alternative country, in consultation with your dissertation supervisor.

GHM003 - Global maternal health implementation and innovation project - will include a work-based project. This may include an optional international placement component chosen by you in collaboration with the Module Leader. Placement opportunities might be available with the WHO or other organisations, to gain insight into the workings of an international public health policy organisation. Depending on your circumstances and preference, you could align your assignment for the Global Maternal Health Implementation and Innovation Project Module with your MSc dissertation.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

As indicated above, you will undertake a placement of 30 hours within the module *Global Maternal Health Implementation and Innovation Project Module*. This may include:

- 1) A clinical, research or policy improvement project in your own or alternative setting
- 2) A virtual or on-site placement in a setting arranged via our partner network

You may also agree an alternative placement options with your module leader.

A GMH MSc Placement Booklet will be created each year in August and made available to you, with an updated list of face to face and virtual placements which you may want to opt for. You will have the opportunity to discuss the placement options with your module leader. The list may include placements with WHO, ICM and other partner organisations and will change yearly. A back up virtual placement will be available if you are unable to travel. You may also be able to apply for funding to cover your travel and subsistence while on placement.

The opportunities available will be dependent on current international travel advice or restrictions and will be discussed with your module leader at the outset of the programme.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

There is no professional accreditation associated with this programme.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

All entrants to the Programme must be in possession of a relevant first degree (minimum 2.2 or above or equivalent international grade) in Midwifery or in another relevant subject including but not confined to anthropology, sociology, public health or international development. In exceptional circumstances, portfolio entry may be considered. Examples might include countries where a midwifery diploma rather than degree is available and where you can show other evidence of capacity to study at master's level.

For students whose first language/language of education is not English, the following qualifications will meet the English language requirement for entry to a post graduate course of study:

- A first degree from a UK university
- OR A first degree from an overseas institution recognised by the University as providing adequate evidence of proficiency in the English language

- Or A degree from a “Majority English Speaking country” recognised by the University
- International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) - a minimum score of 6.5 is required
- OR Pearson Test of English (Academic) score 72 required
- OR Other evidence of proficiency in the English language, which satisfies the board of studies concerned.

RPL/RPEL Requirements

In line with Senate Regulation 19, Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) will be considered for any student who has pursued appropriate studies in this or another institution or who possesses appropriate qualifications.

RPL will be permitted where the Programme Committee has assessed the claim in terms of acceptability, sufficiency, authenticity, currency and level and can demonstrate that the student’s previously assessed or experiential learning meets all the learning outcomes stated in the Module Specification for the module for which they are to be awarded credit.

The limit to the volume of credit that can be permitted through RPL is outlined in Senate Regulation 19.

<https://www.city.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/city-university-of-london-senate-regulations>

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