

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Masters in Public Health (MPH)
Award	Masters
School	Health Sciences
Department or equivalent	Health Services Research and Management
Programme code	PSPUBH
Type of study	Postgraduate Taught (full-time; part-time)
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The Faculty of Public Health in the UK defines Public Health as “*the science and art of promoting and protecting health and well-being, preventing ill-health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society*”. The Masters in Public Health (MPH) is a multidisciplinary programme consisting of elements of medical sciences, social and behavioural sciences, and the humanities. Our programme will enable students to acquire knowledge about the significance of social context and structure, the external environment, working life, the healthcare system and lifestyle as they relate to the incidence of ill-health. Students will also learn about methods for implementing health promotion, disease prevention, and health policy.

Our MPH offers a unique combination of training in public health research methods; encouraging a culture of applied epidemiology within which you can develop skills in describing, analysing and reflecting on different local public health issues; laying emphasis on the identification and assessment of the challenges in public health from a global perspective; and providing you with an understanding of the processes through which the social environment influences health. The programme will form the basis both for research, education and practical application of public health sciences, making the acquired knowledge applicable for protection and improvement of health and social care services at local, national and international levels.

You will gain the knowledge and confidence to independently lead public health projects and investigations in your place of work, which may be in the local public or private sectors such as the NHS, national charities, research institutions and consultancies, health and social care, or in international agencies, pharmaceutical companies, etc. During the course of your studies, you may have the opportunity to conduct research with NHS Trusts and other health and social care organisations. Focus is placed on providing you with a challenging but also the stimulating and free-thinking environment, which will nurture your aspirations, talent, and career prospects. You are expected to be working in or wish to start a career as a clinical or non-clinical public health consultant where an in-depth knowledge of evidence-based public health practice, health policy and management is an advantage.

By completing the **Masters in Public Health**, in addition to the skills described for the Postgraduate Diploma and the Postgraduate Certificate, you will have demonstrated the original application of knowledge to the field of public health. You will have been engaged in research that contributes to new understanding in this area.

Those of you who exit the programme with a **Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health**, in addition to the skills described for the Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health, you will have gained contemporary knowledge of the field of public health. You will have critically evaluated current evidence in the field and provided appropriate methodological and theoretical critiques.

If you exit the programme with a **Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health** you will have examined theories and evidence related to public health. You will have gained critical insight into core topic areas in the discipline and you will be able to consider problem-solving mechanisms. You will also be able to use a range of techniques to undertake scholarly work.

Depending on the profile of modules successfully completed you may be offered a **Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences**. The criteria for the various exit awards are explained below (see What Award Can I Get?)

Aims

The MPH prepares you for public health practice by providing interactive learning opportunities across core areas: Public Health, Epidemiology, Global Health, Social Determinants of Health, and Research Methods. You will explore key topics from individual, organisational and policy-level perspectives.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:

- Develop a critical understanding of current theories and methodological approaches in public health.
- Critically appraise public health projects and research.
- Undertake the analysis of evidence/data to develop transformative solutions to public health concerns.

Skills:

- Critically appraise the literature, formulate research questions and choose appropriate methods to investigate public health issues.
- Critically synthesise data from quantitative and qualitative analysis and apply research findings to improve prevention and management of disease, locally, nationally and internationally.
- Critically assess health services interventions by using quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Demonstrate the skill of working effectively, independently and in groups/teams.
- Present orally and in writing individual and group work.
- Effectively manage, reflect on, and develop your own learning

Values and attitudes:

- Facilitate collaborative, inter-disciplinary and ethical approaches to research and work.
- Respect the opinions of others and behave with integrity.
- Identify, evaluate and foster capabilities and qualities to support effective communication.
- Be sensitive to and respect the diversity of individuals and communities.
- Respect privacy and confidentiality (especially within the research context).
- Support the principle of reflective, self-directed, life-long personal development and learning.

Registration Period

The normal period of registration for this programme is one year for full-time students or two years for part-time students. The maximum period of registration for this programme is three years for full-time students and five years for part-time students.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Assessment methods vary by module. These methods include: written assignments; group work, presentations, examinations and the final dissertation. Specific information on assessments in each module on the programme can be found on the individual module specifications.

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 may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Lecturers and/or module leaders will be available to provide formative feedback and advice on module assessments prior to submission.

Following each assessment, marks and feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks (for interim module assessments) or four weeks (for final assessments) of the submission deadline. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. Markers will be available to answer queries about the marks and feedback if these are not clear.

A selection of all assessments will be internally moderated and sent to the external examiner. All initial marks will be therefore provisional, pending external examiner approval and ratification by the Assessment Board. The full Assessment and Feedback Policy can be found at: https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass the 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, you will normally 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 requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified,³ 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 http://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

HOW WILL I LEARN?

During the course of your studies at City, University of London, you will be part of an active academic and research community with a wide range of interests. You will be encouraged to attend events and attend lectures which will guide you to gain a wealth of knowledge in the area of public health. Teaching and learning are undertaken via a mix of lectures, class discussions, seminars, student presentations, case study analyses, interactive computer-based exercises, guided independent learning and individual supervision.

The programme is offered as both full-time and part-time. Full-time students attend the taught component of the programme for one year. Part-time students study over 24 months.

You will take seven taught modules (up to a value of at least 120 credits), plus the dissertation (60 credits). Taught modules typically involve 150 hours of study, comprising approximately 30 contact hours (lectures and group work) and 130 hours of self-directed study. The dissertation involves 600 hours of study, comprising of lectures/workshops, tutorials and self-directed study.

Teaching and learning are facilitated by Moodle, City's online virtual learning environment. You may also access other support services provided by City, such as the Library Information and Training Services, Computer Service, Career Services and the Open Learning Centre.

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

To qualify for the award of Masters in Public Health, you will be required to complete all the taught modules (totalling 120 credits), plus the 60-credit dissertation module.

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	120	66.5	With Distinction	70
Dissertation	7	60	33.5	With Merit	60
				Without classification	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

To exit with the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health, you will be required to complete all the taught modules (totalling 120 credits).

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
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Taught	7	120	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without	50
				classification	

Postgraduate Certificate:

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health, you will be required to successfully complete three public health core modules and any other 15-credit module.

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences, you will be required to achieve 60 credits by successfully completing any combination of modules.

Your Programme Director will advise you on your choice of modules.

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)	Class	% required
Taught	7	60	100	With Distinction	70
				With Merit	60
				Without	50
				classification	

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Taught component

You will take seven taught modules, five core modules and two elective modules, and the dissertation module:

- The five core (compulsory) modules are listed below
- Plus you will choose *two* further elective (optional) modules. A provisional list of the electives modules is shown below. The final list of elective modules on offer will be conveyed at the start of the programme. If an elective module has less than a certain number of registered students (typically around 10) it may not run. Programme Director or Course Officer will inform you if this happens and will ask you to select another module.

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Public Health	PHM001	15	Core	No	7
Epidemiology	PHM002	15	Core	No	7
Global Health	PHM003	15	Core	No	7
Social Determinants of Health	PHM004	15	Core	No	7
Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis	HRM001	30	Core	No	7
Advanced Research Methods	HRM002	15	Elective	No	7

Advanced Applied Data Analysis	HRM003	15	Elective	No	7
Health Policy Process, Politics and Power	HPM001	15	Elective	No	7
Health Economics	HPM006	15	Elective	No	7
International Health Systems	HPM004	15	Elective	No	7

Dissertation component

The dissertation is a core module. In this module, you will either write a dissertation of between 12-15,000 words or a manuscript in the format of a research paper. The word length of the research paper will be dependent on the target Journal selected. The dissertation format options will be explained by the Programme Director and/or module leader.

You need to achieve 50% or above in order to pass.

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

You will be working on your dissertation during the year but you are only able to submit it once you have completed all the taught modules successfully.

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

We always aim to build lifelong relationships with our students where they can learn and take that knowledge into the workplace throughout their careers - as independent and confident practitioners, researchers, managers and leaders.

The course will provide you with a thorough grounding in public health theory and practice as well as with an in-depth knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies enabling you to conduct research of excellent standards in a range of settings including the NHS, charities, industry, government, private practice and academic and research environments.

You will gain vital transferable skills which are applicable to all health and medical-related careers where attention to detail, conducting research and evaluation for evidence-based practice, and report writing is a career advantage.

Because of its central London location and its long tradition, the School of Health Sciences has close links with several healthcare institutions where you can access outstanding networking and career opportunities.

The MPH is designed to strengthen your knowledge of current practice in public health but also your competence in scientific theory and method so that you are able to pursue further studies if you wish. A number of postgraduate students in our School, upon successful completion of their Master's degrees, decide to pursue doctoral studies in an area of their interest.

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?

There are no study abroad options available on this programme.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

There are no work placement opportunities available on this programme.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

There will be no professional recognition resulting from the successful completion of this programme.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

The entry requirements for this programme are:

- A first degree in a medical, health-related or social sciences discipline (minimum 2:1 honours degree, 3.0 GPA or an equivalent international degree).
- Applicants with equivalent qualifications or substantial experience in health services will also be considered on an individual basis.
- Where necessary, the English language requirements for this programme are:
 - ✓ IELTS: an overall score ≥ 7.0 (with all sub-components ≥ 6.5)
 - ✓ A first degree from an English speaking university

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

This programme adheres to City, University of London's RPL policy – the Programme Director would be happy to discuss RPL with you on an individual basis.

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