PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	MSc Health Policy
Award	MSc
School	Health Sciences
Department or equivalent	Division of Health Services Research and Management
Programme code	PSHHPO
Type of study	Postgraduate Taught
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Advances in health technologies, rising consumer expectations, increasing longevity and prevalence of chronic illness, and other pressures present significant and growing challenges for health systems, and have helped push healthcare and health policy to the top of political agendas across the world. Increasing attention is therefore being given to such crucial issues as: how best to meet the health needs of changing populations, the social determinants of health, inequalities in health and access to care, cost containment, the appropriate level of overall resources to devote to healthcare and public health, which health services to provide (and to whom), how health systems should be organised and financed, and their performance measured. All of these issues, and strategies for tackling them effectively and sustainably, fall within the scope of health policy. Given their growing importance, an in-depth understanding of the contemporary health policy landscape is an increasingly vital attribute of professionals at all levels within the health sector.

Aims

This programme aims to equip you with the knowledge and skills you need to analyse and attempt to influence the health policy process in the 21st century; understand the social, political and economic factors that affect it at local, national and international level; and evaluate its impact on health systems and services, and wider society. It combines an international focus and academic rigour with the development of practical policy analysis and related skills which can be applied in real-world health policy, planning and management settings.

Who is the programme for?

The programme is suitable for professionals from a wide range of backgrounds who wish to expand their understanding of health policy to support their current or future employment. These include:
- the medical, nursing and allied health professions
- health management and administration
- public health
- national and local government
- national NGOs

- international agencies
- research institutions and consultancies
- pharmaceutical and healthcare industries

By completing the MSc in Health Policy you will have demonstrated original application of theory and evidence to current problems and issues within health policy from different perspectives to broaden your expertise and skills. You will have acquired research skills to critically investigate health policy issues and have engaged in research that contributes new views to this area.

Those of you who exit the programme with a Postgraduate Diploma will have critically explored theory and evidence relating to current problems and issues within health policy. You will have acquired the research skills required to critically evaluate current evidence in the field and provided appropriate critiques of knowledge and techniques in relation to this.

Those of you who exit the programme with a Postgraduate Certificate will have been enabled to critically examine theory and evidence relating to current problems and issues within health policy and be able to synthesise and apply these. You will also be able to use a range of techniques to undertake your scholarly work.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:
- Have developed a critical awareness of the main issues and challenges facing contemporary health policy at the local, national and international level.
- Show a critical appreciation of the social, political and economic factors influencing individual and population health, healthcare and health policy.
- Demonstrate an analytical understanding of the health policy process, its instruments and the main factors and stakeholders involved in and affected by it.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of international approaches to organising and financing healthcare, and measuring the performance of healthcare systems.
- Be familiar with the main sources of information on health policy-related issues.

Skills:
- Identify and critically apply appropriate knowledge, theories and concepts to the analysis of issues, debates and initiatives within contemporary health policy.
- Apply a systematic and analytical understanding of the health policy process to explain contemporary policy issues and developments.
- Develop and enhance transferable skills in health policy analysis and present the results effectively and persuasively.
- Identify relevant published and unpublished material from a range of sources, and synthesise and critically evaluate it.

Values and attitudes:
- Show respect and tolerance for other course participants.
- Correctly reference the work of others and adhere to City regulations regarding plagiarism and academic misconduct.
- Show consideration for the rules and regulations of City.
- Recognise your own and others' skills and limitations.
- 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) for the taught component, plus up to one year for the Dissertation component.

The maximum period of registration for this programme is 5 years.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Teaching and learning will take place via a mix of: lectures (including sessions facilitated by outside speakers), workshops, group activities, discussions and self-directed learning.

You will take seven or eight 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 20 contact hours (lectures and group work) and 130 hours of self-directed study. The Dissertation involves 600 hours of study, comprising around 3 hours of lectures/workshops, 12 hours of tutorials and 585 hours of 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 Service, Computing Service, the Open Learning Centre, and other sources of personal support.

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 (for some optional modules) and the final dissertation on a health policy-related topic of your choice of between 12,000 and 15,000 words.

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 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 the Assessment Regulations and Policy, normally within 3 weeks (for interim module assessments) or 4 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 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%. In order to pass a module you must pass each component at 50%. The weighting of a module's different components may be found in the Module Specification for that module.

If you fail an assessment component or a module, 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 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:
http://www.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc. You should also refer to the School Assessment Guidelines which you will find in your programme handbook and in the Virtual Learning Environment.

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

To qualify for the award of *MSc Health Policy* you will be required to complete all the taught modules (totalling 120 credits), plus the 60-credit Dissertation module.

Component	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
Taught	7	120	66		With Distinction	70
Dissertation	7	60	34		With Merit	60
					Without classification	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

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

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

Postgraduate Certificate:

To exit with a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Policy you will be required to successfully complete three 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 from the range of core and optional elective modules.

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

Component	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)		Class	% required
Taught	7	60	100		With Distinction	70

| | | | | With Merit | 60 | |
| | | | | Without classification | 50 | |

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Taught component

You will take seven or eight taught modules, up to the value of 120 credits:
- The four *core* (compulsory) modules listed below (60 credits)
- *Plus* three or four *elective* (optional) modules chosen from the list below (60 credits). Please note that these modules are subject to change depending on staff availability and student demand, so there is no guarantee that every elective module listed below will run. Further elective modules may also be available (you will be notified of these at the beginning of the academic year).

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
The Health Policy Process, Politics and Power	HPM001	15	Core	No	7
International Health Systems	HPM004	15	Core	No	7
Health Economics	HPM006	15	Core	No	7
Foundations in Research Methods and Data Analysis*	HRM020	15	Core	No	7
Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis*	HRM001	30	Elective (replaces HRM020)	No	7
Health Policy in Britain	HPM003	15	Elective	No	7
Public Health[†]	PHM001	15	Elective	No	7
Global Health[†]	PHM003	15	Elective	No	7
Social Determinants of Health[†]	PHM004	15	Elective	No	7
Contemporary Issues in Mental Health	APM006	15	Elective	No	7
Engaging Technology	APM017	15	Elective	No	7
Professional Leadership	APM032	15	Elective	No	7
Leading Change	APM034	15	Elective	No	7
Commissioning for Health and Social Care	APM035	15	Elective	No	7
Food and Public Policy	FPM001	30	Elective	No	7

* The core module HRM020 covers basic research skills and enables you to perform entry-level statistics. It forms the first part of the 30-credit module HRM001 Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis, which goes on to cover more advanced research skills. If you choose to take HRM001, this will replace the core module HRM020.

† A maximum of *two* Public Health (PHM) modules (PHM001, PHM003, PHM004) may be chosen as electives, depending on module capacity.

Dissertation component

You will write a health policy-related dissertation of between 12,000 and 15,000 words.

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

You may begin carrying out your dissertation during the year but you are only able to submit it once you have completed all of the taught modules successfully.

Information on individual modules can be found in the module specifications which you will find on Moodle (http://moodle.city.ac.uk/).

WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?

Because health and healthcare are such high priorities for both the public and policymakers, it is highly likely that demand for health policy specialists will remain high. Therefore, if you are working or wish to work within any health-related organisation in the public, private or third sectors, this course will help you develop a range of key transferable health policy skills.

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.

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

The entry requirements for this programme are:
- A first degree (2:2 class or above) or equivalent from an approved institution of higher education.
- Experience of working in the health sector may be considered as equivalent to a good honours degree for suitable applicants.
- In addition we consider applications from capable individuals who may not have prior experience of working within the health sector but have clear plans for a future career path in health policy.

For students whose first language is not English, one of the following qualifications is also required:
- A first degree from a UK university
- A first degree from an overseas institution recognised by City as providing adequate evidence of proficiency in the English language, for example, from institutions in Australia, Canada or the USA

- International English Language Testing Service (IELTS): a score of 7.0 is required with no subtest scoring below 6.5
- Pearson Test of English (Academic): a score of 72 required.

Recognition of Prior Learning

The MSc Health Policy follows City's guidelines on Recognition of Prior Learning.

RPL may be recognised for up to a maximum of 45 academic credits. If you can demonstrate that you have completed modules that are directly equivalent to the modules for which RPL is claimed in terms of both curriculum content and academic standing and these modules are still current (completed within two years of enrolment) then RPL may be recognised on a direct equivalent basis. Alternatively, you are required to complete the assessment for those modules for which RPL is claimed although you are not required to attend the taught sessions.