

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) (Blended learning; Online learning)
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.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Structure of the Programme

The programme is offered on both a full-time and a part-time basis. Full-time students complete the programme in one year, while part-time students complete the programme over 2 years.

You will take six or seven taught modules (to a value of 120 credits), plus the dissertation (worth 60 credits). A 15-credit taught modules typically involve 150 hours of study, comprising approximately 30 contact hours (lectures and seminars) and 130 hours of self-directed study. The dissertation involves 600 hours of study, comprising of lectures / workshops, supervision meetings and self-directed study.

There are two modes by which MPH core modules are delivered, a blended learning mode and an online learning mode:

Blended Learning Mode

In the blended learning mode, teaching on core MPH modules is delivered through a combination of synchronous, fully interactive online lectures (that you will attend alongside online-only learners) supplemented by face-to-face seminars.

Online Learning Mode

In the online learning mode, teaching on core MPH modules is delivered through a combination of synchronous, fully interactive online lectures (that you will attend alongside blended learners) supplemented by online seminars that mirror the content of the face-to-face seminars.

Regardless of the mode of delivery, for the core MPH modules lectures will usually run for 2 hours and seminars will usually run for 1 hour. All online lectures are recorded and available for all students to review subsequently. Lectures will typically include educational content designed to develop topic-specific understanding, skills and values, while seminars will typically focus on more discursive exploration of specific issues. Both lectures and seminars will be highly interactive and include individual exercises, small group activities and whole class discussions. Teaching will be delivered by experts from the School of Health Sciences and external guest speakers from the world of Public Health.

The content of MPH core modules is the same for across both modes of learning. Delivering online lectures simultaneously to blended learners and online learners ensures equity of learning experience. All students participate in the same synchronous learning environment

and can fully engage with small group activities (in online breakout rooms), large groups discussions, and to ask specific questions or raise issues at appropriate points during lectures and seminars. By bringing together blended learners and online learners for lectures we facilitate greater opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and the development of a community of practice among all students, regardless of where you are in the world.

Other Learning Modes

You will take two or three elective modules from a curated list of modules offered across the School of Health Sciences. This list may change from year to year but see below indicative modules. Most elective modules are offered in two modes of delivery.* For example, HRM005 Evidence-Based Evaluation is delivered via blended and online Learning modes, exactly as described above. Elective modules from the MSc Health Management are delivered in format that is similar to the MPH online learning mode but with some optional face-to-face delivery. Elective modules from the MSc Health Policy and the MSc Food Policy are delivered as face-to-face lectures on campus which are recorded and made available asynchronously to online learners and additional online support sessions for online learners are provided. There may be other modes of delivery for some elective modules.

* While we endeavour to offer elective modules that can be taken by all students, it is possible that some elective modules will only be offered in a format that require some face-to-face teaching. These elective modules will therefore not be available to online learners.

Combining Learning Modes

The structure of the programme means that you will complete four core MPH modules (totalling 60 credits) and a further two or three elective modules (totalling 60 credits). This means you will experience a variety of learning modes. Blended learners will experience some modules which combined online and face-to-face learning but may choose to take elective modules that are delivered entirely in a traditional face-to-face mode or electives that are delivered entirely online. The majority of modules for online learners will be delivered online synchronously (i.e. in 'real time' with full interactivity) but may choose to take elective modules that are delivered online asynchronously or that are delivered using a combination of synchronous and asynchronous modes.

All students will require access to a quiet room for online lectures/ seminars, and a laptop or computer with a reliable internet connection and sufficient bandwidth to accommodate video conferencing.

Participation and Self-Directed Study

You are encouraged to exchange your own experiences and perspectives on issues under discussion during activities and discussions, as well as question and answer sessions and whole class activities. Students are also expected to undertake self-directed study using reading lists, online activities and resources. Students are assigned a Personal Tutor and can access these and Module Leaders during their office hours in the usual way, or at a convenient time for their time zone. Teaching and learning are facilitated by Moodle, City's online virtual learning environment. Teaching by the School of Health Sciences staff is supplemented by support from subject specialists from City's library, Academic Skills staff and other university student services such as the Careers Service.

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.

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/about/education/quality-manual/6-assessment>

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. You also need to pass each Programme Stage of your Programme in order to progress to the following Programme Stage.

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, 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:

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 taught modules (totalling 120 credits).

	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 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.

You Programme Director will advise you on your choices of modules.

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

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will take six or seven taught modules, four core modules, one 'core elective' (i.e. you can choose between HRM001/ HRM011 and HRM005 but you must take one of these) and one or two elective modules (depending on whether they are worth 15- or 30-credits). You will also take the dissertation module:

- The four core (compulsory) modules are listed below.
- For one 'core elective' (30-credits) module, you can choose either: Introduction to Research Methods and Applied Data Analysis; or Evidence-Based Evaluation. The programme team will be on hand to guide you in your choice.
- In addition, you will choose either two further 15-credit elective (optional) modules, or one 30-credit elective module. An indicative 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 (Face-to-face or online)	HRM001/ HRM011	30	Core elective	No	7
Or	Or				
Evidence-Based Evaluation	HRM005				
Advanced Research Methods	HRM002	15	Elective	No	7
Strategic Management in Healthcare	HMM002	15	Elective	No	7
Health Innovation and Systems Change	HMM008	15	Elective	No	7
Health Policy	HPM001	15	Elective	No	7

Process, Politics and Power					
International Health Systems	HPM004	15	Elective	No	7
Health Economics	HPM006	15	Elective	No	7
Food and Public Policy	FPM001	30	Elective	No	7
Systems Leadership	HRM006	30	Elective	No	7
Integrated and Person- Centred Health and Social Care	HRM007	30	Elective	No	7

Please note:

All core modules and HRM005 are available as blended or (fully interactive) online.

While we endeavour to offer elective modules that can be taken by all students, it is possible that some elective modules will only be offered in a format that require some face-to-face teaching. These elective modules will therefore not be available to online learners. Details about the modes of delivery available for each module will be conveyed to you at the start of the term.

Dissertation component

The dissertation is a core module. In this module, you will either write a dissertation of between 12,000-15,000 words or a manuscript in the format of a research paper (7,000-8,000 words). The dissertation format options will be explained by the Programme Director and/or module leader. Dissertation supervision can delivery via face-to-face or online meetings (or a combination) alongside other forms of communication (e.g. email)

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: <https://www.city.ac.uk/careers/your-career>

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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