



## Master of Public Health

### General track:

- Master of Public Health

### Specialisation tracks:

- Management of Health Systems
- International Public Health

The general track in Master of Public Health provides a thorough grounding in international public health, enabling students to put principles into effect in both research and practical contexts. The individual and teamwork skills acquired will equip students for senior positions in a variety of public, NGO and international settings.

### Programme outline

- The aim of our general track in MPH, along with our two specialisation tracks in International Public Health and Management of Health Systems, is to provide a foundation in the science and art of international public health. The knowledge, skills and attitudes students acquire will enable them to put public health principles into effect in both research and practical contexts.
- As students progress through the programme, they will develop a thorough understanding of all the main disciplines of public health, providing a strong basis for a high-level career in the field. The core modules cover epidemiology and qualitative research methods, including the application of appropriate study designs, their critical appraisal and the essential principles and procedures for ethical practice; health systems and health promotion.
- Students can then personalise their programme to meet their own job, career and personal needs by choosing from a wide range of electives. Additionally, students can focus on a specific area by following a pre-defined specialisation track in Management of Health Systems or International Public Health.

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## Specialisation tracks

### Management of Health Systems

- The MPH with a specialisation track in Management of Health Systems provides a thorough and in-depth knowledge of the establishment and evaluation of international health systems, an evaluation of the processes necessary for the management of healthcare delivery, and a critical understanding of management theory. This specialised track investigates the need to strengthen national, regional and international health systems by identifying the reasons of poor health delivery. Elements that influence the delivery of sufficient health systems such as weak governance, infrastructure, information systems, planning and human resources will also be addressed. The specialised skill-set students will acquire through the study of this innovative track will prepare them to excel in myriad top level senior positions in the Health sector.

### International Public Health

- The MPH with a specialisation track in International Public Health, designed by world leading experts in the public health sector, is an in-depth study of the public health issues that exist in a variety of international settings. This specialised track involves a comprehensive analysis of infectious disease, nutrition, environmental health, health infrastructure, and health project management in an international context, particularly focusing on health issues in low income countries. Intervention strategies which cover worldwide health needs will be explored and the principles of equity, access, and universality in the context of global health will be thoroughly examined. The knowledge and proficiency gained from the study of this programme will enable students to excel in senior management positions within the field of International Public Health.

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## Programme structure

- The general track in MPH comprises one preparatory module, five core modules, three elective modules and culminates in a dissertation in a topic relevant to Public Health.
- The specialisation tracks in Management of Health Systems and International Public Health comprises one preparatory module, five core modules, three specialisation modules and culminate in a dissertation topic relevant to the students' programme of choice.
- Students will follow one non-credit bearing modules (Student Readiness Orientation) that will prepare them for their online learning experience. For more information about this required preparatory module refer to the [Centre for Student Success document](#).
- The first module will be ten weeks in length. Each subsequent module lasts eight weeks. Students take one module at a time in order to study a specific subject in-depth without distractions.

## Modules

	Master of Public Health (General Track)	International Public Health Specialisation	Management of Health Systems Specialisation
<b>Preparatory modules</b>			
Student Readiness Orientation	✓	✓	✓
<b>Core modules (Students take 5 in total)</b>			
Health Promotion	✓	✓	✓
Epidemiology and Statistics for Public Health Research	✓	✓	✓
Qualitative Methods for Public Health Research	✓	✓	✓
Management of Health Systems	✓	✓	✓
	Choose 1	Choose 1	Choose 1
Regression and Evidence Based Methods for Epidemiology <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Society <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> *	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Core specialisation/elective modules</b>	Choose 3 elective modules, a min of 1 from each group		
<b>Group A</b>			
Comparative Health Systems and Advanced Management	<input type="checkbox"/>		✓
Health and Social Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>		✓
Health and Society	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Health Impact Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>		
International Disaster Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	
Policy and Programme Challenges in Low Income Countries	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	
Public Health Issues in Low Income Countries	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	
Public Health Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Group B</b>			
Advanced Epidemiological Modelling <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Epidemiology of Disease <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Health Economics and Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>		✓
Health Informatics	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Health Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Regression and Evidence Based Methods for Epidemiology	<input type="checkbox"/>		

<sup>1</sup> This core module is required if adopting a quantitative approach to research for the dissertation

<sup>2</sup> This core module is required if adopting a qualitative approach to research for the dissertation

<sup>3</sup> The last intake for this module will be October 2014

\* Either of these modules are available as an elective if not selected as the 5th core module if studying the general track

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## Core modules (all programmes)

- Health Promotion
- Epidemiology and Statistics for Public Health Research
- Qualitative Methods for Public Health Research
- Management of Health Systems
- Regression and Evidence Based Methods for Epidemiology<sup>1</sup>
- Health and Society<sup>2</sup>

1: This core module is required if adopting a quantitative approach to research for the dissertation

2: This core module is required if adopting a qualitative approach to research for the dissertation

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## Elective modules

### General track

(Students choose three electives, a minimum of one elective from each group)

#### Group A

- Comparative Health Systems and Advanced Management
- Health and Social Policy
- Health and Society\*
- Health Impact Assessment
- International Disaster Management
- Policy and Programme Challenges in Low Income Countries
- Public Health Issues in Low Income Countries
- Public Health Nutrition

#### Group B

- Advanced Epidemiological Modelling\*\*
- Epidemiology of Disease\*\*
- Health Economics and Finance
- Health Informatics
- Health Protection
- Regression and Evidence Based Methods for Epidemiology\*

\*This module is available as an elective if not selected as the 5th core module.

\*\*The last intake for this module will be October 2014

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## Specialisation modules

### International Public Health

- International Disaster Management
- Public Health Issues in Low Income Countries
- Policy and Programme Challenges in Low Income Countries

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## Specialisation modules

### Management of Health Systems

- Health Economics and Finance
- Health and Social Policy
- Comparative Health Systems and Advanced Management

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## Dissertation (all programmes)

- The culmination of the programme, this written project demonstrates the students' mastery and integration of all their previous learning. The dissertation is the cornerstone of the UK university system. It is an original, scholarly work that applies the students' new knowledge and experience and allows them to prove their mastery of the techniques they have studied.
- Students choose their dissertation topic in conjunction with their Personal Dissertation Advisor, an academic supervisor who will provide support throughout the study and writing process. It is expected that the primary focus of your dissertation be relevant to a topic in the field of public health.

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## Programme duration

- The programme takes on average 30 months to complete. However, since students progress at their own pace, you may choose to complete your studies in as little as 24 months or spread them over 36 months.

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## Core modules

### Health Promotion

*Aim: To provide an understanding of the concepts of health and the principles and practices of health promotion in post-modern society.*

- This module outlines the history and evolution of health promotion, giving students a clear understanding of its role as the core concept of new public health in post-modern society that will lead to healthy public policy. They will learn to critically evaluate health promotion strategies, and identify the factors that affect them, as well as the significance of the social determinants on health for people's health. Students will gain a contextual understanding of health, well-being and human development which refers to the concepts of Salutogenesis and Quality of Life as two instructive contributions to health promotion theory and practice. Finally they will learn how to apply project-management-methods to set up and run effective health promotion projects.

### Epidemiology & Statistics for Public Health Research

*Aim: To provide an understanding of the purpose of quantitative research and a thorough grounding in epidemiology and statistics.*

- This module provides the context for scientific research and the skills needed to undertake epidemiological studies. Students will be able to design appropriate questions, apply statistical techniques to data and present their findings as a report.

### Qualitative Methods for Public Health Research

*Aim: To introduce the nature and types of qualitative methods and their uses in health research.*

- This module gives students a thorough grounding in a wide range of qualitative research methods. As a result, they will be equipped to design their own robust

qualitative research proposal and analyse and present the results.

### Management of Health Systems

*Aim: To give students a clear understanding of the development and management of health systems.*

- This module explains the history of public health services around the world and their approaches to the assessment of need and the delivery of healthcare. Students will learn how to evaluate different systems and strategies and to apply management theory to health systems.

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## Core Elective modules

### Regression and Evidence Based Methods for Epidemiology

*Aim: To enable students to develop further knowledge and skills in the use of advanced epidemiological statistical techniques and methods of analysis in health research.*

- This module provides students with a deeper and broader understanding of quantitative research techniques, and in particular principles of regression. It will equip them to interpret the findings of research studies, and also to analyse epidemiological data using more advanced analytical skills.

### Health and Society

*Aim: To promote an understanding of the relationships between health, illness, healthcare and society.*

- This module explores concepts in medical sociology and enables students to apply sociological concepts to public health problems. They will examine the social implications of illness and learn how to take into account the impact of social factors on patterns of illness.

## Specialisation/Elective modules

### Group A

#### Comparative Health Systems and Advanced Management

*Aim: To acquire the knowledge to apply comparative analysis skills to international health systems and policies.*

- Public health's function in the planning and organising of health care systems is critically evaluated in this module. Students will also study the use of analytic tools for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of health care systems and programmes. Additionally, the role of leadership and ethical practice in the management of health care systems is methodically analysed as students become proficient at managing organisational change.

#### Health and Social Policy

*Aim: To provide a clear understanding of different health and social policies around the world, the factors that influences social policy development, and the impact that social policy can have on population health.*

- This module examines the widely differing policies of different countries, encouraging students to appraise them critically within a global perspective. They will learn to apply principles of social policy development to a specific public health issue.

#### Health and Society

*Aim: To promote an understanding of the relationships between health, illness, healthcare and society.*

- This module explores concepts in medical sociology and enables students to apply sociological concepts to public health problems. They will examine the social implications of illness and learn how to take into account the impact of social factors on patterns of illness.

#### Health Impact Assessment

*Aim: To develop an understanding of the concepts, processes and tools of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and to assess its impact on policy and decision making.*

- This module introduces students to HIA to enable them to critically appraise its procedures. They will learn how to apply HIA to a case study and integrate it with other forms of impact assessment.

#### International Disaster Management

*Aim: To equip students with the necessary skill-set to effectively regulate and strategise for global disaster conditions through a comprehensive study of international disaster management.*

- This module concentrates on disaster preparedness on a global level through the study of mitigation, response and recovery in relation to natural and man-made disasters. Students will gain the aptitude to proficiently manage disaster situations, excel in environmental hazard risk management and develop effective strategies for humanitarian assistance and relief distribution upon completion of this eight week study.

#### Policy and Programme Challenges in Low Income Countries

*Aim: To provide an analytic view of the unique challenges low income countries face with regard to the development of effective public health policies and programmes.*

- This module commences with a comprehensive examination of the communicable and noncommunicable diseases prevalent in low income countries from an epidemiological perspective. Subsequently, students will study in-depth the variety of efforts currently being undertaken to target the international development aims of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The difficulties facing the development of health systems in low income countries, and also policy development, equity and ethics, will be explored extensively.

### Public Health Issues in Low Income Countries

*Aim: To provide a broad understanding of the major public health issues, programmes and strategies in low income countries.*

- Through an appreciation of history, epidemiology and the delivery of the major public health programmes and strategies in low income countries, students will gain a firm understanding of the relevant public health issues.

### Public Health Nutrition

*Aim: To explore the role of food and nutrition in the promotion and maintenance of public health and the prevention of diet-related disease globally.*

- This module will equip students with the knowledge and skills that underpin public health and enable them to apply these to nutrition-related problems at the community, region and international levels.

## Specialisation/Elective modules

### Group B

### Advanced Epidemiological Modelling

*Aim: To introduce students to a wide variety of epidemiological concepts, methods, statistical software and advanced tools.*

- This module covers advanced epidemiological and statistical concepts including further regression, hierarchical modelling, intraclass correlation, factor analysis, and Bayesian methods. Analysis of longitudinal data and techniques used in epidemiological projections will be covered and sophisticated statistical software and advanced epidemiological tools will be introduced. (The last intake for this module will be October 2014)

### Epidemiology of Disease

*Aim: To investigate the epidemiological factors associated with the most commonly known diseases in both high and low income countries.*

- Factors that determine the distribution and control of both communicable and non-communicable disease will be studied extensively in this module, along with an analytic view of how future trends in disease can be predicted through epidemiological modelling. The dynamics of infectious disease, including basic infectious disease modelling will be covered with a strong emphasis on disease burden reduction and the impact of complex interventions. (The last intake for this module will be October 2014)

### Health Economics & Finance

*Aim: To promote an understanding of the context, relevance, uses and limitations of health economics.*

- This module provides a foundation in health economics. It will enable students to identify, interpret and evaluate health care in the economic context, with particular attention to its application in practice.

### Health Informatics

*Aim: To explore the essential components and ideologies behind information and communication systems and study the use of informatics methods and resources to promote public health.*

- This module examines the use of information technology in public health practice to access, interpret, and evaluate data for decision support systems and effective communication. Students will gain a clear insight into the application of legal and ethical principles pertaining to the dissemination of information in public health settings while collaborative approaches to the design, implementation, and evaluation of informatics programmes will also be addressed.

### Health Protection

*Aim: To provide an understanding of the impact of communicable diseases and environmental hazards on the health of a population.*

- During this module students will learn about the impact on public health of communicable diseases and environmental hazards. They will study the epidemiology of such diseases and principles of prevention and control, including their application. Students will also learn how to apply epidemiological and health protection principles to the investigation of hazards to health and how to plan for public health emergencies.

### Regression and Evidence Based Methods for Epidemiology

*Aim: To enable students to develop further knowledge and skills in the use of advanced epidemiological statistical techniques and methods of analysis in health research.*

- This module provides students with a deeper and broader understanding of quantitative research techniques, and in particular principles of regression. It will equip them to interpret the findings of research studies, and also to analyse epidemiological data using more advanced analytical skills.

*Please note all modules are not guaranteed to be offered in any calendar year and current scheduling may be subject to change.*

*As this is across all programmes and relates to various materials such as Programme PDFs, Prospectus and the website Programme Structure pages.*