Public Health Application Handbook 2016-2017

Courses:
Masters Public Health
Postgraduate Diploma Public Health
Postgraduate Certificate Public Health

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Introduction

The Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert), Diploma (PGDip), the Masters (MSc) in Public Health are part of the Public Health Programme in Postgraduate Medicine, Brighton and Sussex Medical School. They are designed for full-time or part-time study to meet the educational needs of those delivering and managing the public health and/or environmental agenda.

The student group comprises a wide range of professionals including regional, national and international attendees: doctors, nurses, managers in the NHS and local authorities, public health nurses, midwives, health promotion specialists, health visitors, community development workers and environmental health officers, professionals from social sciences, statistics, environmental health, and dental public health.

The content of the course includes the techniques required to undertake epidemiological studies, approaches to environmental impact on health matters, mechanisms of partnership working to achieve health gain and wider issues of the health of the population.

Aims and Learning Outcomes for the Course

Aims

The MSc in Public Health programme is aimed at graduates who are intending to practice in public health or related fields, and professionals who are in a role to improve the health and wellbeing of communities and population. The specific aims of the programme are:

- to provide comprehensive knowledge and systematic understanding of public health principles and policies
- to provide fundamental concepts and essential analytical methods pertaining to design, analysis, interpretation, implementation and evaluation of epidemiological and health services research
- to provide a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of quantitate/qualitative research methods used in health and social care
- to enhance competence in critically evaluating and communicating research evidence
- to provide comprehensive understanding of the statistical concepts in the planning and analysis of research, and the basis of statistical analysis commonly used in health and social care research
- to provide an opportunity to plan and execute a rigorous research project in an area of applied public health
- to foster an environment in which occupational experiences are shared and a wider understanding of multidisciplinary public health issues is gained

- to provide an opportunity to learn from 'hands on' practitioners working with the public health agenda furthering health gain within communities and groups

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate a systematic and comprehensive knowledge and analytical capacity in the theory and practice of public health; emphasising the practical application of evidence based public health to promote or protect health or prevent ill health in communities and populations (MDM50)

2. develop a critical understanding of the fundamental concepts and essential analytical methods pertaining to the design, analysis, and interpretation of epidemiological studies and health services research (MDM12)

3. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of research methods used in health and social care, and an ability to critically evaluate and communicate research evidence (MDM10)

4. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of statistical methods commonly used in health and social care research, and an ability to evaluate the use of statistical analysis in published research (MDM66)

5. apply the skill to use full range of associated research skills to plan and undertake a piece of independent in-depth research of sufficient quality and rigour (MDM96)

6. critically analyse and synthesise data from a wide variety of sources to inform evidence-based practice in Public Health (MDM50, MDM12, MDM10, MDM66, MDM96)
**Entry Requirements**

The minimum entry requirements for the courses are:

- First or second-class undergraduate honours degree in any subject or equivalent
  
  OR

- Evidence of at least three years’ work experience in an environment related to public health. Applicants must demonstrate a capacity to study at Masters Level.
  
  OR

- Successful completion of at least 3 years basic medical science at a UK medical school (having gained at least 360 credits) with a guaranteed place to continue medical studies on completion of the MSc

If you do not fulfil the above criteria, you may still apply after discussion with the Course Leader. You may also apply for individual modules as part of continuing education without undertaking a degree pathway.

You will be expected to demonstrate in your application and at interview the ability to study at Masters level. You will also be asked to identify your proposed source of funding.

If at interview it is evident that you clearly have a career in public health but do not seem to be at the correct academic level for starting the course, we can let you know of other courses or modules that are more appropriate, or which may prepare you for a later application.

All applications will be subject to the University Equal Opportunities Policy. Students for whom English is not a first language must demonstrate an acceptable standard of comprehension and communication in the English Language (IELTS: minimum overall score of 7.0 and 7.0 for the writing element).

There will be an Induction Day on the 14th September 2016 for all successful applicants and you are strongly recommended to attend.
Course Structure

The number of modules of study you need to complete and the duration of your course will depend on the course that you have chosen (see tables). A module comprises one week (35 hours) attendance at University and a further 165 hours of pre- and post-module independent study. Part-time students usually take three modules per year followed by the dissertation on completion of the taught component, whereas full-time students take six concurrently with their dissertation.

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health (60 Credits)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Status (Credits)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDM50 Principles and Practice of Public Health</td>
<td>Mandatory (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDM12 Epidemiology</td>
<td>Mandatory (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLUS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One other module from the core list or the optional list</td>
<td>One module from the core or optional list (20 credits)</td>
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*New course structure, subject to approval

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (120 Credits)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Status (Credits)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDM50 Principles and Practice of Public Health</td>
<td>Mandatory (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDM10 Research Methods and Critical Appraisal</td>
<td>Mandatory (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDM12 Epidemiology</td>
<td>Mandatory (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDM66 Essential Statistics for Health and Medical Research</td>
<td>Mandatory (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLUS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two modules from the ‘optional module’ list (see over page)</td>
<td>Two optional modules (20 credits+20 credits)</td>
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*New course structure, subject to approval
Master of Science in Public Health (180 Credits)*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Status (Credits)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDM50 Principles and Practice of Public Health</td>
<td>Mandatory (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDM10 Research Methods and Critical Appraisal</td>
<td>Mandatory (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDM12 Epidemiology</td>
<td>Mandatory (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDM66 Essential Statistics for Health and Medical Research</td>
<td>Mandatory (20 credits)</td>
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PLUS

Two modules from the ‘optional module’ list (see below) (20 credits+20 credits)

PLUS

MDM96 Dissertation

Mandatory (60 credits)

*New course structure, subject to approval

Optional modules

Choose two modules from the list below-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Optional Modules</th>
<th>Status (Credits)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. MDM33 Health Protection*</td>
<td>Optional (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. MDM83 Nutrition in Public Health*</td>
<td>Optional (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. MDM161 International Health</td>
<td>Optional (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. MDM110 Leadership and Change Management in Clinical services</td>
<td>Optional (20 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDM111 Commissioning for Quality Care Improvement in Clinical Services (20 credits)</td>
<td>Optional (20 credits)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*These modules run in alternate years. Health Protection runs in odd years (e.g. 2017, 2019) and Nutrition in Public Health runs in even years (e.g. 2016, 2018)

Core Module Descriptions

MDM50 Principles and Practice of Public Health

This module provides an overview of current and developing perspectives of public health and practical applications. It considers global, national and local issues, as well as environmental and social factors affecting the public health. It sets the context for approaches to reduce inequalities in health. The impact of health promotion and educational strategies developed to implement public health policies are explored.
**MDM12 Epidemiology**

The module promotes the understanding of epidemiological theory and practice as a basic science in public health. It explores the fundamental concepts and basic analytical methods pertaining to the design, analysis, and interpretation of epidemiological studies and health services research.

**MDM10 Research Methods and Critical Appraisal**

The module aims to provide students with an understanding of research methods in health and social care and the ability to relate appropriate methods to research questions. Students will be equipped to search and critically review the literature, to develop and justify a research proposal, and to anticipate potential ethical issues in their research proposal.

**MDM66 Essential Statistics for Health and Medical**

This module aims to enable health practitioners and specialists to develop a pragmatic understanding of essential statistical topics. The module provides comprehensive understanding of statistical methods commonly used in health and social care research, and an ability to evaluate the use of statistical analysis in published research.

**MDM96 Dissertation**

The dissertation is for the students studying for the MSc awards. You will be able to choose a dissertation topic that is relevant to your professional interests and practice but will need to focus on issues relating to public health. Your choice of topic must be discussed with the Course Leader and then agreed by the Division of Medical Education Dissertation Panel after a formal submission of your proposal to the Panel. Once your dissertation has been agreed, you will be assigned a dissertation supervisor.

**Teaching Staff**

Academic staff from the Faculty of Health and Social Science and other faculties in the University is involved in the provision of teaching in a modular format, at Masters (M) level. Specialist teaching is provided by consultants, specialists and other clinical staff from Trusts and organisations in and around the region. The extensive contribution of expert practitioners to the teaching of the modules is a distinctive feature of courses at the Division of Medical Education. These are just some of the speakers who have contributed to our modules over the last year or two.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexander, Annie</td>
<td>Public Health Programme Manager, Brighton and Hove City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, John</td>
<td>Principal Lecturer, Postgraduate Medicine, BSMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blair-Stevens, Terry</td>
<td>Public Health Specialist, Brighton and Hove City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flaherty, Breda</td>
<td>Course Leader for the MSc in Healthcare Leadership and Commissioning, BSMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassell, Jackie</td>
<td>Professor of Primary Care Epidemiology, Division of Primary Care and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teaching and Learning Methods

As with all Masters courses, there is a considerable degree of independent study. Teaching methods encompass lectures, whole group discussions, small group discussions, critical appraisal workshops and individual tutorials. Maintaining employment throughout the course ensures the transfer of knowledge and skills from the course into the workplace.

Assessment

Most modules require an in-depth evaluation of a topic chosen by the student and agreed with the module leader. It is normally a 3,000 word written assignment.

Timetable

Please visit the following link to download a complete list of the modules available and the dates they are scheduled to run: https://www.bsms.ac.uk/postgraduate/continuing-professional-development/single-modules.aspx
Fees

For fee information please see the website:

https://www.bsms.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught-degrees/public-health.aspx

In case of queries please contact: fees@brighton.ac.uk or visit the following link:

http://www.brighton.ac.uk/studentlife/money/

How to Apply

Please apply online via the following link:

https://www.bsms.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply-now/index.aspx

We do hope that you find that this course meets your needs. If you have any further queries that will help you to decide if this is the right development for you, we would be pleased to hear from you. Do make contact with the Programme Administrator for this course. Learning can be fun as well as hard work so do choose what suits your needs best and good luck with your decision!

Please note details in this handbook are subject to periodic review and may involve minor changes.