

MSc Public Health Application Handbook 2019 - 2020



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 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 aim of the courses is to address the identified gap in educational needs of a wide range of practitioners and specialists working in or around Public Health and to provide a mechanism for analysing and instituting change in practice.

As the course has been designed within a multi-professional, modular framework, it is hoped that participants will share their occupational and learning experiences, thereby breaking down professional barriers, this enhancing successful team working. In doing so, a sense of the true multidisciplinary nature of Public Health, with respect for differing profiles and contributions, is fostered. Participants, therefore, gain an understanding of public health issues and the various roles of all of the professionals involved in both the statutory and non-statutory sectors.

The course objectives are:

1. to provide comprehensive knowledge and systematic understanding of public health principles and policies
2. to provide fundamental concepts and essential analytical methods pertaining to design, analysis, interpretation, implementation and evaluation of epidemiological and health services research
3. to provide a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of quantitative/qualitative research methods used in health and social care
4. to enhance competence in critically evaluating and communicating research evidence
5. 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
6. to provide an opportunity to plan and execute a rigorous research project in an area of applied public health
7. to foster an environment in which occupational experiences are shared and a wider understanding of multidisciplinary public health issues is gained
8. 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

PG Cert:

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

1. ILO1. 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
2. ILO2. 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
3. ILO3. demonstrate originality in the application of specialised professional knowledge and skills to complex and sensitive public health issues
4. ILO4. critically analyse and synthesise data from a wide variety of sources to inform evidence-based practice in public health

PLUS Achievement of the learning outcomes from one optional module (please see module specification for details)

PG Dip:

Upon Successful completion of the programme, in addition to the above students will be able to:

5. ILO5. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of research methods used in health and social care, and an ability to critically evaluate and communicate research evidence
6. ILO6. 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
7. ILO7. critically analyse and report on complex and sensitive issues pertinent to public health using literature searching and empirical research skills

PLUS Achievement of the learning outcomes from two optional modules (please see module specification for details)

MSc:

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

8. ILO8. demonstrate advanced competence in identifying a research question, plan, conduct and report/publish a research project in their chosen area of public health

Skills

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

1. Assimilate and evaluate information from a variety of sources
2. Use evidence appropriately to inform public health policy and practice
3. Design, analyse, interpret, and evaluate epidemiological studies
4. Negotiate research ethics and governance procedures
5. Write-up and disseminate research findings
6. Communicate effectively to specialist and non-specialists audiences
7. Develop skill for effective team working, coordination and time management
8. Use statistical packages (SPSS) to analyse data

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).

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.

There are four mandatory modules for all pathways in the MSc Public Health. These are:

- Principles and Practice of Public Health (MDM50)
- Research Methods and Critical Appraisal (MDM10)
- Epidemiology (MDM12)
- Essential Statistics in Health and Medical Research (MDM66)

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health (60 Credits)

Module	Status (Credits)
MDM50 - Principles and Practice of Public Health	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM12 - Epidemiology	
PLUS	
One other module from the core list or the optional list	One module from the core or optional list (20 credits)

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (120 Credits)

Module	Status (Credits)
MDM50 - Principles and Practice of Public Health	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM10 - Research Methods and Critical Appraisal	
MDM12 - Epidemiology	Mandatory (20 credits)
MDM66 - Essential Statistics for Health and Medical Research	
PLUS	
Two modules from the 'optional module' list (see over page)	Two optional modules (20 credits+20 credits)

Master of Science in Public Health (180 Credits)

Module	Status (Credits)
MDM50 - Principles and Practice of Public Health	Mandatory (20
MDM10 - Research Methods and Critical Appraisal	credits)
MDM12 - Epidemiology	Mandatory (20
MDM66 - Essential Statistics for Health and Medical Research	credits)
PLUS	Two optional modules
Two modules -from the 'optional module' list (see below)	(20 credits+20 credits)
PLUS	
MDM164 Dissertation	Mandatory (60

Optional modules

Choose two modules from the list below-

Optional Modules	Status (Credits)
1. MDM33 -Health Protection*	Optional (20 credits)
2. MDM83 -Nutrition in Public Health*	Optional (20 credits)
3. MDM161 - Global Public Health	Optional (20 credits)
4. MDM110 Leadership and Change Management in Clinical services	Optional (20 credits)
OR	
5. MDM111 Commissioning for Quality Care Improvement in Clinical Services	Optional (20 credits)

*These modules run in alternate years. Health Protection runs in odd years (e.g. 2019, 2021) and Nutrition in Public Health runs in even years (e.g 2018, 2020)

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.

MDM164 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 and Learning Methods

Learning and teaching methods will include:

- Lectures
- Group discussions
- Workshops
- Students Presentations
- Individual project work
- Self-directed learning
- Reflection
- Audio-visual and e-learning
- 'Ted Talks'

Assessment

Core Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Assessment Method
MDM50	Principles and Practice of Public Health	<p>A 2,000 word assignment critically analysing an aspect of public health theory and practice related to the student's practice to be negotiated and agreed with module leader.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Students will prepare a 7 minutes 'Ted Talk' style video presentation on a topic considered to be of recent public health importance (e.g. in the last five years). The video will be assessed by two markers</p> <p>Both components must normally be passed; compensation from one component to the other is not normally allowed</p>
MDM12	Epidemiology	<p>A 90 minutes unseen written exam</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Poster Presentation</p> <p>Students will prepare a poster and will orally present the content of their posters to two assessors, and then answer questions. The poster will be assessed using the Poster Presentation Marking Guidelines</p> <p>Both components must normally be passed; compensation from one component to the other is not normally allowed</p>

MDM66	Essential Statistics for Health & Medical Research	The production of six short statistical reports
MDM10	Research Methods and Critical Appraisal	3,000 word assignment in which the students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •introduce and define a research issue and research question within their specialty; • conduct a search of the literature and critique relevant papers; • critique the main research methodologies and methods and justify the choice of their methods for their proposed project; • provide an outline research proposal. Plus: a 500 word Reflective Account of how the module has impacted upon their work. (Unmarked)
MDM164	Dissertation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Dissertation of 12,000 words (Summative) • Poster (Summative) • Viva – optional (Summative) Both parts must be passed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Protocol (Formative)

Optional Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Assessment Method
MDM83	Nutrition in Public Health	A 3,000 word assignment on a topic related to nutrition or of interest to the students work practices will be agreed with the module leader. Students will be expected to identify and appraise a public health nutrition problem and propose an appropriate evidence-based course of action, thus preparing them for project development work in practice
MDM33	Health Protection	Summative Students are required to submit a 2 000 word assignment 'Discuss the prevention and control of one agent (infectious or non-infectious environmental hazard/ NIEH) of public health importance in the UK. Give examples of difficulties in the control of the agent and how these have been addressed by changed guidance or practices, taking account as appropriate of any current relevant national policies.' AND Students will give 7 minutes oral presentation followed by 5 minutes for questions/discussions. The presentation will be marked by two assessors. Both components must normally be passed; compensation from one component to the other is not normally allowed
MDM161	Global Public Health	Students will select a topic of global public health importance, conduct a comprehensive literature search, and prepare a 2000 word essay on the

		<p>topic.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>PechaKucha 20x20 is a simple presentation format where student will show 20 images, each for 20 seconds. The student will agree a topic with the module leader.</p> <p>Both components must normally be passed; compensation from one component to the other is not normally allowed</p>
MDM110	Leadership and Change Management in Clinical services	<p>3,000 word essay in which students present a healthcare example of change relevant to the module content. This will focus on the application of leadership and commissioning theory to the clinical context; students will be expected to discuss the organisation and policy context for service change, and its relevance to their clinical example. The topic will have relevance to the student's work setting, and will be agreed with the Module Co-ordinator.</p>
MDM111	Commissioning for Quality Care	<p>Assessed student presentation in seminar mode. Students will be expected to offer an academically robust response to an overarching topic set by the Module Co-ordinator. Their response will be based in an applied Commissioning project. Presentations will be supported by a full slide set referencing academic texts, journal articles, and relevant policy materials.</p>

Fees

For fee information please contact: enquiries@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.