

Global Health

MSc, PGDip, PGCert

Improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and populations worldwide



The health of people differs widely across the globe. Life expectancy varies from 45 years in some countries to double that figure in others, and similar inequalities exist within countries. Economies, environments and societies are increasingly heterogenous but also interconnected and interdependent. As a result, many complex factors and processes from the local to the global spheres affect the health and ill-health of individuals, populations and nations.

At the Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research, our postgraduate courses help develop students' understanding of the complex determinants of health and ill-health. Students will investigate and critically evaluate a range of strategies to improve health outcomes globally, gaining the skills they need to contribute to the achievement of health equity and social justice worldwide.

We bring together experts from health sciences, development studies, anthropology, economics, international relations and political sciences, among others, to deliver a stimulating and vibrant programme. Topics covered include poverty, health and development; cultural understandings of health and healing; the global burden and management of disease; emerging infectious diseases; health policy and practice; access to medicines; and the relationship between health inequalities, globalisation and global governance.



What the course offers

- A stimulating class environment which gathers students from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds and nationalities.
- Dynamic and interactive teaching methods, including seminars, group discussions and the exploration of case studies to facilitate students' critical understanding of complex global health problems and their potential solutions.
- A wide range of learning resources at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), the Universities of Brighton and Sussex; and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS).
- A unique trans and interdisciplinary approach to global health research and practice that reflects our wide-ranging expertise in international development, epidemiology, communicable, non-communicable and neglected tropical diseases, medical anthropology, global health ethics and global health governance.
- Two terms of campus-based teaching surrounded by the beautiful South Downs, just minutes away from vibrant Brighton.
- One term focused on a research-based dissertation, for which students can choose to be based overseas.
- Teaching informed by, and reflective of, a strong research culture, by internationally renowned experts.
- Links with action-research projects around the world through the Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research.

Course	Core modules	Optional modules (choice of two)
MSc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global health principles • Global burden and management of disease • Research practice in global contexts • Dissertation (research project) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to medicines (BSMS) • Anthropology of fertility, reproduction and health (UoS)* • Anthropology of mental health (UoS)* • Communicable diseases (BSMS) • Cultural understandings of health and healing (UoS) • Global politics of disease* (UoS) • Health and development* (IDS) • Health, conflict and violence (BSMS) • Sexuality, intimacies, and rights in global perspective* (UoS)
PGDip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global health principles • Global burden and management of disease • Research practice in global contexts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global politics of disease* (UoS) • Health and development* (IDS) • Health, conflict and violence (BSMS) • Sexuality, intimacies, and rights in global perspective* (UoS) <p><i>*modules available for MSc students only</i></p>
PGCert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global health principles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to medicines • Communicable diseases • Global burden and management of disease • Research practice in global contexts

Course structure

The MSc is a full-time, one-year modular taught course (or two years part-time). You will undertake a number of core modules, along with a choice of optional modules offered by BSMS, IDS, and the School of Global Studies, University of Sussex (UoS). Please note, module availability may change from year to year depending on the availability of lecturers and levels of student interest.

Core modules

- Global Health Principles provides the foundations for the study of global health. The module helps students understand the complex determinants of health and ill-health in a globalised world and aims to develop an understanding of the diversity of factors and processes that can impact the health and ill-health of individuals and societies around the world.
- Global Burden and Management of Disease introduces students to the spectrum of disease, injury and disability found across the world, focusing on the most prevalent diseases globally. It explores the existing control measures

and the actors involved in order to develop students' ability to understand and critically approach the strategies used to prevent and manage disease and disability, both globally and locally.

- The Research Practice in Global Contexts module empowers students to plan and conduct ethical research within the broad field of global health. The module helps them to understand the fundamental principles that underpin different research approaches and critically assess which approach is appropriate for a given research aim or question. It also equips students with the practical knowledge and skills to undertake their own research.
- The Dissertation or Research Project allows students to develop an area of expertise through in-depth focus on a topic of their particular interest, with support from a supervisor. Students are expected to learn and work independently, access and critique information from a variety of sources, and competently design and report a research project. They will be required to obtain ethics approvals when needed.



Career opportunities

Graduates from this course will have the skills to work as global health practitioners, policy makers, consultants or researchers in non-governmental organisations (NGOs), governments, and international health and development agencies.

Our previous graduates have gone into a range of careers, working for national and international NGOs, the NHS and Public Health England. Others are based in national and international research organisations and universities, and some have continued their further postgraduate training at PhD level.

Entry requirements

A first or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree or equivalent in any global health-related subject (eg, anthropology, development studies, economics, nursing, political science, psychology, geography etc), or the successful completion of at least three years' basic medical science at a UK medical school (having gained at least 360 credits). Relevant global health experience is desirable but not essential.

English language (IELTS): a minimum score of 7, with no less than 6.5 in each section.

Further information

GlobalHealthTeaching@bsms.ac.uk • bsms.ac.uk/global-health