

# Programme Specification and Curriculum Map for MSc Environmental Health



<b>1. Programme title</b>	MSc Environmental Health
<b>2. Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3a. Teaching institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3b. Language of study</b>	English
<b>4a. Intake dates</b>	September
<b>4b. Mode of Study</b>	FT/PT
<b>4c Delivery method</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-campus/Blended <input type="checkbox"/> Distance Education
<b>5. Professional/Statutory/Regulatory body</b>	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
<b>6. Apprenticeship standard</b>	N/A
<b>7. Final qualification available</b>	MSc Environmental Health
<b>8. Academic Year Effective From</b>	2024/25

## 9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Evidence that have capacity to work at level 6+, for example:

Good honours degree, 2.2 or above or equivalent qualification in a relevant branch of science e.g. food science and technology, environmental science, safety engineering or chemistry, physics or biology.

Professional Diploma e.g. NEBOSH diploma together with professional experience.

Applications from mature candidates without formal qualifications are welcomed provided they can demonstrate appropriate levels of relevant ability and experience. This equivalent work-based experience may be considered at the discretion of the programme team and may require submission of a piece of work.

Applicants must also be competent in English to study this course. The most commonly accepted evidence of English language ability is IELTS 6.5 (with minimum 6.0 in all four components)

## **10. Aims of the programme**

The programme is designed to produce high quality practitioners, whose skill profile ensures that they can be efficiently and effectively employed in a variety of settings including local authorities, Public Health agencies, commercial and industrial businesses, and consultancies. Graduates will have received a coherent body of theoretical and applied professional knowledge, transferable skill development, and a fundamental competency in the fields of environmental health that incorporate the ethical and moral dimensions of practice to ensure good, safe, inclusive and supportive Environmental Health Practitioners.

The programme aims, on successful completion, to:

- Provide a multi-disciplinary appreciation of the complexities of environmental health.
- Enable students to identify, analyse, synthesise and evaluate environmental health stressors, developing an understanding of how they can impact on health.
- Enable appreciation of professional competence through development of skills based on scientific, legislative, technical and managerial knowledge.
- Provide ability to critically appraise risk in a variety of settings, designing appropriate solutions to reduce risk and harm to health.
- Communicate technical information in a clear, concise and persuasive style to appeal to particular audiences.
- Develop reflection on practice leading to changes in personal and professional understanding.
- Be aware of ethical considerations applicable to a range of health issues and to effect inclusive environmental health interventions.
- Provide students with the ability to justify appropriate research methodology and facilitate planning, implementation and critical evaluation of research for the profession and to have skills to critically evaluate conflicting theories and assimilate best professional practice.

## **11. Programme outcomes**

### **A. Knowledge and understanding**

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:

1. A wide range of Environmental Health Stressors, assessment, causation and impact on health
2. Scientific, technological, legislative and managerial processes used to develop appropriate environmental health interventions.
3. How social, cultural, emotional and psychological factors influence health
4. The use of hazard analysis and risk assessment tools and techniques in environmental health management.
5. Risk management, communication, and application within practice.
6. Professional scope of environmental health practice to recognise political and corporate environment in which environmental health practitioners practice
7. Application of relevant acts, regulations, guidance and codes of practice which influence leadership, management and interventions in complex situation
8. Detailed knowledge of environmental health intervention areas of:
  - a. Environmental Protection;

- b. Food Safety;
- c. Health and Safety;
- d. Housing and Health;
- e. Public Health.

### **Teaching/learning methods**

Students gain knowledge and understanding through engagement with learning activities such as key concept sessions, seminars, workshops, laboratory and other practical sessions. These taught sessions are further augmented through a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities, e.g. projects, case study analysis, and portfolio development. These methods are designed to ensure that students learn the ability to use the knowledge gained in a way that achieves positive outcomes.

### **Assessment Method**

Formative assessment gives students the opportunity to reflect on learning through engagement in online learning exercises, problem solving, case studies and group activities.

Students' knowledge and comprehension is assessed by written assignments, risk audits, management reports, portfolios, case studies, workplace assessments, presentations, reports assessing stressor impact, oral and practical examinations. There is a final dissertation module where students present an individual thesis. The assessments are designed to meet the learning outcomes of the modules.

### **B. Skills**

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

1. Appraise good practice in environmental health;
2. Critically analyse issues influencing environmental health and public health and safety;
3. Inspect, audit and investigate in a range of contexts that support the development of action plans;
4. Evaluate most appropriate course of action selecting from a range of options to achieve the desired outcome;
5. Select appropriate approaches to investigations in complex situations;
6. Critically appraise residual risk after planned intervention has been delivered;
7. Communicate solutions in a professional manner to a range of different audiences
8. Undertake formal academic research
9. Critically evaluate the results of an academic investigation and be able to extract data using a range of techniques appropriate to their chosen fields

### **Teaching/learning methods**

Students learn these cognitive skills through case study analysis, problem solving, risk audits, activities focussed on exploration of management, leadership and decision making in a variety of contexts. Students learn to explore issues in environmental health through laboratory-based exercises and experiments and practicals. The importance of real-life examples help student to learn how careful analysis can lead to appropriate action. Group seminars and workshops allow students room to discuss and develop the actions necessary to deliver change.

## **Assessment Method**

Students' cognitive skills are assessed by management reports, audits, problem solving, case study, oral and practical examinations, and in the development of a post graduate project/dissertation.

## **12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)**

### **12. 1 Overall structure of the programme**

The programme is normally studied over 1 calendar year full time or 2 years part time. Students study 60 credits each semester.

The programme is modular with the modules being of 30 credits and 15 credits point value. Each credit represents approximately 10 hours of student learning, endeavour and assessment. In order to obtain the Masters award a student will need to have studied 120 credits of taught modules, plus a 60 credit dissertation module, and an additional 0 credit module in Food Inspection, Food Standards and Fraud. The total credits for programme completion are 180.

#### **Full-time structure by semester and credits**

##### **Semester 1**

- BIO4225 Environmental Stressors and Legislative Interventions 30 credits
- BIO4603 Food Safety and Control 15 credits
- PRS4214 Housing Standards and Interventions 15 credits
- PRS4499 Research methods and MSc Project
- BIO4235 Environmental Protection 15 credits

##### **Semester 2**

- PRS4436 Risk and Public Protection 30 credits
- PRS4333 Interventions in Occupational Health and Safety 15 credits
- BIO4805 Practical Food Inspection, Food Standards and Fraud
- PRS4499 Research methods and MSc Project

##### **Semester 3**

- BIO4805 Practical Food Inspection, Food Standards and Fraud  
Module is 0 credits in total
- PRS4499 Research methods and MSc Project  
Module is 60 credits in total

#### **Part-time structure by semester and credits**

##### **Year 1**

###### **Semester 1**

- BIO4225 Environmental Stressors and Legislative Interventions 30 credits
- PRS4214 Housing Standards and Interventions 15 credits

###### **Semester 2**

- PRS4436 Risk and Public Protection 30 credits

##### **Year 2**

###### **Semester 1**

- BIO4235 Environmental protection 15 credits
- BIO4603 Food Safety and Control 15 credits

- PRS4499 Research methods and MSc Project

#### Semester 2

- PRS4333 Interventions in Occupational Health and Safety 15 credits
- BIO4805 Practical Food Inspection, Food Standards and Fraud
- PRS4499 Research methods and MSc Project

#### Semester 3

- BIO4805 Practical Food Inspection, Food Standards and Fraud  
Module is 0 credits in total
- PRS4499 Research methods and MSc Project  
Module is 60 credits in total

## 12.2 Levels and modules

### Level 7

#### COMPULSORY

Masters students must complete all modules:

- BIO4235 Environmental Protection (15 Credits)
- BIO4225 Environmental Stressors and Legislative Interventions (30 credits)
- PRS4436 Risk and Public Protection (30 credits)
- PRS4333 Interventions in Occupational Health and Safety (15 Credits)
- BIO4603 Food Safety and Control  
(15 Credits)
- BIO4805 Practical Food Inspection, Food Standards and Fraud (0 Credits)
- PRS4214 Housing Standards and Interventions (15 Credits)
- PRS4499 Research Methods and MSc Project  
(60 Credits)

#### OPTIONAL

There are no optional modules.

#### PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

## 12.3 Non-compensatable modules

Module level/Module code

### Level 7/

- BIO4235 (15c)
- BIO4225 (30c)
- PRS4436 (30c)
- PRS4333 (15c)
- BIO4603 (15c)
- BIO4805 (0c)
- PRS4214 (15c)
- PRS4499 (60c)

### **13. Information about assessment regulations**

The regulations applying to the programme are those common to the University (<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies>), except that the minimum pass grade on each component of assessment is 50%. In respect of BIO4805 Practical Food Inspection, Food Standards and Fraud, this is a competency based assessment and so the pass mark is 75% for the identification element and 50% for the written element.

### **14. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)**

N/A

### **15. Future careers (if applicable)**

The Masters in Environmental Health produces postgraduates with a wide range of professional, graduate and transferable skills. Within the programme students are able to direct their learning to all aspects of professional practice so that on completion of the award they are able to offer employers broad underpinning knowledge and skills and specialist knowledge in the key areas of environmental health.

The award has been matched to the needs of a variety of stakeholders and in particular in relation to the strategic management and operational practice of future environmental and public health agencies. Successful students will be able to complete professional qualifications pathways that qualify them as Environmental Health Practitioners and specifically meet the Food Standards Agency's competence requirement for food law intervention activity.

Students also have the opportunity to return to study on one of the expanding range of doctoral opportunities both work-based and PhDs.

### **16. Particular support for learning (if applicable)**

Facilities at Hendon include Microbiology Laboratory, Science Laboratories, and Pestology materials.

Use of specialist external lecturers.

Range of case studies based upon real practice scenarios, professionally accredited staff, e-learning medium, simulations.

### **17. HECoS code (or other relevant coding system)**

101317

### **18. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)**

Health Studies; Biosciences; Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies.

### **19. Reference points**

- Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Competency Framework Standards, 2023
- Relevant multi-disciplinary subject benchmarks: Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Studies (2023) and Health Studies (2019)
- Middlesex University Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook (LQEH)
- Middlesex University Regulations

## **20. Other information**

This programme is designed to provide graduates in related fields with the additional knowledge and skills necessary to analyse and evaluate environmental health problems in scientific, technical and managerial terms.

The programme is designed to produce high quality graduates whose skills profile ensures that they can be efficiently and effectively employed in a variety of contexts. Graduates will have received a coherent body of theoretical and applied knowledge, transferable skill development, and a fundamental competency in the field of environmental health, that incorporates the ethical dimension of practice.

The teaching team has sought to create a programme that is directly relevant to environmental health professionals working in, or aspiring to work, in a wide variety of contexts and locations but which fosters the development of an informed, critical and imaginative attitude. This has entailed the development of a programme that concentrates on the acquisition of knowledge, together with the skills to appraise and evaluate such theoretical knowledge in a practical context.

The programme offers a balanced approach to managing environmental health in a range of settings and is designed to meet the changing face of professional practice.

The following course-related costs are not included in the fees:

- Additional books to support study;
- Travel costs to field trips where transport is not provided by the university. All independent travel will be on London transport

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the student programme handbook and the University Regulations.

## 21. Curriculum map for MSc Environmental Health

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

### Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding	
A1	A wide range of Environmental Health Stressors, assessment, causation and impact on health
A2	Scientific, technological, legislative and managerial processes used to develop appropriate environmental health interventions.
A3	How social, cultural, emotional and psychological factors influence health
A4	The use of hazard analysis and risk assessment tools and techniques in environmental health management.
A5	Risk management, communication, and application within practice.
A6	Professional scope of environmental health practice to recognise political and corporate environment in which environmental health practitioners practice
A7	Application of relevant acts, regulations, guidance and codes of practice which influence leadership, management and interventions in complex situation
A8	Detailed knowledge of environmental health intervention areas of ;
A8a	Environmental Protection
A8b	Food Safety
A8c	Health and Safety
A8d	Housing and Health
A8e	Public Health
Skills	
B1	Appraise good practice in environmental health;
B2	Critically analyse issues influencing environmental health and public health and safety
B3	Inspect, audit and investigate in a range of contexts that support the development of action plans
B4	Evaluate most appropriate course of action selecting from a range of options to achieve the desired outcome;
B5	Select appropriate approaches to investigations in complex situations;
B6	Critically appraise residual risk after planned intervention has been delivered;
B7	Communicate solutions in a professional manner to a range of different audiences
B8	Undertake formal academic research
B9	Critically evaluate the results of an academic investigation and be able to extract data using a range of techniques appropriate to their chosen fields



Programme outcomes																
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	B9
Highest level achieved by all graduates																
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

## Programme Outcomes

Module Title	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8a	A8b	A8c	A8d	A8e	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	B9	
Environmental Stressors and Legislative Interventions	BIO4255	+	+	+			+	+							+						+		
Food Safety and Control	BIO4603	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Interventions in Occupational Health and Safety	PRS4333	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			+			+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Risk and Public Protection	PRS4436				+	+	+						+	+	+						+		
Housing Standards and Interventions	PRS4214	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Environmental Protection	BIO4235	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+					+	+		+	+	+	+	+		
Practical Food Inspection, Food Standards and Fraud	BIO4805	+	+		+		+			+				+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Research Methods and MSc Project	PRS4499	+	+				+	+							+	+	+				+	+	+