

MSc Public Health

Programme Specification

1. Programme title	MSc Public Health
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University. Hendon campus
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	
5. Final qualification	PG Dip Public Health / MSc Public Health
6. Year of validation	2012/13
Year of amendment	2021.22
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full time and part time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Honours degree, 2.2 or above or equivalent qualification in an appropriate subject such as Medicine, Nursing, Psychology, Statistics, Dentistry, Biomedical Sciences and Biosciences. Other degrees with a sciences and/or statistics component will also be considered. We also welcome applications from candidates with a minimum of three years' work experience in public health related senior positions. Evidence of significant study during the last five years is required.

For international students: IELTS 6.5 (with minimum 6.0 in all components) or TOEFL paper based 575 (no less than 4.5 in test of written English) or TOEFL internet based 90 (with no less than 19 in each component).

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to provide students with the skills and expertise to enable them to critically evaluate and implement practical public health solutions in the context of the environment in which the practitioner operates. At the end of the core programme (PGDip) the student will have acquired the following.

- A multi-disciplinary understanding of the scientific, policy, technical and managerial skills on which to base professional competence and the meeting of the national standards for public health practice.
- An advanced critical awareness of the inter-relationship between behaviours, culture,

social environmental circumstances and health

- The ability to collect, analyse, synthesise, and evaluate data on population health and to effectively communicate and disseminate information about public health and its determinants.
- A critical understanding of the role of policy and strategy design, development and implementation to improve public health.
- The capability to analyse existing and future public health concerns, and design, develop, implement, and evaluate public health policy.
- The ability to critically appraise public health in a variety of complex situations and design and implement practical solutions to improve health and wellbeing, reduce health inequalities, improve access to services, and promote health and wellbeing.
- Cognitive and technical skills to critically evaluate sources of pollution and their effects on human health and the environment and determine the processes to manage and control pollution and waste justifying the most appropriate course of action.
- Refined communication skills providing the ability to communicate using a variety of methods, including social marketing, and behavioural change programmes to specialists, senior executives, non-specialists, community and individuals on matters pertaining to public health.
- Critical knowledge on the economic models and methods used to promote public health at both a policy and intervention level and on the application of a range of economic appraisal techniques commonly used in public health.
- Sufficient knowledge, understanding, cognitive and practical skills to meet a relevant subset of the Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework.

For those undertaking the MSc the students will build on the above by:

- Undertaking a major piece of research at masters' level involving the design, planning, implementation and critical evaluation of an area of applied public health using appropriate methodologies, data collection, data analysis and evaluation.

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

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

1. The influence, importance and inter-relationship between behaviours, culture, social, environmental circumstances and health
2. A wide range of management strategies to analyse existing and future public health concerns, and design, development, implement, and evaluate public health policy
3. Methods to collect, synthesise, evaluation and use public health information, demographics, epidemiology and other data to determine population wellbeing, and health.
4. The role of behaviours, lifestyle and cognitive and emotional processes that act in the development of disease at population level.
5. The role of ethical evaluation and standards to achieve public health outcomes.
6. The principles and application of health promotion, and use of behavioural change programmes, social marketing and other tools in the promotion of public health.
7. The application of health economics, risk appraisal and quality management to the development of effective public health programmes

For the MSc only

8. The role and application of research within public health and a range of methods, approaches, techniques that can be applied to public health research

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through engagement with the lectures, seminars (either virtual or on campus and through a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities (e.g. group projects, case study analysis). The use of case studies that reflect real world environments are essential in enabling the student to relate knowledge to the practical situations in which they are likely to practice in the future.

The use of e-learning strategies is also integrated into the teaching and learning strategies through the use of on-line sources. Mylearning will also be used to encourage independent study and formative assessment through the use of interactive exercises links to external sources of information and lecture notes available to the student for downloading. The use of the message board and interactive chat room facility will also be encouraged to raise debate and discussion on key subject area.

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by a combination of coursework, case studies designed to reflect current practice in situations likely to be experienced by students in their future practice, fieldwork based technical reports, presentations (facilitated online or on campus) and short tests papers on campus. Presentations, as above, will also be used as a formative assessment with feedback given rapidly to progress learning and understanding. Examinations, as above, are necessary in certain modules to ensure that students have retained certain key elements of knowledge and skills essential for their future professional activities.

B. Skills

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

1. Critically analyse and appraise good practice in the management of public health and health improvement
2. Select appropriate approaches to investigate public health needs and interventions in complex situations.
3. Reflect on own practice and select from a range of options best mechanism to influence others to achieve best practice
4. Critically appraise national, community and individual public health concerns and influences.
5. Identify, reflect and critically analyse ethical challenges in public health and public health practice.
6. Consider and evaluate the role of partnership within and external to an organisation to effect public health improvement

For the MSc only

7. Critically evaluate the results of an academic investigation and be able to extract and analyse data using a range of techniques appropriate to their chosen fields.
8. Appropriately plan, undertake and synthesise research in public health and disseminate findings to benefit the population

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills through case study analysis of practical public health problems. Group and mini seminars and workshops will help students articulate ideas, reflect on their understanding and learn from others in a constructive environment. E-learning facilities available on Mylearning on My Unihub such as interactive exercises will help develop cognitive skills.

Assessment methods

Students' cognitive skills are assessed by essays, technical reports, case studies and on occasion written tests, for MSc via the research proposal and research project.

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

12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

Students will study for 24 weeks over two terms, Autumn and Winter terms.

There are breaks at Christmas and Easter. Assessments are carried out throughout the semester in both terms with re-sits or resubmissions, when needed, being held in the summer.

The programme is divided into study units called modules. Each module has a credit value of 15 or 30 credits, except the project on the MSc, which is 60 credits in size. Each 15 credit represents 150 hours of student learning and the 30 credit modules represents approximately 300 hours of student learning, endeavour and assessment.

To be awarded the Post Graduate Certificate in Public Health (only provided as exit award) a student will need to have achieved 60 credits of learning at level 7. To obtain the Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health a student will have achieved 120 credits of learning at level 7. For the MSc in Public Health students will need to also have completed all the taught modules and the Research Project (Dissertation) (180 credits in total).

12.2 Levels and modules

Level 7 (4)

COMPULSORY

PGCert Public Health Students must take all of the following:

- BIO4315 Health Protection (15 credits)
- BIO4503 Applied Epidemiology (15 credits)
- PRS4202 Policy and Public Health Strategy (30 credits)

PGDip Public Health Students must take all of the following:

- BIO4315 Health Protection (15 credits)
- BIO4503 Applied Epidemiology (15 credits)
- PRS4202 Policy and Public Health Strategy (30 credits)
- PRS4100 Health Economics (15 credits)
- BIO4631 Health Promotion and Public Health (15 credits)
- BIO4600 Challenges in Global Public Health (30 credits)

MSc Public Health must take all above plus:

PRS4799 Research Methods and Dissertation (60 credits)

OPTIONAL

PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

Part-time students are able to trail a maximum of 30 credits to the next stage as such a students must pass 60 of their 90 credits in year 1.

12.3 Non-compensable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
Module level	Module code
7	BIO4315
7	BIO4503
7	PRS4202
7	PRS4100
7	BIO4631
7	BIO4600
7	PRS4799 (<i>MSc Only</i>)

13. Curriculum map

See below

14. Information about assessment regulations

The regulations applying to the programme are those common to the University, except that where modules are multiply assessed all elements need to be passed at a minimum grade of 16 on the University 20 Point Scale. Self-deferral is not permitted.

15. Placement opportunities, requirement and Support (if applicable)

This is a year long programme designed to meet the UK PHSKF framework and as such does not enable space for a placement module.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

Public Health careers evolve dynamically according to the populations health needs and the public health agenda and our programme is mapped against the Public Health Skills Knowledge Framework (PHSKF) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-skills-and-knowledge-framework-phskf>) which is the main framework used by UK employers to map requirements of new roles, templates for standard roles and profiles for individual roles. Mapping our program curriculum against the PHSKF secures that our graduates' knowledge and skills will match those required by the public health job vacancies market.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

The University has a number of points of support for students. Academic support is provided by the Learning Enhancement Team who advise students on literacy, English

language, numeracy and exam technique for example. The Disability Support Service offers support to students with needs during their time at Middlesex.

There is an on-line learning platform to provide module and programme support.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)

B990

19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)

There are not public health benchmarks in QAA. The programme is mapped against the Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework (PHSKF)

20. Reference points

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

- Middlesex University Academic regulations 2019-20 for “Postgraduate Taught Programmes” and for “All Taught programmes”
- Middlesex University Learning and Quality Enhancement Handbook (LQEH) 2019-20
- Middlesex University Strategy 2017- 2022. “Transforming potential into success”.

- EU (2018). General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Public Health England (PHE) (2016). Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework.

21. Other information

- A free electronic core textbook for every module.
- Printing and photocopying required for study.
- Self-service laptops available for 24 hour loan.

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

- Additional books to support study;

Please note this specification provides 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 s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. More detailed information can be found in the University Regulations and the Programme Handbook.

Curriculum map for MSc / PGDip Public 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	The influence, importance and inter-relationship between behaviours, culture, social, environmental circumstances and health
A2	A wide range of management strategies to analyse existing and future public health concerns, and design, development, implement, and evaluate public health policy
A3	Methods to collect, synthesise, evaluation and use public health information, demographics, epidemiology and other data to determine population health.
A4	The role of behaviours, lifestyle and cognitive and emotional processes that act in the development of disease at population level.
A5	The role of ethical evaluation and standards to achieve public health outcomes.
A6	The principles and application of health promotion, and use of behavioural change programmes, social marketing and other tools in the promotion of public health.
A7	The application of health economics, risk appraisal and quality management to the development of effective public health programmes
A8	The role and application of research within public health and a range of methods, approaches, techniques that can be applied to public health research
Skills	
B1	Critically analyse and appraise good practice in the management of public health and health improvement
B2	Select appropriate approaches to investigate public health needs and interventions in complex situations.
B3	Reflect on own practice and select from a range of options best mechanism to influence others to achieve best practice
B4	Critical appraisal of national, community and individual public health concerns and influences
B5	Identify, reflect and critically analyse ethical challenges in public health and public health practice
B6	Consider and evaluate the role of partnership within and external to an organisation to effect public health improvement
B7	Critically evaluate the results of an academic investigation and be able to extract data using a range of techniques appropriate to their chosen fields.
B8	Appropriately plan, undertake and synthesise research in public health and disseminate findings to benefit the population

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

Module Title	Module Code by Level	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8
Health Protection	BIO4315	X		X	X	X			X	X		X	X	X			
Applied Epidemiology	BIO4503			X	X	X			X		X		X	X		X	X
Policy and public health strategy	PRS4202		X			X		X		X		X		X	X		
Health economics	PRS4100	X	X				X			X	X				X		
Health promotion and public health	BIO4631			X		X		X		X					X	X	
Challenges in Global Public Health	BIO4600	X		X					X	X			X				
Research methods and Dissertation	PRS4799			X		X			X		X					X	X