

University of the West of Scotland

Postgraduate Programme Specification

Session: 2023/24

Last modified: 20/04/2023 16:57:19

Status: Pending

Named Award Title:	MPH Master of Public Health / (Prof Practice)
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Award Title for Each Award:	MPH Master of Public Health / (Prof Practice) PG Dip of Public Health / (Prof Practice) PG Cert of Public Health / (Prof Practice)
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Date of Validation:	March 2019
Details of Cohorts Applies to:	September 2019

Awarding Institution/Body:	University of the West of Scotland
Teaching Institution:	University of the West of Scotland
Language of Instruction & Examination:	English
Award Accredited By:	N/A
Maximum Period of Registration:	
Mode of Study:	Full Time Part Time
Campus:	Lanarkshire

School:	School of Health and Life Sciences
Programme Board	Biological Sciences and Health
Programme Leader:	Jane Tobias

Admission Criteria

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admission requirements of the University of the West of Scotland as specified in Chapter 2 of the University Regulatory Framework together with the following programme requirements:

Appropriate Undergraduate Qualification

Honours degree, minimum 2nd class.

Other Required Qualifications/Experience

- i) Recognised Prior Learning equivalent to PG Dip level could allow direct entry into Masters Programme.
- ii) CPD can be offered for any module.

Further desirable skills pre-application

In the case of a candidate whose native language is other than English, a Qualification Minimum Requirement applies. Details are available on UWS web site: www.uws.ac.uk.

Information on other English language test scores is available from Admissions.

General Overview

The importance and focus of Public Health is ever increasing. In the UK there is the financial burden of an unhealthy population on the NHS and local authorities; globally, there is a divide between wealthy and poorer nations and in war-stricken countries. Together with that, the exponential increase in travel to tropical locations, where certain infectious diseases are endemic, and the threat of the emergence of antimicrobial resistance have put the subject of Public Health into the spotlight. The programme will adhere closely to the Faculty of Public Health in the UK as well as its devolved health protection departments.

This programme offers a flexible, reflective and resourceful environment for both established and aspiring Public Health Professionals. For the established Professional, it provides a focus point to specialise in a subject area within the public health remit that is ever-growing, and offers excellent perspectives for bespoke demand, such as training in a specific subject, if a particular position of employment demands it. Whereas, for the aspiring Public Health Professional, it offers a holistic approach to a broad subject with the opportunity to focus into research areas of interest. This programme will be attractive to International students with a bespoke module on infectious disease control, including tropical parasitic infections and training on the emergence of antimicrobial resistance. This programme will seek accreditation (or equivalent) from relevant professional bodies: Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA) http://aphea.net/Pages/A4.INSTITUTIONS/Accredited_Institutions.html ; The Faculty of Public Health (FPH) <https://www.fph.org.uk/> ; The Royal Society for Public Health <http://www.rsph.org.uk> .

This Masters programme is an excellent opportunity for both Public Health professionals and UWS students to engage in training and development in our academic environment. This programme also fits perfectly into the ethos and learning environment of the new School of Health and Life Sciences as it blends expertise from all parts of the School (Health, Biology, Exercise Health), including the BSc in Environmental Health, accredited by the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS) <https://www.rehis.com/>. Additionally, the EU-wide Field Epidemiology Training offers support for the training of future public health experts in the UK (FETP) <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/field-epidemiology-training-programme-fetp>. While competitors may offer a Masters degree in Public Health, the programme at UWS is more adapted to flexible learning, which will suit students already in employment.

An optional work based learning module, Professional Practice, will be available to students who wish to undertake this element. The module is 60 credits and will extend the total credit value of the Master of Public Health degree to 240. To allow for flexibility in start dates this option can be undertaken at different points in the programme. Placements will be operated within the context of the University Code of Practice for staff and students. **Note: This module is offered subject to a selection process and availability of appropriate placement opportunities which cannot be guaranteed.**

UWS has an excellent portfolio in health-related research across several different areas from biomedical science (parasitology, microbiology, cardiovascular disease, autoimmunity, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary disease (COPD), haematology, maternal-foetal health) to care in the community (Home-Life care, Alzheimer's care, infection control) to physiology, health and wellbeing (benefits of physical activity on particular populations). This provides a rich platform for students to engage with a wide variety of Public Health issues with expert knowledge at hand. Students will benefit from a comprehensive breadth of expertise and state of the art learning environments at the UWS Lanarkshire campus.

This programme at UWS offers a unique perspective to students as it differs from other more social science-focused Masters in Public Health degrees as it combines the bioscience, health and social science perspectives.

Graduate Attributes, Employability & Personal Development Planning

This Master of Public Health programme is designed specifically to enhance employability of graduates in the fields of Public Health and Allied Health Professions and to facilitate students to progress their studies to a PhD programme if desired. Students will be exposed to multiple teaching sessions delivered by potential employers from industry, research active staff who are currently supervising doctoral students, and PhD candidates.

Typical job destinations are in several fields:

- Global health: Tropical Disease Specialist, Reproductive Health Specialist, HIV/AIDS Educator, Refugee Coordinator, Geographer.
- Health education and research: Epidemiologists, Management Policy Advisor, Health Education Specialist, NGO Director, Health Commissioner. Lecturer and associate researcher posts
- Maternal and child health: Childbirth Health Educator, Child Health Specialist, Nutrition Specialist.
- Social and behavioural: Community Activist, Correctional Medicine Physician, Homeless Services Educator, and Community Counsellor.
- Health policy: Health Services Manager, Government Policy Analyst.
- Environmental health: Environmental Scientist.

In current vacancies, many employers do not specifically ask for a Masters degree but expect an Honours degree and the titles of the jobs indicated a good underpinning knowledge is required. Most employers in this field look for degrees in a 'relevant field'. This includes the typical employers: health agencies and charities, local and global. A Master of Public Health degree is attractive as it ensures the employer that a candidate has specialist knowledge of the subject and this degree offers the opportunity to develop skills in multiple disciplines.

At UWS, we recognise the diversity of our student body in their varying educational experiences, cultures and backgrounds. Our aim is to provide students at UWS with the opportunity to develop academically, professionally and personally; to broaden their ambitions, extend their attitudes, and challenge their assumptions, unlocking their potential to succeed in their studies and futures beyond.

The 'I AM UWS' graduate attributes have been developed to reflect that vision where UWS graduates are **work-ready** and able to **successfully** contribute both locally and globally (**universal**). As part of the programme design and development, the graduate attributes are aligned with all aspects of module and programme delivery.

Work Based Learning/Placement Details

An optional work based learning module, Professional Practice, may be available to students who wish to undertake this element. The module is 60 credits and would extend the total credit value of the Master of Public Health degree to 240. To allow for flexibility in start dates this option might be undertaken at different points in the programme. Placements would be operated within the context of the University Code of Practice for staff and students. **This module is offered subject to a selection process and availability of appropriate placement opportunities which cannot be guaranteed.**

Engagement

In line with the [Academic Engagement Procedure](#), Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with timetabled teaching sessions, course-related learning resources including those in the Library and on the relevant learning platform, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

Equality and Diversity

Further information on the institutional approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.uws.ac.uk/about-uws/uws-commitments/equality-diversity-inclusion/>

In order for the student to complete this degree an element of library research, class work and independent research is involved. Flexibility of meeting times, submission dates and deadlines will be allowed with appropriate disability disclosure to enable all students to achieve the learning outcomes with suitable support. Additional support from the disability team and education guidance advisors will provide the degree and module teaching team with resources to further support the students.

Programme structures and requirements, SCQF level, term, module name and code, credits and awards (Chapter 1, Regulatory Framework)

A. PG Cert

Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)

Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate critical understanding of current knowledge and challenges in selected aspects of public health.
A2	Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of selected techniques applicable to research in public health.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Be able to use a range of online data collection facilities from relevant databases relevant to the public health.
B2	Be able to critically evaluate relevant case studies taking account of current health and ethical issues.
B3	Be able to evaluate approaches to current issues in public health.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Be able to interpret and evaluate a range of data from issues in public health.
C2	Be able to communicate information effectively to different audiences using a range of appropriate methods.
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Be able to plan and evaluate work relating to selected areas of public health.
D2	Be able to prepare written reports that evaluate some aspects of public health research.
D3	Demonstrate an understanding of a complex issue and develop a creative and sensible solution to a specified public health problem.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others	
E1	Demonstrate self- direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and executing tasks.
E2	Be able to contribute effectively to the functioning of a group and reflect on the learning experience.

Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	MIDW11030	Responding to Public Health Challenges	20	✓			

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	

11	BIOL11030	Epidemiology *	20		✓		
11	NURS11124	Global Health Economics & Health Systems	20	✓			
11	BIOL11028	Health and Lifestyle *	20	✓			
11	NURS11129	Introduction to eHealth	20	✓			
11	BIOL11021	Master of Public Health Dissertation	60		✓	✓	1
11	BIOL11005	Masters Research Project	60			✓	2
11	BIOL11022	Principles of Infection and Disease Control	20		✓		
11	BIOL11027	Professional Practice (HLS)	60	✓	✓	✓	3
11	BIOL11007	Research Design	20		✓		
11	BIOL11023	Statistical Methods for Public Health	20		✓		
11	BIOL11029	Women's mental health *	20	✓			

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

1. BIOL11021 MPH dissertation will only be available to continuing term 2 entrants from 2022/2023
2. BIOL11005 MSc Research Project will replace BIOL11021 MPH dissertation for all intakes from September 2023 onwards, AY 2023/2024
3. BIOL11xxx Professional Practice (HLS) is not guaranteed; it is an additional optional module subject to a selection process and availability of suitable placement opportunities.

Criteria for Progression and Award

For the exit award of Postgraduate Certificate of Public Health, the core module plus 40 credits from the option modules (excluding the Professional Practice (HLS) module) at SCQF level 11 must be achieved.

The award of Postgraduate Certificate of Public Health (Professional Practice) will be made on completion of the required credit for the award plus the additional 60 credits from the optional Professional Practice (HLS) module. Note that this module is offered subject to a selection process and the availability of suitable placement opportunities and cannot be guaranteed.

B. PG Dip**Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**

Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate critical understanding of current knowledge and major challenges in public health.
A2	Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of a range of techniques applicable to research in public health.
A3	Show a critical awareness of the methodologies required to evaluate and develop research proposals at the forefront of public health.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Be able to identify a significant range of specialised skills and techniques relevant to the development of effective public health methodology.
B2	Be able to design and/or execute a program of work taking full account of health, safety and ethical issues.
B3	Be able to use a range of practices and techniques to assess the viability of public health methodologies.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Be able to use appropriate information technology and numerical methods to the recovery, analysis and reporting of data relating to public health methodologies.
C2	Be able to communicate information effectively to different audiences using a range of appropriate methods
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Be able to prepare reports that demonstrate working knowledge of public health theory and practice.
D2	Show ability to develop and implement creative solutions to practical problems.
D3	Be able to analyse and critically evaluate scientific literature and experimental data from biotechnology-based studies.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others	
E1	Demonstrate self- direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and executing tasks.
E2	Be able to contribute effectively to the functioning of a group and reflect on the learning experience.
E3	Demonstrate the ability to work in a professional manner and be able to make informed judgements relating to professional and ethical issues.

Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	MIDW11030	Responding to Public Health Challenges	20	✓			

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11		Epidemiology *	20		✓		
11	NURS11124	Global Health Economics & Health Systems	20	✓			
11		Health and Lifestyle *	20	✓			
11	NURS11129	Introduction to eHealth	20	✓			
11	BIOL11021	Master of Public Health Dissertation	60		✓	✓	3
11	BIOL11005	Masters Research Project	60			✓	2
11	BIOL11022	Principles of Infection and Disease Control	20		✓		
11		Professional Practice (HLS)	60	✓	✓	✓	1
11	BIOL11007	Research Design	20		✓		
11	BIOL11023	Statistical Methods for Public Health	20		✓		
11		Women's mental health *	20	✓			

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

1. BIOL11xxx Professional Practice (HLS) is not guaranteed; it is an additional optional module subject to a selection process and availability of suitable placement opportunities.
2. BIOL11005 MSc Research Project will replace BIOL11021 MPH dissertation for all intakes from September 2023 onwards, AY 2023/2024
3. BIOL11021 MPH dissertation will only be available to continuing term 2 entrants from 2022/2023

Criteria for Progression and Award

For the exit award of Postgraduate Diploma of Public Health, the 20 credit core module MIDW11030 Responding to Public Health Challenges plus 100 credits from the optional modules (excluding the Professional Practice (HLS) module) at SCQF level 11 must be achieved.

The award of Postgraduate Diploma of Public Health (Professional Practice) will be made on completion of the required credit for the award plus the additional 60 credits from the optional Professional Practice (HLS) module. Note that this module is offered subject to a selection process and the availability of suitable placement opportunities and cannot be guaranteed.

C. Masters**Learning Outcomes (Maximum of 5 per heading)**

Knowledge and Understanding	
A1	Demonstrate critical understanding of current knowledge and challenges in the Public Health sector.
A2	Demonstrate comprehensive understanding of a range of techniques applicable to research in Public Health locally, internationally and globally.
A3	Show a critical awareness of a selection of statistical techniques used to analyse research data.
A4	Show a critical awareness of the methodologies required to evaluate and develop research proposals at the forefront of Public Health.
Practice - Applied Knowledge and Understanding	
B1	Be able to critically review current literature and use information from the literature to inform a research dissertation.
B2	Apply a range of advanced theoretical approaches to inform the theory and practice of Public Health.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	
C1	Utilise a range of routine and specialist techniques to analyse and present research data.
C2	Utilising competent writing skills to convey convincingly the outcomes of independent research to experts and peers.
Generic Cognitive Skills - Problem Solving, Analysis, Evaluation	
D1	Critically analyse, synthesise and evaluate issues of Public Health locally, internationally and globally.
D2	Show ability to develop and implement creative solutions to practical problems within the field of Public Health.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working With Others	
E1	Demonstrate self- direction and originality in tackling and solving problems and act autonomously in planning and executing tasks.
E2	Be able to contribute effectively to the functioning of a group and reflect on the learning experience.
E3	Demonstrate the ability to work in a professional manner and be able to make informed judgements relating to professional and ethical issues.

Core Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	BIOL11021	Master of Public Health Dissertation	60		✓	✓	1
11	BIOL11005	Masters Research Project	60			✓	2
11	BIOL11007	Research Design	20		✓		3
11	MIDW11030	Responding to Public Health Challenges	20	✓			

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

1. BIOL11021 MPH dissertation will only be available to continuing term 2 entrants from 2022/2023. After this point it

will be replaced by the new core 60 credit module, BIOL11005 MSc Research Project.

2. BIOL11005 MSc Research Project will replace BIOL11021 MPH dissertation as a core module for all intakes from September 2023 onwards, AY 2023/2024

3. BIOL11007 Research Design is a prerequisite for BIOL11005 MSc Research Project

Optional Modules

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Name	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11		Epidemiology *	20		✓		
11	NURS11124	Global Health Economics & Health Systems	20	✓			
11		Health and Lifestyle *	20	✓			
11	NURS11129	Introduction to eHealth	20	✓			
11	BIOL11022	Principles of Infection and Disease Control	20		✓		
11		Professional Practice (HLS)	60	✓	✓	✓	1
11	BIOL11023	Statistical Methods for Public Health	20		✓		
11		Women's mental health *	20	✓			

* Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

Footnotes

1. BIOL11xxx Professional Practice (HLS) is not guaranteed; it is an additional optional module subject to a selection process and availability of suitable placement opportunities.

Criteria for Award

To qualify for the award of Master of Public Health, students must complete the core modules, and achieve 180 credits from the optional modules (excluding the Professional Practice (HLS) module) at SCQF level 11.

The award of Master of Public Health (Professional Practice) will be made on completion of the required credit for the award (180 credits) plus the additional 60 credits from the optional Professional Practice (HLS) module. [Note that this module is offered subject to a selection process and availability of suitable placement opportunities and cannot be guaranteed].

Regulations of Assessment

Candidates will be bound by the general assessment regulations of the University as specified in the [University Regulatory Framework](#).

An overview of the assessment details is provided in the Student Handbook and the assessment criteria for each module is provided in the module descriptor which forms part of the module pack issued to students. For further details on assessment please refer to Chapter 3 of the Regulatory Framework.

To qualify for an award of the University, students must complete all the programme requirements and must meet the credit minima detailed in Chapter 1 of the Regulatory Framework.

Combined Studies

There may be instances where a student has been unsuccessful in meeting the award criteria for the named award and for other more generic named awards existing within the School. Provided that they have met the credit requirements in line with the SCQF credit minima (please see Regulation 1.21), they will be eligible for an exit award of PgCert/ PgDip in Combined Studies.

Changes

Changes made to the programme since it was last published:

Public Health Dissertation moved to core at Masters level.

Additional wording re Professional Practice module added for clarity, plus its availability in all 3 terms.

The delivery of three modules have been moved by term to place two 10-credit modules from term 1 into term 2 and one 20-credit module from term 2 into term 1 : these are the 10 credit Postgraduate Research Methods, the 10 credit Effects of Lifestyle on Health and 20 credit Introduction to eHealth .

QUAL11023 Post-graduate Research Methods (10 credits) replaced by BIOL11007 Research Design term 2

BIOL11020 Effects of Lifestyle on Health (10 credits) replaced by BIOL11xxx Health and Lifestyle(20 credits) (from term 2 to term 1))

QUAL11024 Professional Practice replaced by BIOL11xxx Professional Practice (HLS)

Addition of two new optional modules BIOL11xxx Women's Mental Health (term 1) and BIOL11xxx Epidemiology (term 2)

BIOL11021 MPH dissertation will be replaced by BIOL11005 MScProject for all new September 2023/2024 entrants and BIOL11005 will be a core module for these students. BIOL11021 MPH dissertation will still be available to Term 2 entrants from 2022/2023.

Version Number: 1.03