Postgraduate Programme Specification

Session	2026/27	**Last Modified**	August 2025
Named Award Title	MPH Master of Public Health/ (Women's Health)		
Award Title for Each Award	MPH Master of Public Health (Women's Health) MPH Master of Public Health PG Dip Public Health PG Cert Public Health		
Date of Approval	March 2019		
Details of Cohort Applies to	September 2025		
Awarding Institution	University of the West of Scotland	**Teaching Institution(s)**	University of the West of Scotland
Language of Instruction & Examination		English	
Award Accredited by			
Maximum Period of Registration			
Duration of Study			
Full-time	1 year	**Part-time**	3 years
Placement (compulsory)	No		
Mode of Study	☒ Full-time ☒ Part-time		
Campus	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☒ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☐ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)
School	**Health and Life Sciences**		
Divisional Programme Board	**Biological Sciences Health**		
Programme Leader	Stuart Telfer		

Admissions 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 Qualifications:
Applicants will typically possess a degree or equivalent. In the absence of a degree, where entry requirements do not conform to the general entry requirements, other evidence can be considered on an individual basis in line with Regulations 2.13 – 2.36 (Recognition of Prior Learning – RPL / Recognition of Credit).

The minimum entry level is an Honours degree, minimum 2nd class.

Other Required Qualifications/Experience
CPD can be offered for any module.

Further desirable skills pre-application
English language proficiency with candidates expected to achieve IELTs standard of 6.5 where English is a second language. Details are available on UWS web site: www.uws.ac.uk. For information on English language requirements, please see Regulation 2.12.

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 health and social care systems. Globally, there is a divide in healthy life expectancy between wealthy and poorer nations. Likewise, increased global travel opens populations to exposures to evolving pathogens as well as the threat of antimicrobial resistance. The MPH programme aligns therefore to the challenges of the coming decades, and the UK Faculty of Public Health's 'A vision for the Public's Health, 2024' and its four priorities to advance public health, reduce inequalities and boost economic productivity.
1. Promote policies and programmes that improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities and tackle health inequalities.
2. Tackle poverty to ensure everyone has the chance to live a long and healthy life.
3. Protect nations from infectious diseases and prepare for health threats and emergencies.
4. Increase investment in public health and prevention as assets for society, and make health a priority for cross-government action

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 School of Health and Life Sciences as it blends expertise from all parts of the professional disciplinary landscape.

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 active research in dementia care. 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.

The MPH Women's Health Pathway is an innovative application of a public health approach to women's health. For example, rather than focus on women's health care, this pathway

applies a public health method of prevention, protection and promotion to all aspects of women's health. Students choosing this pathway will complete the same core modules as the standard MPH but must select the option modules Women's Mental Health, Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls and complete a dissertation on an agreed women's health topic.

Typical Delivery Method

The programme is delivered by face-to-face learning on campus, supported by our virtual learning environment and various audiovisual media platforms. This reflects the updates to UWS Curriculum Framework (2023) of Learning and Teaching Principles.

Any additional costs

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, education, social work, and healthcare 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: Disease management, reproductive health, infectious disease education.
- Health education and research: Epidemiology, policy development, health promotion, NGO, work, higher education and associate researcher posts
- Maternal and child health

Generally in a senior position within NHS public health an MPH is considered to be the most relevant and credible qualification. It is also a prerequisite of those choosing the UK Faculty of Public Health Specialist route for registration. A Master of Public Health degree offers a suitable breadth and depth of knowledge about the main principles of public health while offering options in some of the relevant specialist areas within that.

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

None

Attendance and Engagement

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are attending and participating in all timetabled programme activities including on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, placement, work-based elements, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this programme, academic engagement equates to the following:

Regular attendance in campus teaching sessions, consistent engagement in discussion forums on the virtual learning environment, and compliance with the outlined expectations research supervision.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

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.

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

Learning Outcomes

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Learning Outcomes	
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.
A3	
A4	
A5	
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.
B4	
B5	
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.
C3	
C4	
C5	
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.
D4	
D5	
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	
E4	
E5	

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	BIOL11035	Principles of Public Health	20	☒	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	NURS11124	Global Health Economics & Health Systems	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	BIOL11029	Women's Mental Health	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	BIOL11030	Epidemiology	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	BIOL11022	Principles of Infection and Disease Control	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	BIOL11023	Statistical Methods for Public Health	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	BIOL11031	Concepts in One Health	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	BIOL11036	Preventing Violence Against Women & Girls	20	☐	☒	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules Stundents undertaking the MPH Women's Health Pathway must select BIOL11029 Women's Mental Health in Term 1 and BIOL11036 Preventing Violence Against Women & Girls in T2.							

Level 11- Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

To qualify for the award of Postgraduate Certificate of Public Health students must complete the core module Principles of Public Health (20 credits) and any two listed options modules (40credits) Total 60 credits.

SCQF LEVEL 11 - Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Learning Outcomes	
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.
A4	
A5	
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.
B4	
B5	
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.
C3	
C4	
C5	
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.
D4	
D5	
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.

E4	
E5	

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	BIOL11035	Principles of Public Health	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	MIDW11003	Research for Health & Social Care	20	☐	☒	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	NURS11124	Global Health Economics & Health Systems	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	BIOL11029	Women's Mental Health	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	BIOL11022	Principles of Infection and Disease Control	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	BIOL11023	Statistical Methods for Public Health	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	BIOL11031	Concepts in One Health	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	BIOL11030	Epidemiology	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	BIOL11036	Preventing Violence Against Women & Girls	20	☐	☒	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules Stundents undertaking the MPH Women's Health Pathway must select BIOL11029 Women's Mental Health in Term 1 and BIOL11036 Preventing Violence Against Women & Girls in T2.							

Level 11- Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip)
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

To qualify for the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health students must complete the core module Principles of Public Health (20 credits), the core module Research for Health & Social Care (20 credits), and any four listed option modules (80 credits). Total 120 credits.

SCQF LEVEL 11 – Masters 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.
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.
A5	
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.
B3	
B4	
B5	
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.
C3	
C4	
C5	
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.
D3	
D4	
D5	
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.
E4	
E5	

Masters Modules

CORE

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	BIOL11035	Principles of Public Health	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	MIDW11003	Research in Health & Social Care	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	BIOL11005	Masters Research Project	60	☐	☐	☒	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
				☐	☐	☐	
Footnotes for Core Modules							

Masters Modules

OPTION

SCQF Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Term			Footnotes
				1	2	3	
11	NURS11124	Global Health Economics & Health Systems	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	BIOL11029	Women's Mental Health	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	BIOL11030	Epidemiology	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	BIOL11022	Principles of Infection & Disease Control	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	BIOL11023	Statistical Methods for Public Health	20	☐	☒	☐	
11	BIOL11031	Concepts in One Health	20	☒	☐	☐	
11	BIOL11036	Preventing Violence Against Women & Girls	20	☐	☒	☐	
Footnotes for Option Modules Stundents undertaking the MPH Women's Health Pathway must select BIOL11029 Women's Mental Health in Term 1 and BIOL11036 Preventing Violence Against Women & Girls in T2.							

Level 11- Masters
Criteria for Award
Please refer to UWS Regulatory Framework for related regulations

To qualify for the award of Master of Public Health, students must complete the three core modules, Principles of Public Health (20 credits), Research in Health & Social Care (20 Credits) and the Masters Research Project (60 credits), and achieve 80 credits from the optional modules at SCQF level 11 totalling 180 credits.

Where students complete modules within the programme with a credit bearing total of 60 credits but which do not include the core module Principles of Public Health, they will be eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate in Combined Studies. Where students complete 120 credits but which do not include the core module Research for Health & Social Care they will be eligible for Postgraduate Diploma in Combined Studies.

To qualify for the Master of Public Health Women's Health, the same core modules as the MPH are required, however, the two option modules of Women's Mental Health and Preventing Violence Against Women & Girls are required, as is the subject-focus of the Master's Research Project being in a women's health topic.

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 a Combined Studies award (please see Regulation 1.61).

For students studying at Level 11, they will normally be eligible for an exit award of PgCert / PgDip / Masters in Combined Studies.

Version no: 1

Change/Version Control

What	When	Who
Removal BIOL11028 Health & Lifestyle, and NURS11129 Introduciton to eHealth	from AY 2025/26	Stuart Telfer

Replace BIOL11007 Research Design with BIOL11005 Masters Research Project Make MIDW11003 Research in Health & Social Care Core Replace MIDW11030 Responding to Public Health Challenges with BIOL11035 Principles of Public Health Offer the option module BIOL11031 Concepts in One Health in T1 Offer the option module BIOL11030 Epidemiology in T2 Create module Violence Against Women & Girls Create MPH Women's Health pathway		