

**Master of Public Health**

This document provides a definitive record of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student may reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. This programme specification is primarily intended as a reference point for academic and support staff involved in delivering the programme and enabling student development and achievement, for its assessment by internal and external examiners, and in subsequent monitoring and review.

<b>Programme Information</b>			
Award(s)	MPH		
Programme Title	Master of Public Health (Health Services and Systems) or (Global Health)		
Programme code	A3BH		
Awarding Institution	Imperial College London		
Teaching Institution	Imperial College London		
Faculty	Faculty of Medicine		
Department	School of Public Health		
Associateship	n/a		
Mode and Period of Study	1 calendar year, full-time (12 months)		
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in October		
Relevant <a href="#">QAA Benchmark Statement(s)</a> and/or other external reference points	The UK Faculty of Public Health Part A. This MPH has been designed to cover some but not all sections of the Faculty's Part A exam syllabus.		
Total Credits	ECTS:	90	UK Credits: 180
<a href="#">FHEQ Level</a>	Level 7 - Master's		
<a href="#">EHEA Level</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle		
External Accrator(s)	n/a		
<b>Specification Details</b>			
Student cohorts covered by specification	2018-19		
Person Responsible for the specification	Jo Tite <a href="mailto:j.tite@imperial.ac.uk">j.tite@imperial.ac.uk</a>		
Date of introduction of programme	2017-18		

Date of programme specification/revision

July 2018

## **Programme Overview**

This MPH aims to provide a comprehensive introduction to public health for students who intend to pursue careers in public health practice, management and/or research at local, national and/or supranational levels. It offers cutting-edge knowledge and skills base in the principles and methods of public health and a creative and supportive learning environment. The programme has special focus on the development of quantitative analytical skills for public health, epidemiology and health services research.

The programme is an intensive full-time programme requiring active study for a full 12 months.

For term two, students are offered a choice of two streams. They may pursue the MPH by following either the:

- 'Health Services and Systems' stream (HSS);  
Or;
- 'Global Health' stream (GH)

The choice of either stream should be indicated as part of the application for the programme.

### **Term One**

The focus of term one is on core analytical skills applied in public health and epidemiology, as well as foundational sessions addressing the key principles and approaches of public health.

Term one comprises of four core modules, as follows:

- Introduction to Statistical Thinking and Data Analysis;
- Principles and Methods of Epidemiology;
- Disease Masterclass;
- Foundations of Public Health Practice.

### **Term Two**

#### **Choice of streams**

For term two, students are offered a choice of two streams. They may pursue the MPH by following either the:

- 'Health Services and Systems' stream (HSS);  
Or;
- 'Global Health' stream (GH)

The two streams are differentiated by two different core modules in the second term. These modules are:

- Quality Improvement in Healthcare (HSS Stream);
- Population Health Improvement (HSS Stream);

AND

- Global Health Challenges and Governance (GH Stream);
- Global Health Innovations (GH Stream)

The Health Services and Systems stream focuses on the theory and practice of population health and health service improvement initiatives.

On the other hand, the Global Health stream is orientated towards training students for a Global Health career. The stream seeks to expand students' understanding of the manifestations of health challenges within the context of low and middle income settings, as well as the supranational structures and processes involved in tackling these challenges.

Students in both streams undertake a further core module in 'Health Economics' in the second term, which is delivered by Imperial College Business School.

The second term also features a suit of optional modules that are designed to cater for different interests from students within the broad field of study, spanning topics listed below.

#### Optional/elective modules:

In addition to taking the two required core modules specific to each stream and the core module in 'Health Economics' at Imperial College Business School (common to both streams), term two allows students to choose two optional/elective modules.

The optional/elective modules are subject to change each year but currently include:

- Anthropology in Public Health
- Contemporary Topics in International Health Policy (taught by Imperial College Business School)
- Health Systems, Policy and Financing (taught by Imperial College Business School)
- Research Methods
- Exposure Assessment
- Digital Health
- Health Systems Development

### **Term 3**

From approximately May until September (4 months), the research project will be carried out.

The titles of the research projects are offered by prospective supervisors each year and are made available before the start of term two for students to consider and select suitable topics. Students may be able to initiate and propose their own research projects, subject to internal academic approval, availability of appropriate supervision and ethical approval requirements.

Examples of projects from previous years include:

- Barriers and enablers for male involvement in enhancing maternal health outcomes;
- A systematic review of the literature on factors related to hospital outcomes by day of admission or day of procedure;
- Systematic review and meta-analysis of circulating vitamin D in critically ill adult and paediatric patients;
- Exploring the Spread of Successful Improvement Projects;
- Patients' satisfaction with health care received in three Sub-Saharan African countries;

- Infectious disease risk assessment under a changing climate: phenological environmental suitability modelling for invertebrate disease vectors.

On completion of the project, a written dissertation will be produced and submitted for an examination followed by a viva in September with an internal and external examiner.

Students are expected to attend ALL timetabled sessions and any additional practical classes, tutorials and group-work meetings. The attendance requirement is full-time i.e. usual working hours from Monday - Friday for the taught components and for the research project.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of this programme, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the essential principles of modern bio-statistical methods and how to apply them;
2. Interpret and analyse complex public health datasets using appropriate software;
3. Systematically search, engage with, and critically appraise relevant public health literature;
4. Design, carry out, interpret, and critique public health research employing epidemiological and social science research methods;
5. Communicate scientific results and project plans to various audiences, orally and through academic and professional reports;
6. Use an evidence based approach to design and evaluate public health interventions;
7. Understand and apply health promotion and behavioural change theories, models and frameworks;
8. Develop a critical insight into contemporary topics and challenges in public health, as well as the strategies formulated to prevent, mitigate and control these both nationally and globally;
9. Explain methods used for assessing the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of health services and interventions;
10. Understand public policy making processes and analyse health policies within the context of contemporary global governance structures and processes;
11. Appreciate the importance of, and adhere to, key public health principles and ethical standards in public health research and practice;
12. Apply key approaches and methods involved in population needs assessment, and project planning and management;
13. Work effectively in interdisciplinary teams to develop innovative solutions to public health problems;
14. Characterise a wide range of infectious and environmental hazards and develop effective health protection strategies to prevent, mitigate and control risks.

The Imperial Graduate Attributes are a set of core competencies which we expect students to achieve through completion of any Imperial College degree programme. The Graduate Attributes are available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/academic-support/graduate-attributes)

<b>Entry Requirements</b>	
Academic Requirement	<p>2.1 Honours degree in a science subject or MBBS degree.</p> <p>Suitable applicants are likely to be those with a background in: medicine, health sciences, biological sciences or environmental sciences.</p> <p>Mature applicants with relevant academic or professional experience will also be considered.</p>
Additional Requirements	None.
Some applicants may be invited to a post-application interview (over phone or Skype) to further assess the suitability of the application, and demonstrate an exceptional background, level of experience or demonstrable drive towards public health research or action.	
English Language Requirement	Higher Requirements: IELTS 7 with a minimum of 6.5 in each element or equivalent
The programme's competency standards documents can be found at: <a href="https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/medicine/study/postgraduate/MPH-knowledge-based-competencies.pdf">https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/medicine/study/postgraduate/MPH-knowledge-based-competencies.pdf</a>	
<b>Learning &amp; Teaching Strategy</b>	
Scheduled Learning & Teaching Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures</li> <li>• Seminars and practicals</li> <li>• Class tutorials</li> <li>• Small group tutorials</li> <li>• Group work sessions</li> <li>• Computer based practical workshops</li> <li>• Group revision sessions</li> </ul>
E-learning & Blended Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formative and summative assessment via Blackboard e.g. in-class quizzes</li> <li>• Mentimeter</li> <li>• Teaching materials published via Blackboard</li> </ul>
Project and Placement Learning Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final research project (dissertation)</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>	
Assessment Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written examinations</li> <li>• Essays</li> <li>• Reports and paper reviews</li> <li>• MCQs and online quizzes</li> <li>• Mini research project</li> <li>• Individual and group presentations</li> <li>• Video blogs</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Articles and case study reviews</li> </ul>
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#### Academic Feedback Policy

The programme complies with the College policy and will provide students with feedback within a timely and appropriate turnaround time. Students will be provided with a bespoke assessment schedule confirming all submission deadlines, marking periods and feedback points to manage their expectations and ensure feedback can inform the next assessment, where appropriate.

Feedback will take different forms depending on the type of assessment:

- Exams and written reports : students will be given written feedback, and given the opportunity to discuss their provisional marks;
- Oral presentations: comments and immediate feedback will be given during some presentations, and feedback shall be provided once provisional marks are published;
- Final research project: students will be given written feedback for their final project/presentation and also receive preliminary oral feedback following the oral presentation.

Further exchanges will also take place throughout the programme through:

- Questions during or after the lectures;
- Interaction with tutors during practicals and one-to-one sessions;
- Support and academic advice provided by the Course Organisers.

#### Re-sit Policy

Students will be permitted to re-enter a failed examination or resubmit a piece of failed coursework on a single occasion. Examination re-sits may only be available at the next available sitting (i.e. in the next following academic year).

#### Mitigating Circumstances Policy

The College's Policy on Mitigating Circumstances is available at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/exams)

#### Programme Structure

Full-time	Term One	Term Two	Term Three
Core Modules	4	3	0
Elective Modules	0	2	0
Projects	0	0	1

#### Assessment Dates & Deadlines

Written Examinations	End of Term 1 modules (January) End of Term 2 modules (April/May)
Coursework Assessments	Continuous
Project Deadlines	End of Term 1 modules (February) Term 3 research project (Early September)

Practical Assessments	Continuous Research Project Oral Viva (Mid/late September)	
<b>Assessment Structure</b>		
Programme Component	ECTS	% Weighting
Introduction to Statistical Thinking and Data Analysis	7.5	8.3%
Principles and Methods of Epidemiology	7.5	8.3%
Disease Masterclass	7.5	8.3%
Foundations of Public Health Practice	7.5	8.3%
Health Economics	7.5	8.3%
Quality Improvement in Healthcare (HSS Stream only)	7.5	8.3%
Global Health Challenges and Governance (GH Stream only)		
Population Health Improvement (HSS Stream only)	5	5.5%
Global Health Innovations (GH Stream only)		
<u>Choice of two elective/optional modules:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthropology in Public Health</li> <li>• Contemporary Topics in International Health Policy</li> <li>• Health Systems, Policy and Financing</li> <li>• Exposure Assessment</li> <li>• Research Methods</li> <li>• Digital Health</li> <li>• Health Systems Development</li> </ul>	10 (5 each)	11.1% (5.5% each)
Research Project	30	33.3%
Total	90	100%
<b>Marking Scheme</b>		
<p>The MPH can be awarded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction.</p> <p>In order to be awarded a <b>Pass for the Masters award</b>, a student must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each assessment</li> <li>• Achieve an aggregate pass mark of at least 50% in each module</li> <li>• Students may be condoned in a maximum of 15 ECTS for the Masters award (i.e. excluding the Research Project) with an aggregate mark of at least 40% in each module providing the overall aggregate mark for the programme is at least 50%</li> </ul>		

- Achieve a mark of at least 50% in the Research Project

In order to be awarded a **Merit for the Masters award**, a student must:

- Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each assessment
- Achieve an aggregate mark of at least 60% in each module
- Students may be condoned in a maximum of 15 ECTS for the Masters award (i.e. excluding the Research Project) with an aggregate mark of at least 40% in each module providing the overall aggregate mark for the programme is at least 60%
- Achieve a mark of at least 60% in the Research Project

In order to be awarded a **Distinction for the Masters award**, a student must:

- Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each assessment
- Achieve an aggregate pass mark of at least 70% in each module
- Students may be condoned in a maximum of 15 ECTS for the Masters award (i.e. excluding the Research Project) with an aggregate mark of at least 40% in each module providing the overall aggregate mark for the programme is at least 70%
- Achieve a mark of at least 70% in the Research Project

#### Exit awards

Admission and entrance to the programme is for the full-time MPH programme only.

A student may be permitted to exceptionally exit with one of the following lower awards, subject to exam board approval:

- A **Postgraduate Certificate** (upon passing and completing the four core modules during term one) totalling 30 ECTS modules, subject to exam board approval. The modules required are:
  - Introduction to Statistical Thinking and Data Analysis (7.5 ECTS)
  - Principles and Methods of Epidemiology (7.5 ECTS)
  - Disease Masterclass (7.5 ECTS)
  - Foundations of Public Health Practice (7.5 ECTS)
- A **Postgraduate Diploma** (upon passing and completing the first four core modules during term one, and, three core modules from term two (appropriate to the stream choice), and, two of the optional modules from term two) totalling 60 ECTS modules, subject to exam board approval. The modules required are those detailed above, and:
  - Health Economics (7.5 ECTS)
  - Quality Improvement in Healthcare (HSS Stream only) (7.5 ECTS)
  - Population Health Improvement (HSS Stream only) (5 ECTS)
  - Global Health Challenges and Governance (GH Stream only) (7.5 ECTS)
  - Global Health Innovations (GH Stream only) (5 ECTS)
  - Any 2 x elective modules totalling 10 ECTS (5 ECTS each)

In order to be awarded a **Pass for the PG Cert or PG Dip exit award**, a student must:

- Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each assessment
- Achieve an aggregate pass mark of at least 50% in each module

In order to be awarded a **Merit for the PG Cert or PG Dip exit award**, a student must:

- Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each assessment

- Achieve an aggregate mark of at least 60% in each module

In order to be awarded a **Distinction for the PG Cert or PG Dip exit award**, a student must:

- Achieve a mark of at least 40% in each assessment
- Achieve an aggregate pass mark of at least 70% in each module

Indicative Module List												
Code	Title	Core/ Elective	Year	L&T Hours	Ind. Study Hours	Place- ment Hours	Total Hours	% Written Exam	% Course- work	% Practical	FHEQ Level	ECTS
SPH001	Introduction to Statistical Thinking and Data Analysis	Core	1	45	142.5	0	187.5	70	0	30	7	7.5
SPH002	Principles and Methods of Epidemiology	Core	1	35	152.5	0	187.5	65	0	35	7	7.5
SPH003	Disease Masterclass	Core	1	60	127.5	0	187.5	0	100	0	7	7.5
SPH004	Foundations of Public Health Practice	Core	1	60	127.5	0	187.5	0	100	0	7	7.5
SPH009	Health Economics	Core	1	40	147.5	0	187.5	0	100	0	7	7.5
SPH005	Quality Improvement in Healthcare	Core (HSS Stream only)	1	50	137.5	0	187.5	0	80	20	7	7.5
SPH006	Global Health Challenges and Governance	Core (GH Stream only)	1	60	127.5	0	187.5	0	100	0	7	7.5
SPH007	Population Health Improvement (HSS Stream only)	Core (HSS Stream only)	1	30	95	0	125	0	100	0	7	5
SPH008	Global Health Innovations	Core (GH Stream only)	1	30	95	0	125	0	45	55	7	5
SPH010	Anthropology in Public Health	Elective	1	30	95	0	125	0	100	0	7	5
SPH011	Contemporary Topics in International Health Policy	Elective	1	20	105	0	125	0	100	0	7	5

Indicative Module List												
Code	Title	Core/ Elective	Year	L&T Hours	Ind. Study Hours	Place- ment Hours	Total Hours	% Written Exam	% Course- work	% Practical	FHEQ Level	ECTS
SPH014	Health Systems, Policy and Financing	Elective	1	20	105	0	125	70	30	0	7	5
SPH015	Exposure Assessment	Elective	1	30	95	0	125	0	100	0	7	5
SPH016	Research Methods	Elective	1	30	95	0	125	0	100	0	7	5
SPH012	Digital Health	Elective	1	30	95	0	125	0	100	0	7	5
SPH013	Health Systems Development	Elective	1	30	95	0	125	0	70	30	7	5

## Supporting Information

The Programme Handbook is available at:

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/postgraduate/masters-programmes/master-of-public-health/>

The College's entry requirements for postgraduate programmes can be found at:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements)

The College's Quality & Enhancement Framework is available at:

[www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/proceduresandregulations/qualityassurance)

The College's Academic and Examination Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/regulations/>

Imperial College is an independent corporation whose legal status derives from a Royal Charter granted under Letters Patent in 1907. In 2007 a Supplemental Charter and Statutes was granted by HM Queen Elizabeth II. This Supplemental Charter, which came into force on the date of the College's Centenary, 8th July 2007, established the College as a University with the name and style of "The Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine".

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/admin-services/secretariat/college-governance/charters/charter-and-statutes/>

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<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/>