



Programme Specification

A statement of the knowledge, understanding and skills that underpin a taught programme of study awarded by
The University of Sheffield

1	Programme Title	Master of Public Health
2	Programme Code	HART22 (Full-time)
3	JACS Code	B900
4	Level of Study	Postgraduate
5	Final Qualification	MPH
6	Intermediate Qualification(s)	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
7	Teaching Institution (if not Sheffield)	Not applicable
8	Faculty	Health
9	Home Department	School of Medicine and Population Health
10	Other Department(s) involved in teaching the programme	School of Clinical Dentistry (Department of Oral Health and Development)
11	Mode(s) of Attendance	Full-time or Part-time
12	Duration of the Programme	1 year Full-time (HART22)
13	Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	Not applicable
14	Date of production/revision	September 2006, March 2018, February 2019, January 2020, March 2022, February 2024

15. Background to the programme and subject area

Changes in the structure of Health and Local Authority Services in England and Wales have revealed a substantial need for public health expertise. Public Health is also an international speciality, and there is a global demand for public health expertise, with a Master in Public Health (MPH) degree being the recognised qualification for public health practice.

The course has been tailored specifically to meet the growing demand for public health training. Modules are designed to cover the syllabus for the Part I examination for Membership of the FPH and also to cover Key elements of the Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework. The degree will benefit from the School's strengths in health services research, health economics and public health medicine.

The course will cover the broad range of knowledge and skills required as a basis for public health practice. It is expected that students will be from a range of professional backgrounds and will bring their experience to the course. Some of these students might be from clinical backgrounds such as (but not exclusively) medicine, dentistry and nursing. They may not be in clinical practice at the time of study. Other students may come from a wide range of non-clinical backgrounds, such as geography, social care or information sciences. Upon graduation, the degree will be an important step to progressing to a senior public health post within the UK and other countries.

Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma options are available. Candidates may wish to utilise these to support their individual development needs. A part time route is available, studied over two years.

16. Programme aims

- To provide critical knowledge and understanding of public health.
- To equip students with the ability to critically analyse public health problems and develop practical solutions to protect and promote the public's health.
- To enable students to understand and undertake health services research and to apply key findings into public health practice.

17. Programme learning outcomes

All learning outcomes apply to Master and Diploma level courses. Those that apply also to Certificate level study are identified by a (*) symbol.

Knowledge and understanding:	
K1	A systematic understanding of how public health principles apply to professional practice.
K2	A comprehensive understanding of how the research process applies to public health practice (*).
K3	A systematic understanding of the use of public health tools to protect and promote the public's health.
K4	A systematic understanding of health service organisations, management and economics.
K5	A systematic understanding of the broader influences on health and health care provision.

Skills and other attributes:	
S1	Ability to work independently to define and address public health problems.
S2	Critically appraise research literature (*).
S3	Plan and utilise health services research (*).
S4	Design and implement programmes which protect and promote the public's health.
S5	Ability to work with others to address the broader determinants of health.

18. Teaching, learning and assessment

Development of the programme learning outcomes is promoted through the following teaching and learning methods:

Lectures

Some lecture sessions are required to impart essential information (K1-6).

Seminars and tutorials

Smaller group work will permit the consolidation of essential knowledge and the development of key skills (K1-5, S1-5).

Independent study

Independent study is required within all units in order to cover all the require knowledge and to ensure that the student can apply and use the knowledge appropriately. (K1-6, S1-5). Supervisors experienced in health services research will provide tailored support and directed reading for individual evaluation projects and the research basis for the dissertation (which may involve the use of secondary data where research governance is a possible time constraint).

Dissertation

The dissertation is seen as an extended part of the independent study and will allow the student to develop ideas and undertake research in an area of public health of their choosing. (K1-5, S1-5).

Opportunities to demonstrate achievement of the programme learning outcomes are provided through the following assessment methods:

Formative assessments

Students will be given the opportunity to prepare written work and undertake exercises as well as give oral and written presentations. These will develop key skills and enable students to judge their progress and understanding before summative assessments.

Summative assessment

End of unit assessments vary according to the subject under study. Assessment methods include essays and critical appraisals of published articles from the international public health literature, using standardised frameworks that are taught as part of the course. Limited use is made of unseen examinations.

Dissertation

The dissertation assesses the ability to develop a research question, undertake an appropriate literature review and conduct a small research project.

19. Reference points

The learning outcomes have been developed to reflect the following points of reference:

The needs of the Public Sector (Especially Local Authorities and NHS)

The requirements of the Faculty of Public Health <http://www.fph.org.uk/training/Training.shtml>

University Vision and Strategic Plan
<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/vision>

20. Programme structure and regulations

The Master in Public Health course at the University of Sheffield has been designed with the needs of the Twenty-First Century public health specialist in mind. The course content and the approach to teaching have been designed to address the needs of people who are seeking professional qualifications in public health, whether currently based in the UK or elsewhere.

Students may select from three options: the Master in Public Health, the Diploma in Public Health or the Certificate in Public Health.

The Master in Public Health degree provides a solid basis of the knowledge and skills expected of a public health professional. The syllabus has been designed to address the requirements of the Part 1 MFPH examination for Membership of the UK Faculty of Public Health. Lectures, tutorials and assignments are linked to past Part 1 examination questions in order to prepare those students who wish to attempt the MFPH examination. The core units are to be found in the Degree Regulations.

The Master in Public Health and the Diploma in Public Health

In order to gain the key competencies of a public health specialist, candidates for the Master in Public Health degree must complete 135 credits and the dissertation. For those students who do not wish to complete the dissertation, there is the option of completing the 120 credits of taught course units, to gain a Diploma in Public Health.

The Certificate in Public Health

Where students wish to undertake a more limited initial training in public health, perhaps with a view to gaining further qualifications at a later date, the Certificate in Public Health is available. Students take 60 credits from the taught units of the MPH degree.

Please refer to the [Programme Regulations](#), [General University Regulations](#) and the [On-line Directory of Modules](#) for detailed information about the structure of programmes, regulations concerning assessment and progression and descriptions of individual modules.

21. Student development over the course of study

The units are ordered to enable students to develop skills at critical appraisal and understanding research techniques at an early stage. This is in order to allow maximum time for the students to develop their dissertation proposal.

22. Criteria for admission to the programme

Detailed information regarding admission to the programme is available in the University's On-Line Prospectus at www.shef.ac.uk/prospective/prospectus.html

The course is suitable for candidates from a medical background and also from other disciplines. The usual requirement for admission is an upper second-class Honours degree, a medical or dental bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification. Prospective students without the formal entry requirements or with different qualifications but with substantial relevant work experience in a health and/or social care related area are considered on an individual basis and offer of places may be subject to approval by the Medical Faculty.

International students will be required to attain the University standards on IELTS or TOEFL. Exceptional students aspiring to a career in research may be admitted on the basis of their academic record alone, subject to approval by the Medical Faculty.

23. Additional information

The School of Medicine and Population Health brings together a wide range of health related skills including health economics, operational research, management sciences, epidemiology, medical statistics, and information science. There are also clinical skills in general practice and primary care, mental health, rehabilitation and public health.

The School is ideally placed to conduct applied and methodological health services research, consultancy and teaching programmes for health services staff, having its unique diversity of skills and experience and with its close contacts with the Department of Health and NHS health authorities and trusts. It is a natural partner of the NHS. It's staff have in-depth knowledge of the NHS and many NHS staff have honorary appointments. The Sheffield Centre for Health and Related Research (SCHARR) sits within the School and Accommodation is in the modern purpose-built Regent Court, with satellites in the nearby Innovation Centre and Portobello Centre and The Diamond.

Students will have access to the specialist SCHARR library that houses a collection of books, journals and grey literature for health and social care.

This specification represents a concise statement about the main features of the programme and should be considered alongside other sources of information provided by the teaching department(s) and the University. In addition to programme specific information, further information about studying at The University of Sheffield can be accessed via our Student Services web site at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/index>