



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 European Public Health
2	Programme Code	HART31 (EuroPubHealth)
3	JACS Code	B900
4	Level of Study	Postgraduate
5	Final Qualification	MPH
6	Intermediate Qualification(s)	None
7	Teaching Institution (if not Sheffield)	Not applicable
8	Faculty	Faculty of Health
9	Home Department	Division of Population Health
10	Other Department(s) involved in teaching the programme	School of Clinical Dentistry (Academic Unit of Oral Health, Dentistry and Society)
11	Mode(s) of Attendance	Full-time
12	Duration of the Programme	2 years
13	Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	Not applicable
14	Date of production/revision	September 2006, March 2018, February 2019, January 2020, March 2022, November 2023

15. Background to the programme and subject area

Public Health is an international speciality, and there is a global demand for public health expertise, with a Master in European Public Health (EPH) degree being a recognised qualification for public health practice. The Europubhealth Programme is an Erasmus Mundus Double Master Degree that has been supported and recognized as a Master of Excellence by the European Commission since 2006. It is a 2-year (only) Master Programme delivered by a consortium which comprises the University of Sheffield, University College Dublin, University of Granada, University of Liege, Maastricht University, Jagiellonian University Medical College of Krakow, and the National School of Public Health in France (EHESP), Rennes. Year 1 of the programme is a foundation in Public Health and Year 2 being a choice of one of 7 specialisations.

At the University of Sheffield, students can study the year 1 foundation in public health which is fully embedded within the existing Master of Public Health (MPH) Programme in the School of Medicine and Population Health. Year 1 modules are designed to address core competencies in public health and 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 psychology, social care or information sciences. Upon graduation, the degree will be an important step to progressing to a senior public health role within the UK, Europe and internationally.

This programme enables students to take the Sheffield MPH taught units in the first year of study, and take units towards an MPH awarded by one of the partner Universities in year two. In year 2 students will also undertake a work placement and specialist training in an area of public health research or practice. The range of options offered and the period of study abroad allow students not only to customise their public health training to a significant degree, but also to further experience different European cultures and learning environments.

16. Programme aims

This programme aims to:-

- 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.
- To enable students to propose, plan, implement and evaluate culturally appropriate, evidence-based policies and interventions for the effective improvement of population health in international, national and local contexts.

17. Programme learning outcomes

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.
K6	Knowledge of a specialist area of public health.

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:

1. Lectures

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

2. Seminars and tutorials

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

3. Independent study

Independent study is required within all units in order to cover all the required 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).

4. 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).

5. EuroPubHealth students will have a second year of study at one of the EuroPubHealth partner universities. The second year specialises in a particular subject, with seven specialisations based on fields of excellence of the consortium universities. During this specialisation year, students carry out their research project (dissertation) and a practical placement. Each student selects one specialisation and attends the courses in one of the following countries: Netherlands, Poland, Spain or France. (K1-6, S1-5).

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Dissertation

The dissertation, taken in Year 2, 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

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/vision>

20. Programme structure and regulations

The EuroPubHealth degree provides a solid basis of the knowledge and skills expected of a public health professional. The syllabus has been designed to address core competencies in public health and cover key elements of the Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework .

EuroPubHealth, studies extend over two years, with attendance at the University of Sheffield during the first year only. During the first year of study, students take the taught units listed in the programme regulations, and attend an integration module at the EHESP in Rennes, France. During the second year of study, students attend one of the consortium universities to follow a specialisation in one area of public health. They also undertake a research project and practical placement. The research project is examined as the University of Sheffield MPH dissertation and is supervised by staff from the year 2 University.

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. Please refer to the EuroPubHealth regulations for more details of the structure of the EuroPubHealth programme.

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. For entry onto the EuroPubHealth applicants must hold at least a university Bachelor degree (180 ECTS) or certified equivalent; and be proficient in the languages suitable for the chosen study pathway: English; English+Spanish; English+French; or Spanish+English+French. Please refer to the admissions requirements on the [EuroPubHealth website](#) for the current English Language requirements.

23. Additional information

The School of Medicine and Population Health (SMPH) is one of 3 Schools within the Faculty of Health at the University of Sheffield. The School supports a broad portfolio of excellent, internationally-recognised research supported by competitive funding from major national and international research bodies. The School has a strong focus on innovation and ensuring that its research has impact locally, regionally, nationally and globally. The SMPH provides research-led teaching, informed by its position as one of the leading Schools of Public Health in the UK. In particular, SMPH focuses on providing students with analytical skills, in-depth disciplinary knowledge and the capacity to employ critical thinking and problem solving, all of which are increasingly important when working with health care organisations in the developed and developing world.

Public Health research in SMPH has diverse and well-established collaborations with policy makers, commissioners, service providers and communities in the NHS, local government, third sector and organisations in Sheffield, the United Kingdom and globally. Our research is formed around seven broad themes: Addiction Policy; Epidemiology; Evaluation, Knowledge into Action; Evidence Synthesis and Retrieval; Food and Nutrition; Global Health and Environment; and Health Equity and Inclusion.

The SMPH has a strong focus on the employability of its graduates, supporting skills development through careers events and connections with alumni. Recent graduates from the public health courses work as public health specialists, in information analyst roles, senior public health management positions, health promotion activities, and research in universities. Internationally, students have found excellent opportunities in governments, universities, hospitals, as well as non-governmental organisations, undertaking leadership roles, public health programme interventions and evaluations, research and policy making.

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>