Supporting people, promoting health.
MSc Public Health
Global health is changing rapidly and in many countries millions of people are dying from preventable diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) calculates that two thirds of an estimated annual 56 million deaths are due to non-communicable diseases including cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung diseases.

Our MSc in Public Health will prepare you for a challenging but rewarding career improving the health of individuals and communities. We offer a comprehensive programme of study, with four optional pathways, where you will develop intellectual and practical skills in the core areas of public health, and equip yourself with the knowledge and skills required for a successful career as a practitioner or researcher in this rewarding specialist.

Why study MSc Public Health?
Supporting people to stay well is the essence of public health. Public health professionals develop, implement and evaluate evidence-based programmes to improve health and wellbeing. They are also concerned with health inequality, equity, population programmes and disease surveillance and involved in policy and strategy development where this impacts on community health and wellbeing.

Our programme has been informed by research surrounding the United Nations Millennium Goals in global health and is accredited by the International Union for Health Promotion and Education. The nutrition pathway is accredited by the UK Association for Nutrition.

Who should study?
Our programme will suit graduates or experienced health professionals from a range of disciplines and from across the globe who want to develop their knowledge of public health or learn new skills.

What does our MSc provide?
We offer a challenging and rewarding masters programme which will equip you for a successful career in the public or private sector, or a role as an academic researcher.

We provide four optional pathways specialising in nutrition, intelligence (working with information), management (leading and commissioning) and global health.

Our MSc covers all aspects of public health and you will be supported to develop the essential skills in epidemiology and statistics needed to analyse healthcare data and develop your own campaigns. Covering a broad range of subjects, you will be taught by expert academic staff with a focus on professional practice.

Our core modules include:
- Epidemiology – Concepts, Analysis and Application
- Medical Statistics and Qualitative Methods for Public Health
- Development and Implementation of Public Health Policies and Strategies
- Enabling Change for Health Improvement

We also offer a wide choice of optional modules, allowing you to develop your interests in particular areas including:
- Health Services Organisation and Evaluation
- Public Health, Law and Ethics
- Advanced Statistical Methods in Epidemiology
- Communicable Disease Control
- Developing Public Health Practice
- Food Systems
- Health Economics
- Population, Poverty and Policy

The four pathways include extra core modules in relevant subjects with one optional module. The pathway modules can be found on our website.

You will also write a dissertation of 6,500 words based on research or a professional project of your choice.

Flexible learning
This MSc is offered as a one year full-time programme or part-time programme lasting between two and five years.

The programme also accommodates a ‘step on step off’ structure allowing you to start the MSc programme and complete one of two subsidiary awards: a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health Studies or a Postgraduate Certificate in the Principles of Public Health. Modules are also offered on a stand-alone basis.

Learning is delivered through a variety of teaching methods including formal lectures, seminars, enquiry and work based learning, case studies, workshops, group work, web-based learning and self-directed study.

How to apply
Applications should be made online via our website. Places are limited.

Bursaries may be available.

For more information, including details on entry requirements and fees, please visit our website.

Start date
October

Programme Leader
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“I was impressed by the lecturers who spoke from their own experience of public health. I now work in research governance at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust and use the critical appraisal skills I developed at Southampton every day.”

James Cooper
MSc Public Health Nutrition graduate