

Programme Specification

Principles of Public Health (2019-20)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Postgraduate Certificate
Name of Award	Principles of Public Health General
Interim Exit awards	
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme Code	5385(FT) 5386(Nutrition FT) 6206(Global Health FT) 8187(PT) 8188(Nutrition PT) 8189(Global Health PT)
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Penelope Nestel (psn1b06)
Pathway Lead	Penelope Nestel (psn1b06)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

This programme is delivered by three Faculties: Medicine; Social, Human and Mathematical Sciences; and Business, Law and Art to combine expertise in public health, demography, global health and ethics. It is the key taught programme under the University Population Health Strategic Research Group that is led by the Faculties of Medicine and Social, Human and Mathematical Sciences. This cross Faculty Masters programme provides you with both a broad public health learning experience and supports the development of specialist expertise. It supports a 'generic' route for anyone working in public health enabling them to gain a sound foundation in the subject. Alongside this will be opportunities for you to gain specialist knowledge and skills within particular public health fields, specifically nutrition and global health.

Both the programme and pathways focus on improving the health and wellbeing of populations, which includes preventing health problems before they occur and reducing health inequalities. Public health professionals apply core competences from epidemiology and social sciences to develop, implement and evaluate evidence-based programmes to improve health and wellbeing. They are also concerned with equity, quality, effectiveness, cost effectiveness and accessibility of health care and will become involved in policy and strategy development, particularly where this impacts on community health and wellbeing.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

You will have the opportunity to debate contemporary public health issues with leading experts in the field of public health. Furthermore, you will have access to international researchers in life course epidemiology, geographical aspects of health, health inequalities, health management and maternal and child health and

nutrition that will provide you with insight in to a wide range of public health disciplines both in the UK and internationally. Learning opportunities will illustrate that public health is a complex process that requires a multidisciplinary approach taking account of the social, political and economic factors that influence health.

You will be taught using adult learning methods throughout and an emphasis is placed on interactive learning, including seminars, group work, practical demonstrations and discussions surrounding interpretation of data and public health scenarios to reinforce learning. These methods are designed to enable you to integrate theory and practice, to foster a spirit of enquiry, promote collaborative learning and meet a range of learner needs and styles. You will also learn with and from other students with different backgrounds, sharing diverse experiences from a range of health systems around the world. The course will facilitate you to value, recognise and build on your current experience, enabling you to develop transferable knowledge, understanding and the skills to deliver evidence-based public health interventions at individual, community and population levels.

The PG Certificate in Public Health is informed by the public health standards of the Faculty of Public Health and the UK Public Health Register as well as the public health nutrition proficiencies of the Association for Nutrition. These standards and proficiencies encompass the competencies, knowledge, understanding and attitudes required to meet the purpose of public health.

Assessment

The type of assessment varies across modules depending on specific learning outcomes and key skills. Your knowledge and understanding will be assessed through a combination of formative and summative assessments according to the assessment guidelines within the module profile. The assessment methods are designed to help you integrate theory and practice, maximise your skills of critical thinking and analysis, and develop your understanding of public health. Your study is assessed by assignments, oral presentations, interdisciplinary group work and translational assessments, which allow you to translate your learning into practice. The assessment methods enable you to demonstrate achievement of the programme learning outcomes as you progress through each module on your pathway.

Special Features of the programme

The programme will be delivered by faculty at the forefront of their respective academic disciplines and professions who have domestic and/or international experience in public health.

The programme has also been designed to support you to prepare to apply to join a professional register, either as public health specialists or advanced practitioners or as associate registered (public health) nutritionists, or to demonstrate advancing or continuing professional development. The curriculum design emphasises experiential learning to develop core public health competences, and values are developed and reinforced throughout. Through the professional development strand, you will be required to produce an e-portfolio to evidence your development. To do this, you will be supported to gain insight into your abilities and how to evidence your skills, and inspired to be committed to being a life-long learner to continuously develop your professional practice.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to develop your intellectual and practical skills in the core areas of public health that meet the needs of employers so as to maximise your opportunities for employment be it as a practitioner or researcher. These are to:

- a) Provide opportunities for you to develop mastery in public health through advancing your analytical skills, public health knowledge and communication skills.
- b) Provide you with the opportunity to begin to specialise in a pathway, namely global health or nutrition.

- c) Enable you to use or evaluate research utilising sound methodological principles that are appropriate to public health.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. The epidemiological principles and methods that underpin identification of the burden and determinants of ill health.
- A2. The nature of inequalities in health and wellbeing.
- A3. The evidence that underpins effective and cost effective public health (pathway) interventions and services and how to use quantitative and qualitative research methods to develop the evidence base.
- A4. The assessment of health and wellbeing; including approaches to identifying and measuring risk and the communication of risk.
- A5. The process of developing policy and strategy; understanding the impact of contemporary policies and strategies on population health and wellbeing. This includes designing baseline assessment and logical framework tools for evaluating public health indicators and relevant policies and programmes.
- A6. The organisation and development of services or programmes and their evaluation.
- A7. The principles and methods of partnership and collaborative working to improve health and wellbeing.
- A8. Frameworks and theories for managing change at individual, community, population and organisational levels of working.
- A9. Understand how to manage knowledge gaps and uncertainty in the evidence-base.
- A10. (*For Global Health only*) Scientifically evaluate and explain global health issues and challenges from a multidisciplinary perspective.
- A11. (*For Nutrition only*) Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies or methods of enquiry that are appropriate for creating and interpreting data and information, translating findings into action and developing new ideas in public health nutrition.

Teaching and Learning Methods

To help you develop your knowledge and understanding of public health you will be exposed to a variety of methods of teaching and learning.

- The understanding of the underpinning principles of public health is acquired through lectures, group work, peer teaching, problem-solving approaches and coursework.
- Skills in applying appropriate public health principles are learned through a combination of small group work and practical sessions where you can actively apply processes.
- Knowledge of interventions and how to develop them is acquired through a combination of lectures and practical workshops.
- Innovative and relevant materials to aid self-directed learning on the application of acquired knowledge are also provided through materials. Additional support is provided by direct access to tutors as required (either by e-mail or personal communication).
- Understanding research methods and applying them to the discipline of public health is taught through interactive group work, integration with research during lectures, by planning a research project and through personal supervision and performing a dissertation project (Research or Professional Project).

Assessment Methods

Your knowledge and understanding will be tested through a combination of formative and summative

assessments that may include essays and other written assignments, multiple choice question exams, problem based learning questions, practical work, questions and answers and oral presentations.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. Critically analyse and interpret a range of data and evidence for effective public health practice.
- B2. Apply your skills in qualitative and quantitative public health research.
- B3. Critically appraise and apply appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods for measuring, analysing and interpreting health and wellbeing needs and outcomes.
- B4. Apply programme management skills to address complex public health issues.
- B5. Critically analyse the role of the community in the development of public health interventions and programmes.
- B6. Critically analyse the theory and practice of reducing inequalities and achieving long term equity.
- B7. Reflect critically on the ethical and legal issues related to public health research and practice, including the importance of data confidentiality, disclosure, ethical dilemmas and data sharing protocols.
- B8. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving public health problems.
- B9. *(For Global Health only)* Demonstrate the practical applications of the evidence base in different contexts.
- B10. *(For Global Health only)* Explain the complex interaction of a range of individual, household and community level risk factors and determinants of disease burden and premature mortality at the global level.
- B11. *(For Global Health only)* Synthesise and critically evaluate information from global health databases and relevant data sources.
- B12. *(For Nutrition only)* Solve public health nutrition problems systematically, informed by concepts and practices germane to the field of public health nutrition, applying an evidence-based approach.
- B13. *(For Nutrition only)* Appraise the impact of policies and programmes aimed at nutrition-related health, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data and communicate findings/ conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences, both orally and in writing.
- B14. *(For Nutrition only)* Commit to and act within a code of professional ethics and values required for safe, effective externally verifiable, evidence-based, professional practice.

Teaching and Learning Methods

To help you develop your intellectual and research skills you will be exposed to a variety of methods of teaching and learning. Seminars, tutorials, discussions and problem-solving approaches will be used in addition to formal lectures. Each module involves discussion of key issues; practice in applying concepts, both orally and in writing, including analysis and interpretation of material and feedback on work produced. You will receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in libraries and elsewhere (e.g., on the web). Comprehensive resources are provided for each topic at the outset and guidelines are provided for the production of written assignments.

Assessment Methods

The variety of assessment methods employed all emphasize the requirement for you to demonstrate your skills through the production of coherent written and oral responses either to problems or set tasks. In common with all students in the Faculty you will during your studies produce several written assignments, carry out practical work, undertake multiple choice question examinations, give oral presentations and write up a dissertation, which will employ each of the listed skills.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. Demonstrate critical thinking.
- C2. Compose and communicate effectively using a range of communication methods and showing sensitivity to the specific needs of the potential audience.
- C3. Compile relevant information using information technology.
- C4. Demonstrate the ability to use collaboration, negotiation and influencing skills in effective and ethical ways.
- C5. Construct effective relationships with others including peers, experts and lay audiences.
- C6. Demonstrate an appreciation of the impact of culture, ethics and beliefs on the process and outcomes of work to improve health and wellbeing.

Teaching and Learning Methods

To help you develop your general skills you will be exposed to a range of teaching and learning methods that enhance both written and oral presentation skills, and that give you the opportunity to develop your transferable skills.

Assessment Methods

Your generic skills will be assessed throughout the programme through methods such as oral presentations, assignments and reflections.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

General Pathway

Part I

The induction week will provide you with a broad understanding of public health, its disciplines and history. Topical public health issues will be presented by keynote speakers. The two core public health modules in 'Epidemiology' and 'Statistical and qualitative methods for public health' will enable you to develop the knowledge and skills to evaluate and interpret public health research. Optional modules 'Enabling change for health improvement' and 'Development and implementation of policies and strategies' will support the advancement of knowledge and skills in a range of areas including; leadership, programme planning and working with individuals and communities, and evaluation. Additionally, through the professional development strand, the programme includes explicit learning about professionalism to meet standards common to Faculty of Public Health's Good Public Health Practice, the UK Public Health Register's Code of Conduct and the Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Performance of the Association for Nutrition.

The programme is modular and taken on a full-time basis up to a maximum of 24 months, leading to 30 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) (60 CATS credits) at HE7 level. The programme is arranged as 2 core taught

module contributing to 40 CATS, with 20 CATS available for pathway specific core modules.

All modules once selected are core. Each 20 CATS module represents 250 hours for your learning and endeavour, with teaching where appropriate (including seminars, class presentations and class practical sessions).

This course varies from the standard University semester and term dates published in the Calendar. Term dates for this programme are published in the student handbook on Blackboard.

The structure of programmes are as per the University General Regulations found in Section IV of the University Calendar and the programme specifications. Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles. The programme structure tables are below.

A range of course study materials for all of our modules are available to you via our virtual learning environment, Blackboard (www.blackboard.soton.ac.uk). This will allow you to continue your investigation in your own home and/or work environments when producing your course work. We pride ourselves on having helpful and approachable teaching and support staff and encourage you to contact us whenever support or guidance is needed.

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MEDI6073	Epidemiology: Concepts, Analysis and Application 2019-20	10	Core
MEDI6228	Introduction to Statistics and SPSS 2019-20	5	Core
MEDI6229	Qualitative Methods for Public Health 2019-20	5	Core

Part I Optional- General Option Modules

Over the course of your programme, you may only select 1 module from the following.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MEDI6069	Development and Implementation of Public Health Policies and Strategies 2019-20	10	Optional
MEDI6072	Enabling Change for Health Improvement 2019-20	10	Optional

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Global Health Pathway

Part I

The induction week will provide you with a broad understanding of public health, its disciplines and history. Topical public health issues will be presented by keynote speakers. The two core public health modules in 'Epidemiology' and 'Statistical and qualitative methods for public health' will enable you to develop the knowledge and skills to evaluate and interpret public health research. Optional modules 'Enabling change for health improvement' and 'Development and implementation of policies and strategies' will support the advancement of knowledge and skills in a range of areas including; leadership, programme planning and working with individuals and communities, and evaluation. Additionally, through the professional development strand, the programme includes explicit learning about professionalism to meet standards common to Faculty of Public Health's Good Public Health Practice, the UK Public Health Register's Code of Conduct and the Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Performance of the Association for Nutrition.

The programme is modular and taken on a full-time basis up to a maximum of 24 months, leading to 30 ECTS

(European Credit Transfer System) (60 CATS credits) at HE7 level. The programme is arranged as 2 core taught module contributing to 40 CATS, with 20 CATS available for pathway specific core modules.

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Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
GLHE6001	Critical Issues in Global Health: Concepts and Case Studies 2019-20	5	Core
MEDI6073	Epidemiology: Concepts, Analysis and Application 2019-20	10	Core
MEDI6228	Introduction to Statistics and SPSS 2019-20	5	Core
GLHE6002	Methods and Analysis of Global Health Trends and Differentia Is 2019-20	5	Core
MEDI6229	Qualitative Methods for Public Health 2019-20	5	Core

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Nutrition Pathway

Part I

The induction week will provide you with a broad understanding of public health, its disciplines and history. Topical public health issues will be presented by keynote speakers. The two core public health modules in 'Epidemiology' and 'Statistical and qualitative methods for public health' will enable you to develop the knowledge and skills to evaluate and interpret public health research. Optional modules 'Enabling change for health improvement' and 'Development and implementation of policies and strategies' will support the advancement of knowledge and skills in a range of areas including; leadership, programme planning and working with individuals and communities, and evaluation. Additionally, through the professional development strand, the programme includes explicit learning about professionalism to meet standards common to Faculty of Public Health's Good Public Health Practice, the UK Public Health Register's Code of Conduct and the Standards of Ethics, Conduct and Performance of the Association for Nutrition.

The programme is modular and taken on a full-time basis up to a maximum of 24 months, leading to 30 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) (60 CATS credits) at HE7 level. The programme is arranged as 2 core taught module contributing to 40 CATS, with 20 CATS available for pathway specific core modules.

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Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
MEDI6067	Assessment of Nutritional Status 2019-20	10	Core
MEDI6073	Epidemiology: Concepts, Analysis and Application 2019-20	10	Core
MEDI6228	Introduction to Statistics and SPSS 2019-20	5	Core
MEDI6229	Qualitative Methods for Public Health 2019-20	5	Core

Progression Requirements

The programme will follow the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes](#) or the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters Programmes](#) as set out in the General Academic Regulations in the University Calendar:
<http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html>

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.

- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV.
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community (18.00-08.00).
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- An induction week for orientation to the programme.
- Student module information, timetables and assessment guidelines and regulations.
- An introduction to the library and Information Technology.
- Opportunities to learn from a wide range of health professionals, researchers and lecturers.
- A personal academic tutor who will be allocated soon after arrival and offer one-to-one support and advice throughout your time at the University, and support you in your studies or with other issues you may have.
- The Faculty Post Graduate Taught Senior Tutor for all pastoral matters.
- The International Officer.
- The Module Leaders who are academic members of staff, who will be responsible for overseeing your progress throughout the module.
- The Programme Leader, who will be responsible for overseeing your progress throughout your programme and will be responsible for the overall management of the Programme and for any student issues outside the remit of or referred by the module leaders, dissertation supervisors or personal academic tutors.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty.
- Programme revalidation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report.
- Professional body accreditation.
- A national Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience).
- Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency.
- MSc Public Health Programme Board meetings.
- Faculty Programmes Committee.
- Ongoing review of subject/professional benchmarking standards.

- Reviews with public health workforce development leads.
- Association for Nutrition accreditation (for MSc Public Health (Nutrition)).
- IUHPE EuHP Accreditation.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality handbook](#).

Career Opportunities

The learning outcomes for this programme and its pathways will enable you to demonstrate competences that you will need for the practice of public health, at middle or senior levels, providing leadership and management in public health for national or global governmental or non-governmental organisations.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

General Name: Professor Martin Gulliford - King's College London

General Name: Dr Marko Kerac - The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Other	<p>Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Printing and photocopying costs (such as printing coursework for submission, printing and binding dissertations or theses, academic poster printing).· Typing costs.· Travel costs for trips and to and from the University and various campus locations (including travel insurance).· Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals).· Replacing lost student ID cards.· Costs of attending a graduation ceremony (e.g. hiring a gown for graduation). <p>In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.</p>

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