

Public Health

Postgraduate Diploma and MSc Courses





Postgraduate Diploma

Delivered over 1 year, the online, part-time, Postgraduate Diploma course is specially developed for busy health professionals. Formatted in 6 modules, each 6 weeks in duration; the course is designed to be practical and clinically focused.

MSc

The MSc runs over 2 calendar years, with the first year comprising of the Postgraduate Diploma. The second year starts with an initial 12 week online module to develop skills in critical appraisal and knowledge of research methodologies. Students then complete the professional project module.

Why study Public Health with us?

With an expanding population and increased life expectancy, along with factors like climate change and unhealthy lifestyles, there is a need to protect communities and prevent disease and ill health among large groups of people.

Our courses in Public Health will help healthcare professionals better understand the complex issues that surround public health and develop the problem solving and leadership skills necessary to tackle them.

This course is suitable for healthcare professionals with an interest in public health – this could include, but is not limited to, doctors, GPs, nurses, pharmacists, policy makers, public health professionals, geographers, exercise scientists, sociologists and environmental scientists.

Graduate entrants are expected to include those with an interest in public health, especially those in the public sector, such as police, fire service, local authority, local and national government, health service, and NGO's.

Public Health Postgraduate Diploma

Course Modules

Our online Public Health Postgraduate Diploma allows you to study for just one calendar year and is a part-time, distance-learning course. The course is worth 120 credits and comprises six modules of 20 credits, each running over a period of six weeks.

Module 1 - Contemporary issues in public health

Aim of the module:

- To provide an overview of the introduction to public health and explore relevant definitions.
- To critically use relevant data and evidence to understand contemporary issues within the public health arena.
- To develop an understanding of evidence-based interventions, to prevent contemporary issues or to protect the population's health.

Synopsis of module content:

- Overview/history of public health
- Demographic data
- Global burden of disease
- Non-communicable disease
- Infectious disease
- Personal factors contributing to non-communicable disease and infectious disease
- Wider determinants contributing to non-communicable disease and infectious disease

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Apply relevant understanding of data and evidence to understand the factors that impact on contemporary public health issues, whilst reflecting on the strength, weaknesses and limitations of using robust data and evidence.
2. Demonstrate an ability to critically apply appropriate statistical and evidence-based analysis techniques and methods to contemporary public health issues.

Module 2 - Environmental/geopolitical determinants of health

Aim of the module:

- To critically use relevant data and evidence to understand the impact of environmental/geopolitical issues and interventions to protect the population's health.

Synopsis of module content:

- Safe and secure supplies of water and food
- Rising temperature
- Flooding/water security
- Diminishing Biodiversity
- Natural disasters

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Critically apply the evidence to assess the impact of environmental/geopolitical issues on the health and wellbeing of populations and population groups, whilst reflecting on the strength, weaknesses, and limitations of using robust data and survey information.
2. Demonstrate an ability to critically apply robust evidence to support effective interventions to protect populations.

Module 3 - Data and intelligence

Aim of the module:

- To critically use relevant data collected by a variety of methods and techniques to survey and assess a population's health.

Synopsis of module content:

- Sources and uses of data
- Surveys and epidemiology
- Population statistics: Techniques and methods for analysing population health data - quantitative
- Population statistics: Techniques and methods for analysing population health data - surveillance qualitative
- Data from the use of health and other services
- Legal and ethical frameworks for the use of data

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an ability to critically apply appropriate techniques and methods to the analysis of health data for populations and population groups.
2. Critically appraise and apply appropriate data and survey methods to assess the health and wellbeing of populations and population groups within an applicable legal and ethical framework.

Module 4 - Dealing with complexity

Aim of the module:

- To develop knowledge of a range of effective strategic leadership, organisational and management skills in a variety of complex public health situations and contexts, dealing effectively with uncertainty and the unexpected to achieve public health goals.

Synopsis of module content:

- Leadership
- Policy development
- Change/project management
- Partnership
- Working within and with communities
- Implementation of public health interventions in complex settings



Doing a course, all online is a lot more convenient for me around my clinical role so that's why I chose to study with Lerna...

I really like how flexible the course was, I liked the freedom I got with the professional project and I was well supported throughout the whole 2 years!

- Lisa Jayne Edwards, Medical Education MSc graduate

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. To assess, communicate and understand the management of different kinds of risks including health, financial, reputational and political.
2. To critically apply influencing and negotiating skills in a variety of complex settings to advocate for public health issues.

Module 5 - Protecting the public's health

Aim of the module:

- To critically apply the evidence base to address issues within public health care systems.
- To develop an understanding of needs assessment and health impact assessment to support evidence-based interventions.
- To develop skills in pathway development for integrated services.

Synopsis of module content:

- Understanding of health protection risk
- Understanding of environmental determinants of disease and disease control
- Identifying and managing an outbreak
- Identifying and managing an incident
- Surveillance: immunisation and screening
- Health protection: legal

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Use appropriate data and evidence to critically apply the appropriate techniques and methods to identify and assess the risks and hazards of communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases, relevant to health protection.

2. Demonstrate an ability to coordinate appropriate public health responses, communicating effective interventions to protect populations by preventing communicable and non-communicable disease, ensuring that this is supported by the critical application of robust evidence.

Module 6 - Public health within health and care systems

Aim of the module:

- To critically apply the evidence base to address issues within public health care systems.
- To develop an understanding of needs assessment and health impact assessment to support evidence-based interventions.
- To develop skills in pathway development for integrated services.

Synopsis of module content:

- Understanding organisation and management of care and healthcare systems
- Understanding needs assessment



"When I enrolled into the course I had no idea about the opportunities it would provide me with. Having my first paper published through this course helped me overcome my apprehensions of academic writing and made me more confident to pursue it further. "

- Rutu Dave



- Understanding organisation and management of care and healthcare systems
- Understanding needs assessment
- Understanding health impact assessment
- Working to protect equality and diversity
- Understanding quality and risk in health care
- Understanding patient pathways and the transformation of patient pathways

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Critically apply the evidence base to the factors that impact on public health issues within a variety of health and care systems, whilst reflecting on the strength, weaknesses and limitations of using robust data and evidence.
2. Demonstrate an ability to critically apply appropriate techniques and methods to the analysis of health care public health issues and linked health data and evidence for populations and population groups, and protect the health of populations in a healthcare environment.

Teaching Methods

Our courses are conducted entirely online through self-directed distance learning. However, you will receive guidance throughout with tutor-stimulated academic discussions, which are based on clinically-rich case scenarios. These usually occur within groups of 10-15 students, allowing you to clearly communicate with both your tutor and fellow students.

You will participate in a combination of group and individual activities, which are recorded in a reflective journal. This innovative teaching method enables you to envisage the translation of your studies into your every day work and practice.

Our dedicated Student Support Team are also available to help with any problems you may face. From navigating our online platform to advising you on deadlines, our team can assist with any questions or challenges you may have along the way.

Study Skills week

Once you have secured your place on the course, you will be required to attend our Study Skills week. This will give you the opportunity to participate in workshops on Harvard referencing, scientific and reflective writings, and levels of evidence in preparation for your studies. It is compulsory for you to attend our induction, as it'll provide you with a sturdy introduction to the course.

Public Health Postgraduate Diploma

Entry Requirements

Documents required:

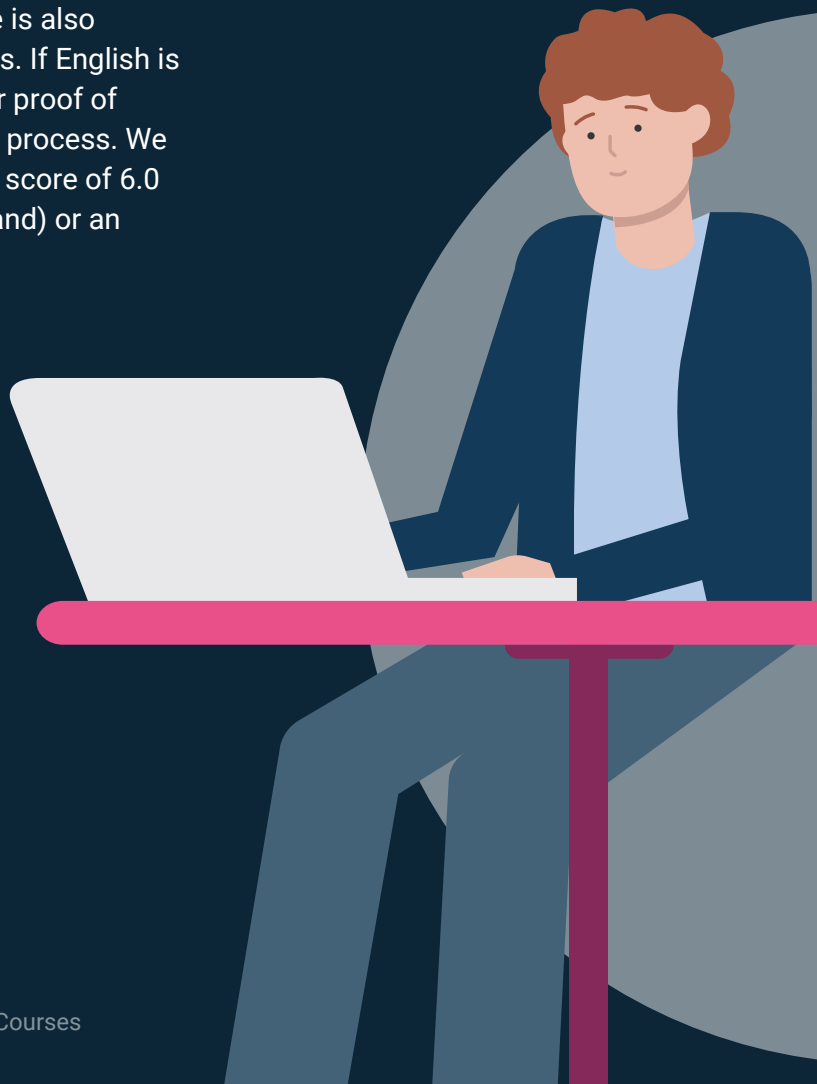
- A copy of your updated CV including your address and date of birth.
- A copy of your undergraduate degree certificate.
- The name and email address of someone who is able to provide a reference, this can be a work colleague, employer or former tutor.
- A detailed personal statement explaining why you would like to undertake the course.

Health professionals working within a clinical setting, both UK and overseas, with a related Healthcare Science degree (including international qualifications) are eligible to apply for the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health.

Applicants without the above academic criteria but relevant/suitable experience can apply. Applications will be judged on the individual specifics of background and qualifications including ability to work at postgraduate level (applicants may be asked to submit a piece of work for assessment to confirm that they are able to work comfortably at postgraduate level and demonstrate requisite clinical/professional knowledge).

Applicants should submit copies of the following with their application:

Proficiency in the English language is also essential to completing our courses. If English is NOT your first language, we ask for proof of competency during the application process. We are able to accept an IELTS overall score of 6.0 (with a minimum of 5.5 for each band) or an equivalent qualification.



Public Health MSc

Course Modules

Module 1 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal

Aim of the module:

- To prepare students for an independent research-based project by developing skills in selecting, appraising, discriminating, using evidence and appropriate research/investigative methods to address relevant topics for investigation.

Synopsis of the module:

- Quantitative Studies
- Statistical Analysis Interpretation
- Interpreting the Evidence
- Meta-analysis and Systematic Reviews
- Qualitative Studies
- Evidence Appraisal: Interpreting, Weighing and Synthesizing the Evidence
- Audit, Governance and Quality Improvement, Health Economics
- Preparing a Research Proposal: Research Committees, Consent, Ethics, Probity and Literature Review

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Critically analyse and interpret research to assess its application to delivery/service development.
2. Select and apply different methodological approaches and tools to answer research questions in your field of practice.

Module 2 - Professional Project

Aim of the module:

- To formulate the research question that you seek to answer.
- To develop an ability to critically evaluate areas of professional practice.
- To critically appraise specific areas of clinical, research and organisational practice.
- To develop skills in independent research and study.
- To develop skills relevant to scientific publications.

Synopsis of the module:

The module will depend on formulating the question and the creation of a piece of work based upon a specific public health related project relevant to the person's practice.

This project may comprise:

- Systematic literature review and appraisal of the evidence.
- Audit of non-patient data/organisational audit.
- Review and implementation of evidence-based practice.
- Literature review and qualitative or quantitative research proposal.
- Case(s)-based and quality of service review with critical appraisal.
- Case report, review of literature and organisational assessment.
- Secondary data analysis.

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On completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Design and undertake research and development project related to public health in order to produce an extensive piece of literature which may be suitable for peer-reviewed publication.
2. Critically evaluate practice and suggest improvements or change.
3. Incorporate knowledge of the research process in developing services appropriately.

Teaching Methods

Module 1 - Research Methodologies and Critical Appraisal

MSc teaching methods for this module are similar to the Postgraduate Diploma course modules, however it is run over 12 weeks.

Module 2 - Professional Project

To produce the professional project, students continue to use the online course; however much of the work is self-directed.

Students are expected in the first 8 weeks to interact with their tutor on a weekly basis. Students select a specific project and submit a project summary/ proposal (approximately 1,500 words).

Once the proposal has been approved, the professional project (10,500 words) itself is then completed through online guidance and supervision offered by the tutor. The student and tutor will interact regularly (weekly) on the dedicated students/ tutor discussion area or through any other means of communication deemed appropriate by both parties (telephone/ SKYPE/ email). Note of any verbal communication with the tutor is recorded in the student's journal by the student.

Entry Requirements

Entry to the one year Public Health MSc will require successful completion of the Public Health Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits). This can be from Diploma MSc, the University of South Wales or another UK university (having completed similar modules). We can discuss this with you during your application.

Individuals who have not completed the postgraduate diploma can apply for the Public Health MSc as a two year course consisting of eight modules (180 credits) with the first 120 credits deriving from the postgraduate diploma.

Entry requirements for the two-year course are as for the Postgraduate Diploma.

Applicants should be working in a clinical setting, either in the UK or overseas, and have a science degree in a relevant subject.

You will also need to submit copies of the following with your application:

- Qualification certificates
- A maximum of two professional and/or academic references
- IELTS score of 6.0 with a minimum of 5.5 for each band (or an equivalent qualification)

Graduates of this course will receive a Master of Science award from the University of South Wales, Diploma MSc's collaborative partner. The Public Health MSc course provides a progression route for the Postgraduate Diploma course in Public Health.



What do our students think?

Since 2010, over 1000 students have progressed their medical career by enrolling in one of our qualifications. We ourselves have learned a lot during this time and continually seek to improve the student learning experience. Here is what some of our previous students have said:

"I found the online learning very interesting. It enabled me to save money and time."

Dr Imad Eddin Rahamtalla, Doctor

"I strongly recommend Diploma MSc to all those busy physicians who are working in remote areas and wish to upgrade their knowledge."

Dr Junaid Zaffar, Diabetologist

"The learning was fun and enjoyable. The course was awesome and it increased my confidence."

Dr Sankar Nath Jha, Assistant Professor

"I found learning with Diploma MSc interesting, it helped to update my academic knowledge."

Dr Prasanth Kinattupurayil, Doctor

"I love that it was flexible and that I could log in at my convenience. I found this course to be very in-depth, informative, challenging and stimulating."

Kerri-Ann Best PGDip, RD



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For more information on applications email
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