

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

<b>1</b>	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>2</b>	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>3</b>	<b>Final Award</b>	Master of Public Health (MPH) Master of Science (MSc) Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert)
<b>4</b>	<b>Programme Title</b>	See item 5
<b>5</b>	<b>Programme Code</b>	5011F/P MSc Public Health and Health Services Research 5240P MSc Public Health and Health Services Research (3 yrs) 5854F/P Master of Public Health 5855P Master of Public Health (3 yrs) 5230F/P MSc Health Services Research 5241P MSc Health Services Research (3 yrs) 5231F/P MSc Global Public Health 5242P MSc Global Public Health (3 yrs) 3385F/P PgDip Public Health and Health Services Research 3498F/P PgDip Public Health 3499F/P PgDip Health Services Research 3500F/P PgDip Public Health (Global Health) 3028P PgCert Public Health and Health Services Research 6017P CPD Public Health and Health Services Research
<b>6</b>	<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>7</b>	<b>QAA Subject Benchmark(s)</b>	N/A
<b>8</b>	<b>FHEQ Level</b>	7
<b>9</b>	<b>Last updated</b>	May 2022

**10 Programme Aims**

The suite of programmes aims to produce graduates with an academic foundation at FHEQ level 7 (Masters' level) in the disciplines and knowledge that underlie UK public health, global public health and health services research. Students will be drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, such as the various healthcare and healthcare related professions within the NHS and local authorities, and policy makers at local and national levels; from the UK and overseas; and from intercalating medical students. These programmes aim to give the students an understanding of the challenges facing public health and health care services, while equipping them with a wide range of skills to evaluate and critically appraise these approaches to health and health care. Students will also have a systematic understanding of the way in which public health and health services research can contribute to improvements in the health of populations. As the programme progresses through each stage, students will consider different research strategies and develop skills in project design and analysis.

**11 Learning Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes have references to the benchmark statements for public health.

**Knowledge and Understanding**

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- A1 demonstrate knowledge of the way in which health services and health care are planned and delivered, and the range of a factors that influence them, in local, national, and international contexts
- A2 demonstrate knowledge of the health status of individuals and populations and the factors, including social determinants, that influence them
- A3 critically discuss key issues at national level affecting public health policies, social divisions, and health inequalities and methods to investigate them (Public Health and Health Services Research)
- A4 understand and discuss research methods required to investigate the effectiveness and acceptability of interventions to improve health and social care (Health Services Research)
- A5 critically assess factors at national level affecting public health policies and the quality of health services delivered (MPH)
- A6: critically assess and discuss national and international global health challenges facing all societies today and consider the roles of different actors (governments, international organisations, multinational corporations, etc.) in addressing them (Global Public Health)

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

Knowledge and understanding (A1-A6) are primarily imparted through lectures and seminars. In both cases, group and computer-based exercises and student presentations are used to check the students' learning. Both A1 and A2 are achieved by project work undertaken as part of several of the modules leading to this learning outcome. Students are encouraged and expected to undertake independent reading to supplement the taught component of the programme. This reading is supported by the provision of reading lists, with identified prioritised references. Exercises are provided throughout the programme for self-assessment/monitoring of progress.

**Assessment Strategy**

Knowledge and understanding of the subjects is primarily assessed by unseen examinations (A1-A6) and written assignments (A1-A6).

**Intellectual Skills**

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- B1 critically appraise and summarise published literature and grey literature
- B2 analyse, evaluate, and interpret health-related data in many different forms
- B3 use evidence to recommend changes to public health and health care practice (MPH, MSc and Postgraduate Diploma)

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

Intellectual skills are developed through seminars (B1-B3) and individual and group exercises (B1+B2). Students are encouraged to explore and develop these skills through directed reading and student presentations, through case studies (B2) and project work to assess and solve problems (B3). These practical exercises can involve small group work in seminars or be individual pieces of work either for informal presentation to the group or by self-directed learning/directed reading.

**Assessment Strategy**

Intellectual skills are assessed by unseen examinations and written assignments (B1-3).

<b>Practical Skills</b>
On completing the programme students should be able to:  C1 design a study to investigate a health-related question C2 implement a study of a health-related question (MPH, MSc)
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
Skills in study design (C1) and study implementation (C2) are developed by lectures, seminars, and individual and group exercises. As appropriate, students are also taught basic statistical computing packages (C1-C2) and undertake practical exercises on a regular basis. Students are supported in the development of these skills and their application in the dissertation by one-to-one supervision. Students are encouraged to develop practical skills C1-C2 through active participation in class exercises. These skills are further developed and reinforced as the students apply their new skills to the development of a research project, which is written up as their dissertation.
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
These skills are assessed by design and implementation of a research project for the dissertation (C1-C2), by unseen examinations (C1), and by written assignments (C1-C2).
<b>Transferable/Key Skills</b>
On completing the programme students should be able to:  D1 identify appropriate information from a variety of sources D2 integrate material to investigate a topic D3 demonstrate effective communication skills using a variety of media D4 plan, organise, and prioritise work activities to meet deadlines D5 use library and IT resources skilfully and appropriately
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
The skill of identifying sources of information (D1) is developed through lectures, seminars, and practical group exercises. A key part of the programme is integrating the material from the various modules (D2), and this is developed through seminars, lectures, group exercises, and student presentations, and also by tutors cross-referencing material from relevant modules. Communication and presentation skills (D3) are developed through seminars, group exercises, and student presentations. Planning and organisation of their work (D4) and use of library and information technology resources (D5) are covered throughout the programme. Students are encouraged to develop key skills D1-D5 through active participation in group exercises, through informal presentations to the group and through the completion of written work. Integration of material from across the programme content is encouraged in the planning and implementation of the research project for the dissertation, which makes up the final part of the programme. Students are supported by an academic supervisor, who provides support and advice throughout the dissertation.
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
Skills D1-D5 are assessed by a combination of written assignments and the dissertation. In addition, skills D1-D3 are assessed by oral presentation, and skill D1 is assessed by unseen examination.

## **12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features**

### **Basic structure of the programme**

The Masters programmes consist of a body of taught modules, which includes a combination of compulsory and optional modules (dependent on the programme of study), and a supervised project and dissertation worth 60 credits.

To be awarded a Masters degree, students must successfully complete 180 credits, consisting of 120 credits on taught modules, 60 credits on the dissertation.

To be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma, students must successfully complete 120 credits of taught modules.

To be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate, students must successfully complete 60 credits of taught modules. This is suitable for students wanting an introduction to the methods of public health and health services research

Students may complete the Masters course full-time over one year, or part-time over two or three years. Taught modules may be taken over two years, while dissertation is completed in the last year of study.

1) The one-year option comprises contact teaching in semesters 1 and 2 for the taught modules, and then the summer is spent completing the project and dissertation. Students will be expected to use non-contact time during semesters 1 and 2 for the development of their dissertation project. The dissertation is submitted at the end of August.

2) The two-year option involves *either*

a) completing all the 120 credits from taught modules in the first year, followed by the dissertation project in the second year *or*

b) completing 60 or 70 credits from taught modules in the first year, with the remaining modules of the taught component and the dissertation projects completed in the second year.

3) The 3-year option is to take 60 or 70 credits from taught modules in the first year and the remainder in the second year, and to complete dissertation project in the third year.

Students may complete the postgraduate diploma course full-time over nine months, or part-time over 21 months.

Students take the postgraduate certificate as a part-time course over nine months.

Students are also able to study modules on a continuing professional development (CPD) basis.

#### **Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)**

The Masters programmes provides a powerful analysis of public health and global health, together with research methods training, and provide a thorough preparation for the academic components of the Diploma and Part A MFPH examination of the Faculty of Public Health.

The distinctive features of this suite of programmes are that students are provided with a thorough training in the principles underlying global health, public health, and health services research, together with an extensive grounding in research methods. This is then reinforced by a comprehensive programme of optional modules, which ensures that students can choose a pathway appropriate to them.

#### **Programme regulations (link to on-line version)**

[-R5011F\\_6017P\\_vFinal.pdf](#)

### **13 Support for Student Learning**

\*The link below contains information within Section 13 relating to Placements and is not relevant to this suite of programmes.

[https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh\\_progspec\\_generic\\_info.pdf](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf)

**14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning**

[https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh\\_progspec\\_generic\\_info.pdf](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf)

**15 Regulation of assessment**

\*The link below contains information within Section 15 relating to Placements and is not relevant to this suite of programmes.

[https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh\\_progspec\\_generic\\_info.pdf](https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ltds/assets/documents/qsh_progspec_generic_info.pdf)

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/>

Degree Programme and University Regulations: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>

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