

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	Master of Public Health (MPH) Postgraduate Diploma (PgDip) * Postgraduate Certificate (PgCert) *
4	Programme Title	See item 5
5	Programme Code	5898P/F Master of Public Health 5899P Master of Public Health 3554F/P Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health * 3193P Postgraduate Certificate in Cert Public Health * 6017P CPD Public Health * <i>These programmes are not running in 2025/26</i>
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	N/A
8	FHEQ Level	7
9	Last updated	June 2025

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 underpin UK public health. Students will be drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, such as the various public health and healthcare related professions within the NHS and local authorities, and policy makers at local and national levels; from the UK and overseas; and equivalent degree programmes. 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 disease. Students will also have a systematic understanding of the way in which public health 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 public health services, programmes and interventions are planned and delivered, and the range of 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.

A4: understand and discuss research methods required to investigate the effectiveness and acceptability of interventions to improve population health.

A5: critically assess factors at national level affecting public health policies and the quality of public health services delivered.

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.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Knowledge and understanding (A1-A6) are primarily imparted through lectures and seminars and practical sessions. 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 are primarily assessed by unseen examinations, written assignments, and presentations (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 policy and practice.

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, group work 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, written assignments, oral presentations and group work (B1-3).

Practical Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: C1 design a study to investigate a public health-related question. C2 implement a study of a public health-related question. (Masters only)
Teaching and Learning Methods
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 statistical computing packages using basic and advanced (optional) statistical techniques (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.
Assessment Strategy
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).
Transferable/Key Skills
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
Teaching and Learning Methods
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 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.
Assessment Strategy
Skills D1-D5 are assessed by a combination of written assignments and the dissertation. In addition, skills D1-D3 are assessed by oral presentation (if applicable), and skill D1 is assessed by unseen examination.

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features
Basic structure of the programme
The Master of Public Health programme 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 of taught modules, 60 credits of 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.

Students may complete the Master of Public Health course full-time over one year, or part-time over two or three years.

Students may complete the Postgraduate Diploma award full time over one year, or part-time over two years.

Students may complete the Postgraduate Certificate part time over 1 year.

- 1) The one-year Masters option comprises contact teaching in semesters 1 and 2 for the taught modules, and semester three 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 Masters 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 80 or 90 credits of taught modules in the first year, with the remaining modules of the taught component and the dissertation project completed in the second year.
- 3) The three-year Masters 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 the dissertation project in the third year

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 programme offers a rigorous analytical framework for understanding public health, complemented by comprehensive training in research methodologies. This prepares students for the academic requirements of the Diploma and Part A of the MFPH examination from the Faculty of Public Health.

A key attribute of this programme includes an intensive foundation in the theoretical principles of public health, reinforced by a broad curriculum in research methods. The curriculum is enhanced by a broad selection of optional modules, allowing students to tailor their educational pathway to align with their specific interests and career objectives.

Programme regulations (link to on-line version)

[-R5898F 6017P 2526 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.

[Generic Info](#)

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

Generic Info

15 Regulation of assessment

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

Generic Info

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:
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The University Prospectus: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/
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Degree Programme and University Regulations: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations
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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.

Mapping of Intended Learning Outcomes onto Curriculum/Modules

Module	Comp MSc	Comp PG Dip	Comp PG Cert	Intended learning outcomes			
				A	B	C	D
MPH8001 Principles in Public Health	Y	Y	Y	1-6	1-3		1-5
MPH8002 Research Methods for Public Health	Y	Y	Y	4	1-3	1	1-5
MPH8003 Introduction to Health Statistics & Epidemiological Analysis	Y	Y	N		2		1,4,5
MPH8004 Social and Commercial Determinants of Health	Y	Y	N	1,2,3,5,6	1-3		1,2,4,5
MPH8005 Global Health and Planetary Boundaries	N	N	N	1,2,3,5,6	1,2		1-5
MPH8006 Applied Epidemiology & Data Science	N	N	N	2,3,4	1-3		1-5
MPH8007 Ageing across the Life Course	N	N	N	1,2,3,5,6	1,2		1-5
MPH8008 Health Economics	N	N	N	1,3,4	1-3		1,2,4,5
MPH8009 Health Improvement: Theory, Policy & Practice	N	N	N	1-6	1-3		1-5
MPH8010 Public Health Protection	N	N	N	1,2,3,5,6	1,2		1,2,4,5
MPH8097 Dissertation Part 1 (PT)	Y PT Mode	Not offered	Not offered		1	1	1-5
MPH8098 Dissertation Part 2 (PT)	Y PT Mode	Not offered	Not offered		1	1,2	1-5
MPH8099 Dissertation (FT)	Y FT Mode	Not offered	Not offered		1-3	1,2	1-5