Buckinghamshire New University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Key Information

Programme Title:	MA Public Health
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	Buckinghamshire New University
Subject Cluster:	Community Health & Primary Care
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	Master of Arts, MA
Pathways (if applicable)	
FHEQ level of final award:	7
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	Post Graduate Certificate in Public Health Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health
Accreditation details:	N/A
Length of programme:	2 years
Mode(s) of Study:	Part-time
Mode of Delivery:	Blended learning
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	**QAA characteristics statement Master's February 2020** Descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 7 on the FHEQ
Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):	N/A
Course Code(s):	MH1PUH9
UCAS Code(s):	
Approval date:	1 December 2022
Date of last update:	

2. Programme Summary

This programme will enable you to develop an in-depth understanding of the concepts of national and global public health. You will develop the underpinning knowledge that form the foundations for a critical exploration of public health, developing knowledge and understanding of fundamental public health concepts, theories and principles, with a focus on public health practice. The programme will encourage you to take a global perspective and critically explore international public health issues. You will be able to critically explore new ways of thinking in order to influence societal health and well-being. Opportunities to express entrepreneurial thinking will be encouraged in to demonstrate innovation and change within the field of public health. Through the development of a project, you will develop the skills required to lead with

influence. You will demonstrate their contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field of public health by undertaking a research project.

This programme will appeal to you if you want to enhance an existing career in public health, or within a related field. It will equip you with the required knowledge to work in a wide range of services such as the NHS, local and national government agencies, non-government agencies, and the public and private sectors, both nationally and internationally.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

1. Demonstrate conceptual and theoretical understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of public health locally, nationally and globally.
2. Critically evaluate a conceptual and theoretical understanding of health education and promotion initiatives that support positive change on micro and macro platforms.
3. Demonstrate critical acuity of contemporary research pertaining to current issues in public health across the globe.
4. Demonstrate creative and innovative thinking in order to make a positive social impact within society.
5. Demonstrate the application of leadership skills and critically reflect on the impact of leading with influence on public health outcomes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	Critically explore and question the historical foundations and contemporary challenges of public health
K2	Critically explore behaviour change theories and health promotion and education strategies.
K3	Utilise techniques and methodologies that are applicable to public health research-based projects
K4	Implement theoretical research-based knowledge when examining social, political and economic structures within public health
K5	Critically evaluate leadership theory and the impact of its application in public health practice

Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
C1	Formulate appropriate research questions within the realms of public health
C2	Recognise and critically analyse existing methodologies used within public health research
C3	Use problem solving principles and supporting theory to explore real case studies related to public health dilemmas and challenges.

C4	Apply innovative thinking and creation of emerging ideas within the area of public health
C5	Synthesise evidence and contribute to the creation of new knowledge within the field of public health

Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
P1	Demonstrate awareness of the ethical responsibilities of research in public health
P2	Interpret the ethical considerations of contemporary issues, challenges and priorities in public health
P3	Develop an in-depth appreciation of the importance of social impact through innovative thinking within society
P4	Critically examine the impact of health inequalities across the world.
P5	Critically analyse the ethical challenges and priorities when working in a dynamic public health landscape

Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Demonstrate creative, adaptable and influential presentation skills in a range of modalities relating to public health
T2	Verify and apply the values of personal governance when promoting health and well-being with the public health sector
T3	Assess and critically question the drivers of public health policy and how decisions are made locally, nationally and internationally
T4	Undertake a creative research project and organise, meet deadlines and make relevant recommendations for public health practice
T5	Develop a self-reflective component to personal learning and evaluation

Graduate Attributes

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens.

On this programme, attributes are developed through engagement in varied learning opportunities. Public health aims to improve population health and reduce health inequalities and in keeping with this, programme learning and its application to practice is underpinned by values of equity and inclusivity (K2, C3, C4, C5, P1, P2, P4, P5). Students will develop a critical, in depth understanding of factors influencing international public health (C3, P2, P3, P4, P5, T3) critically evaluating how public health has been shaped through history (K1). Course studies develop innovative thinking and leadership skills so that students can have opportunities to further their career in public health (K5, C2, C3, C4, C5, T1, T2, T4). Through developing abilities and confidence in interpreting public health data, research evidence, and in communicating findings (K3, K4, C1, C2, T4) students will develop skills of reflection so that

they can contribute meaningfully to improving the health and wellbeing of local communities and wider populations (C5, T5).

4. Entry Requirements

The University's general entry requirements will apply to admission to this programme, with applicants typically having a minimum of a 2.1 degree in a relevant field.

If you do not meet the entry requirements you may, if you have relevant professional experience, still be invited for interview, where you will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our accreditation of prior learning (APL) process.

5. Programme Structure

Pathway 1 or stand-alone course

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
Level 7	**<u>Year 1</u>** **Core modules:** Foundations of Public Health (20 credits) Innovation and Social Impact in Public Health (20 credits) Leading with Influence (20 Credits) **Option modules (choose modules to total 40 credits)** Challenges and Priorities in Public Health (20 credits) Healthy Public Policy (20 credits) Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Health Promotion Interventions (20 credits) **<u>Year 2</u>** **Core modules:** Research Methods (20 Credits) Research Project (60 credits) **Option Modules:** No option modules are available	**Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)** Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health 60 credits Any 60 credits including Foundations of Public Health but excluding Research Project **Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)** Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health 120 Credits Any 120 credits including Foundations of Public Health but excluding Research Project

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to changes in the subject area.

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

The teaching and learning strategies employed within this programme will reflect the nature of the learning experience at level 7 and the skills required for employment in the field of public health. Students will be encouraged to develop their independent learning skills and abilities to stay abreast of the latest developments in local and global public health. This master's degree programme will be delivered using a blended approach to learning.

Teaching will be delivered through a mix of online synchronous lectures and seminars, alongside the use of the virtual learning environment (VLE) and engagement in asynchronous learning and independent wider reading. There will be an expectation that at the start of each term the introductory sessions will be campus based. This will enable you to meet with your peers and personal tutor and the lecturers to establish and build relationships which will support your ongoing learning.

The delivery will be supported by group discussion and discourse, case studies, debate which draws on complex social national and international issues, the development and of honing of presentation skills and independent study.

You will have access to our e-learning platform Blackboard, where you will be able to access the module handbook and assessment information along with pre-lecture and post-lecture learning material and all presentation slides. Lectures will be recorded to allow you to listen to the sessions at your own pace.

Assessment

Enquiry based learning is fundamental to this MA programme and you will be encouraged to actively participate in research and philosophical enquiry throughout the whole programme leading to a final self-directed research project in a public health topic of your choice.

The following assessment activities are an example of some of the assessment strategies used on this programme:

- Written assignments: to include essay, case study, report and reflective account
- Portfolio of evidence
- Presentations
- Research project: either a library- based literature review or primary research project

Contact Hours

This course will be predominantly delivered online, including synchronous and asynchronous content via the University's virtual learning environment Blackboard. There will be specific set submission deadlines for the assessments and an expectation that at the start of each term the introductory sessions will be campus based.

It is expected that approximately 6 hours of synchronous contact time will take place each week with an additional 6 hours of asynchronous learning required. These hours are dependent upon the module timetable which will be set at the beginning of the programme. A full breakdown of contact hours can be found in individual module descriptors.

7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the following assessment regulations:

- Academic Assessment Regulations

8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support you to be successful with your studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases - many of which are available in electronic format – and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the MyBNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news, record your attendance at sessions, and access your personalised timetable
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on University regulations, exams, and other aspects of students and course administration
- Central student services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling
- Support from the Bucks Students' Union, including the Students' Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on University processes.

9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has a number of ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. You will be able to comment on the content of their programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys
- Programme Committees, via appointed student representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment
- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The QAA Characteristics Statement Master's February 2020
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy

Mapping of Subject Benchmark Statement and any relevant Apprenticeship Standard to Programme Learning Outcomes - The QAA Characteristics Statement Master's February 2020

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
All master's degree graduates have in-depth and advanced knowledge and understanding of their subject and/or profession, informed by current practice, scholarship and research	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
All graduates will develop a critical awareness of current issues and developments in the subject and/or profession; critical skills; knowledge of professional responsibility, integrity and ethics; and the ability to reflect on their own progress as a learner	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Graduates of specialist or advanced study master's are			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X	X		X	X

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
likely to be characterised in particular by their ability to complete a research project in the subject, which in some subjects includes a critical review of existing literature or other scholarly outputs																				

Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Level 7																				
Foundations of Public Health	x	x		x				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x
Innovation and Social Impact in Public Health	x				x			x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x			x
Leading with Influence	x				x			x	x	x		x			x		x			x
Research Methods	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x						x		x	x
Research Project	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x						x		x	x
Module Code (Optional)																				
Challenges and Priorities in Public Health	x	x		x				x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x		x
Healthy Public Policy	x																x	x		x
Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Health Promotion Interventions	x	x															x			