Buckinghamshire New University

# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

## 1. Key Information

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|---|---|
| **Programme Title:** | Master of Public Health (MPH) |
| **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 Public Health (MPH) |
| **Pathways (if applicable)** | N/A |
| **FHEQ level of final award:** | 7 |
| **Other award titles available (exit qualifications):** | PGCert in Public Health<br>PGDip in Public Health |
| **Accreditation details:** | N/A |
| **Length of programme:** | 1 year |
| **Mode(s) of Study:** | Full-time |
| **Mode of Delivery:** | In person (on-site) delivery |
| **Language of study:** | English |
| **QAA Subject Benchmark(s):** | N/A |
| **Other external reference points (e.g., Apprenticeship Standard):** | Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation; UK Public Health Register |
| **Course Code(s):** | MPPUBHFT |
| **UCAS Code(s):** | |
| **Approval date:** | August 24 |
| **Date of last update:** | August 25 |

## 2. Programme Summary

Public health is a crucial component of global healthcare as it aims to address pressing global health challenges. The demand for skilled Public Health leaders and practitioners is rising as the global workforce expands at an unprecedented rate. According to the National Health Workforce Accounts database (2024) and the World Health Organisation (2024), the field urgently needs more practitioners, emphasising the necessity to grow the public health workforce worldwide.

This Master of Public Health (MPH) programme is designed for individuals currently working in, or aspiring to enter, public health careers, including practitioners, health professionals, and those in the voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) sector. The programme provides an in-depth understanding of global public health concepts, theories, and principles,

Programme Specification

with a strong emphasis on public health practice. It encourages students to adopt a global perspective and critically examine international public health issues. The curriculum fosters innovative thinking to influence societal health and well-being and promotes the development of entrepreneurial and leadership skills necessary for driving change and innovation in public health. Through project work, students will gain expertise in health services administration, environmental health, and health policy. Additionally, they will contribute to the field's knowledge base by undertaking research projects, and honing skills in research question formulation, design, implementation, and critical presentation of findings.

This programme is ideal for those aspiring to roles in government agencies, non-profit organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and healthcare institutions. Graduates can pursue careers as epidemiologists, public health advisors, public health practitioners, health educators, programme managers, or policy analysts.

## 3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

## Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

1. Provide a conceptual and theoretical understanding of public health at both local and global levels.

2. Equip students with the ability to critically evaluate health education and promotion initiatives to support positive change on both micro and macro platforms.

3. Enable students to offer critical insight into contemporary research on current issues in global public health and apply innovative thinking to address these challenges.

4. Produce graduates with effective leadership skills, who can critically reflect on the impact of leading with influence on public health outcomes.

5. Manifest creative and innovative thinking, enabling graduates to make a positive societal impact through public health initiatives and interventions at a local and global level.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

### Knowledge and Understanding (K)

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

| ID | Learning Outcome |
|----|------------------|
| K1 | Critically discuss the historical foundations and contemporary challenges of public health. |
| K2 | Demonstrate a critical understanding of theories and strategies in health promotion, education, and epidemiology. |
| K3 | Exhibit a systematic understanding of research techniques and methodologies applicable to public health projects. |
| K4 | Demonstrate a critical understanding of theoretical and research-based knowledge when examining the social, political, and economic structures that influence public health. |
| K5 | Critically evaluate leadership theory and the impact of its application on 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 field of public health |
| **C2** | Critically analyse existing research methodologies used within public health. |
| **C3** | Utilise problem-solving principles and supporting theory to explore real-world public health dilemmas and challenges |
| **C4** | Apply innovative thinking and generate emerging ideas to advance the field of public health. |
| **C5** | Synthesise evidence from diverse sources 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 a thorough awareness of the ethical responsibilities involved in conducting public health research. |
| **P2** | Interpret and address the ethical considerations related to contemporary issues, challenges, and priorities in public health. |
| **P3** | Create reports that assesses the social impact of innovative public health interventions, including specific metrics and evidence of outcomes |
| **P4** | Critically examine the impact of health inequalities and health economics across the world. |
| **P5** | Critically analyse the ethical challenges and priorities of working in a dynamic public health landscape, locally and globally |

## 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 across various modalities relevant to public health. |
| **T2** | Apply personal governance when promoting health and well-being within the public health sector. |
| **T3** | Critically examine the drivers of public health policy and decision-making processes at local, national, and international levels. |
| **T4** | Conduct a research project, effectively organising tasks, meeting deadlines, and making relevant recommendations for public health practice. |
| **T5** | Reflect on personal learning and evaluation through identification of strengths, areas for improvement, and strategies for growth |

## 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 2.2 degree in a relevant field (for example science; social science; life sciences; social care; health care, allied health).

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

| Level | Modules (Code, Title and Credits) | Exit Awards |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 7 | **Core modules:**<br>NAM7128 Concepts and Practices in Public Health (20 credits)<br>NAM7129 Epidemiology (20 credits)<br>NAM7132 Innovation and Social Impact in Public Health (20 credits)<br>NAM7133 Leading with Influence (20 Credits)<br>NAM7130 Global Health Systems and Health Economics (20)<br>NAM7131 Research Project (60 credits)<br><br>**Option modules (choose one module worth 20 credits)**<br>NAM7134 Challenges and Priorities in Public Health (20 credits)<br>NAM7135 Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Health Promotion Interventions (20 credits) | **Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)** in Public Health (60 credits)<br>*Any 60 credits including NAM7128 Concepts and Practices in Public Health.*<br><br>**Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)** in Public Health (120 Credits) |

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. You will be encouraged to develop independent learning skills and abilities to stay abreast of the latest developments in local and global public health. This programme will be an in-person provision.

Teaching will be delivered through lectures and seminars in person, alongside the use of the virtual learning environment (VLE) and  independent wider reading.

The delivery will be supported by group discussion and discourse, case studies, debate and "ask the expert" sessions which draws on complex social national and international issues, the development of, and 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.

### Assessment

Enquiry based learning is fundamental to this MPH 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 on a public health topic of your choice.

The following assessment activities are examples 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

### Contact Hours

This course will be delivered in person, and via the University's virtual learning environment Blackboard. There will be specific set submission deadlines for the assessments.

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:

- *Regulations for Taught Degree Programmes (2023)*

## 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, review and quality assurance

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 Quality Assurance Committee
- 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)
- QAA Characteristics Statement: Master's Degree (2020)
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy
- Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework (PHSKF), Office for Health Improvement and Disparities [UK Government] (2016)
- Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA) Core Curriculum Areas (2020)

## 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** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NAM7128 Concepts and Practices in Public Health | X | X | | X | | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | X |
| NAM7129 Epidemiology | X | X | X | | | | X | X | X | | X | | X | | X | | | X | | X |
| NAM7132 Innovation and Social Impact in Public Health | X | | | | X | | | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | X | | | X |
| NAM7135 Leading with Influence | X | | | | X | | | X | X | X | | X | | | X | | X | | | X |
| NAM7130 Global Health Systems and Health Economics | X | X | X | X | | | | X | X | | X | X | | X | X | X | X | X | | X |
| NAM7131 Research Project | X | | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | | | X | X | | X | X | X | X |
| **Module Code (Optional)** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NAM7134 Challenges and Priorities in Public Health | X | X | | X | | | | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | | X | X | | X |
| NAM7135 Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Health Promotion Interventions | X | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | |