

Public Health

Final award	BSc (Hons)
Intermediate awards available	Cert HE, Dip HE, BSc ordinary degree
UCAS code	B910
Details of professional body accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark statements	Health Studies 2008
Date specification last up-dated	June 2011

Profile

The summary - UCAS programme profile

BANNER BOX:

This programme can lead to an exciting career in the expanding arena of public health. The programme places a high emphasis on the development of employability skills and offers opportunities for volunteer work placement.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

240 UCAS points or equivalent plus GCSE level C (or equivalent) in English and mathematics.

Students may be admitted through Accreditation of Experiential Learning (AEL) or Accreditation of Certificated Learning (ACL) processes.

In the case of applicants whose first language is not English, then IELTS 5.5 in each component (or equivalent) is required. International qualifications will be checked for appropriate matriculation to UK Higher Education undergraduate programmes.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

What is the Public Health Programme?

The Public Health Programme examines various aspects of population health at local, national and international levels with respect to the aims specific to the discipline of public health. The Programme, as aligned with the Public Health Skills and Career Framework (PHRU, 2008) explores ways of measuring health and disease, and improving the health and wellbeing of groups of individuals (e.g. those in a specific geographical area, those with a specific disease, those from a particular ethnic community), preventing and minimising the consequence of disease, prolonging valued life and reducing inequalities.

Health Programmes at UEL

Health is an exciting, dynamic and multi-disciplinary area of study, and public health focuses on the health of populations, locally and globally. There are many career opportunities available in different health settings and the range of health programmes offered at UEL can be tailored to your needs.

Studying health at UEL also provides students with a solid foundation for gaining employment, professional development or further study in the area of health and beyond.

UEL is an institutional member of the European Public Health association (EUPHA).

Programme structure

The programme is largely a taught programme based on ‘modules’. The programme is structured to allow students flexibility and to build on their learning year by year. It is possible to study in either full- or part-time mode and to switch between full and part-time study if necessary. It is also possible to study for a combined degree with other relevant subject areas.

All of the core modules in Semester A, level 1 are jointly taught to all single honours students in the health studies field allowing movement between programmes during this period. In Semester B, level 1 public health students begin taking a set of core, discipline specific modules along with other core health studies modules. The discipline specific, core modules are compulsory for all students taking a degree in Public Health. Students will continue taking discipline specific, core, and health studies core modules throughout levels 2 and 3 and will also able to select optional modules.

The use of Accreditation of Prior Learning and experience can be utilised for accelerated progression or to receive advanced standing in the programme if the student has taken equivalent courses elsewhere.

Learning environment

Learning happens in a variety of ways through lectures, guest speakers, seminars, group work, group and individual presentations, web-based activities, reflective learning, independent and guided research and networking with professional practitioners.

Assessment

A variety of assessment methods are used to gauge learning. These include essays, reports, individual or group oral and poster presentations, examinations, online quizzes and tests, in-class tests, proposal preparation and project work. Most modules require that you complete 2 components of assessment.

Level 1 students do not sit examinations in their first semester, and there is an expectation that students utilise this first semester and first year to “learn how to learn”. In place of examinations, you will complete a variety of different assessments which may include short tests and quizzes.

The degree award only draws on marks from levels 2 and 3 for the final classification.

Work experience/placement opportunities

In level 2, students will undertake an employability module which will aid in gaining voluntary and work placements in a public health setting. Many of your modules emphasise the importance of making links to practice. This means when possible external speakers will be invited, providing a great networking opportunity for students interested in internships or post-study employment.

Project work

An individual research project module is available at level 3. Single honours students can take a one or two semester project option. This module allows students to put into practice and demonstrate what they have learned on their programme in the form of a final year project. Students design their own projects with guidance from academic teaching staff. Project options range from designing public health programmes to empirical research projects.

Added value

A considerable amount of teaching and assessment are based around helping students to develop transferable as well as subject specific skills. Students are also provided extensive personal support and each student is assigned a personal development tutor.

The University also offers a range of academic and personal support services, ranging from academic writing assistance to counselling and financial assistance.

There is extensive online support via our virtual learning environment (UEL Plus)

Students are expected to develop oral and visual presentation skills, be able to successfully work in groups, to organise their time effectively and efficiently and be skilled at information gathering. Both written and verbal communication skills are important and will be tested and developed over the course of the programme.

IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?

If you are interested in studying...

- Learning about the factors that impact on the health and wellbeing of populations;
- Emerging and persistent health issues;
- Exploring and calculating patterns and measurements of health and disease, and
- Gaining insight into and critiquing health policies nationally and internationally

Then, you would enjoy reading for a degree in public health.

If you enjoy...

- Working in groups;
- Researching;
- Analysing and critiquing;

- Applying theory to practice; and
- Meeting and networking with people in the field.

Then, you would enjoy developing these skills studying for a degree in public health.

If you want...

- A high level of learning support at level 1 aimed at improving the level of your success in levels 2 and 3. Our ‘Personal and Professional Skills’ module at level 1 will support your learning needs and the management of a personal development profile is central to this process. This will allow you to manage your learning needs and register your personal success. This will build into a complete learning profile over your programme and will be useful to an employer to demonstrate your success.
- A programme which allows a wide range of module selection. Even though you have selected a Public Health Programme you can still select a management module. It is also possible to combine the core modules from two pathways e.g. Public Health and Health Promotion to create a joint degree programme. Please see your Programme Leader if you are interested in a joint health degree. It is possible to plan a joint programme from another field, for example Psychology or Education.
- A strong theme throughout your programme of research. You will develop an appreciation of current developments in Public Health research, and acquire the skills and opportunities to conduct your own research.

Then, you will find these qualities in the degree in public health at UEL.

Your future career

Many opportunities exist in the expansive field of public health locally nationally and globally. This may involve working in statutory services, the private sector or voluntary organisations. Possible careers may include:

1. Health Educator;
2. Public Health Specialist;
3. Policy Advisor;
4. Epidemiologist;
5. Health Promotion Officer; or
6. Researcher.

You also may want to go on to further study in order to hone your expertise, and your degree will prepare you for the next steps.

How we support you

When you arrive at the University you will be allocated a personal development tutor who will be a member of the academic staff familiar with your programme of study. During your first semester at level I you will see your personal development tutor regularly as an integral part of your core module HS1101 ‘Personal and Professional Skills’ module. Your personal tutor is there to help you throughout your time at the University.

Module leaders and programme leaders also offer support on academic issues.

There is a School help desk to offer both direct help and advice.

Student representatives are elected each year from each level and can also act as a communication channel with staff and other students.

Every health promotion module uses online resources for all students via UEL Plus which provides lecture outlines and other module specific information.

Support for Students at the university level includes; Disability, dyslexia and access services, Skillzone, Connexions, an Employability Unit, advice on practical issues such as finance, medical services, language support and learning support for specialist needs.

Increasingly, the web is used as a resource to support students' learning. All module information, including lecture summaries, is available on our virtual learning environment (UEL Plus), together with notice boards and discussion boards. This support is especially important if you are considering part-time study.

Modules are taught on individual days to allow students to plan work and/or other responsibilities around their University attendance.

Bonus factors

The University of East London is a global learning community, with over 20,000 students from 120 countries worldwide.

Within the school of Health and Bioscience we have staff and facilities to match the wide interests and backgrounds of our students.

Central London is only 20 minutes by underground, and the Stratford Campus has extensive transport links with all parts of London, the UK and the European train terminal will be based at Stratford. Stratford is currently developing "Stratford City" a vast development of commercial and social facilities. Stratford is the main site for the next Olympic and Paralympic games. There are many other regeneration and economic growth investment plans in the run up to the Olympics in 2012. UEL is engaged in this exciting urban development project.

On site facilities over two campuses include bookshops, canteens, coffee shops, student shops, 24-hour learning resource centres, IT laboratories and services provided by the Student Union.

Outcomes

Programme aims and learning outcomes

What is this programme designed to achieve?

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Explore the links between theory and practice in relation to the concepts and principles of public health;

- Explore the factors that contribute to health and wellbeing of individuals, communities and populations;
- Analyse the impact of policies on public health; and
- Understand the importance of research and intelligence in public health.

What will you learn?

All learning outcomes are covered in the programme's single honours route and where Maj, J and/or Min is shown against a learning outcome, this confirms that the learning outcome is covered in the Major, Joint and/or Minor routes offered.

Knowledge

- Selected themes and issues in public health (Maj, J and Min);
- The factors that influence health and wellbeing; (Maj , J and Min)
- Research skills and methods used in public health; and (Maj and J)
- Theoretical understanding of public health and related fields. (Maj and J)

Thinking skills

- Develop an understanding of, summarise and synthesise materials from a range of sources to analyse issues in health; (Maj, J and Min)
- Apply theory in the assessment of public health policy interventions and developments; (Maj and J)
- Identify, synthesise and evaluate relevant primary and secondary data sources; (Maj and J)
- Recognise the diversity of perspectives underpinning public health; (Maj, J and Min)
- Reflect on personal knowledge and develop strategies to enhance learning; and (Maj, J and Min)
- Critically appraise research undertaken in public health. (Maj and J)

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Problem-solving skills; (Maj, J and Min)
- Data collection and research skills; (Maj and J)
- Evaluative and analytical skills; (Maj, J and Min)
- Sensitivity to the values and interests of others; (Maj, J and Min)
- Locate and retrieve information from a variety of courses; and (Maj, J and Min)
- Independent learning. (Maj, J and Min)

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Convey ideas in an appropriate written and/or oral format, including

where appropriate, presenting this information; (Maj, J and Min)

- Communicate effectively (in writing and verbally); (Maj, J and Min)
- Participate effectively in groups to achieve joint learning outcomes; (Maj, J and Min)
- Manage time effectively; (Maj, J and Min)Critically reflect on the value of one's own work; (Maj, J and Min)

- The ability to select and utilise appropriate computer software; (Maj and J)
- Set goals and plan a programme of work; (Maj, J and Min)
- Develop personal learning style; (Maj, J and Min)and
- Work independently. (Maj, J and Min)

Structure

The programme structure

Introduction

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 0 equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree programme
- 1 equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 2 equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

Credit rating

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

Typical duration

The expected duration of this programme is 3 years when attended in full-time mode or 4-5 years in part-time mode. It is possible to move from a full-time mode of study to a part-time mode of study and vice-versa, to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

How the teaching year is divided

The teaching year is divided into two semesters beginning in September and February. For most students the teaching year begins in September and ends in June, but some students also decide to join at the start of Semester B, in February and complete in January.

A typical student, in full-time attendance mode of study, will register for 120 credits (6 modules) in an academic year. A student in a part-time mode of study may register for up to

80 credits (4 modules) in any academic year. These are normally divided equally between the two semesters.

What you will study when

This programme is part of a modular degree scheme. A student registered in a full-time attendance mode will typically take six 20 credit modules (or fewer, if any are 40 credit modules) per year. Part-time students may take any number of modules up to a maximum of four per year.

An honours degree student must complete modules totalling 120 credits at level one, modules totalling 120 credits at level 2 and modules totalling 120 credits at level 3.

It is possible to bring together modules from one field with modules from another to produce a combined programme. Subjects are offered in a variety of combinations:

- Single 120 credits at levels one, two and three
- Major 80 credits at levels one, two and three
- Joint 60 credits at levels one, two and three
- Minor 40 credits at levels one, two and three.

The following are the core and optional requirements for the single and major routes for this programme:

LEVEL	UEL Module Code	TITLE	SKILLS MODULES	CREDITS STATUS STATUS STATUS STATUS			
				SINGLE	MAJOR	JOINT	MINOR
1	HS1104	Personal and Professional Skills	Y	20	Core	Core	Core
1	HS1105	Development of Health Care in the UK		20	Core		
1	HS1103	Understanding Health		20	Core	Core	Option Core
1	HS1111	Research Methods		20	Core	Core	Option
1	HS1112	Introduction to Public Health		20	Core	Core	Core
1	HS1113	Understanding Epidemiology in Public Health		20	Core		Option
2	HS2101	Assessing Population Health Needs		20	Core	Core	Core
2	HS2105	Employability	Y	20	Core	Core	Core

2	HS2106	Health Inequalities	20	Core	Option
2	HS2107	Addictive Behaviour and Health	20	Option	
2	HS2111	Health Policy	20	Option	
2	HS2112	Research Skills for Public Health	Y	Core	Core
2	HS2115	Contemporary Issues in Public Health and Health Promotion	20	Core	Core
2	HS2117	Environment and Health	20	Option	
2	HS2118*	Health Promotion Practice in Nursing	20	Option	
3	HS3102	Public Health Policies and Strategies in Practice	20	Core	Core
3	HS3105	Understanding Health Systems Finance	20	Option	Option
3	HS3106	Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing	20	Option	Option
3	HS3107	Health Promotion and Later Life	20	Option	Option
3	HS3114	Impact of Globalisation on Health and Development	20	Core	Core
3	HS3115	Sexuality and Health	20	Option	Option
3	HS3121/3122**	Individual Research Project	20/40	Core	Core
					Option

Modules are defined as:

Core	Must be taken
Option	Select from a range of identified module within the field
University Wide Option	Select from a wide range of university wide options

The Skills Modules listed in the Joint Route are Core, unless the equivalent Skills Modules are taken in your other combined subject.

* Module HS2118 is only available to registered nurses (RGN) who are currently working in the field of nursing in the UK.

** Single honours students have the option to select a 20 or 40 credit project module. A minimum threshold of 55% is set from the research methods module (HS2112) for students to be eligible to undertake the 40 credit project module (HS3122).

Assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning

Knowledge is developed through

- Lectures;
- Tutorials/seminars;
- Workshops;
- Reading;
- Internet (UEL+)and
- Independent research.

Thinking skills are developed through

- Presentations;
- Preparing for tutorials, seminars and workshops;
- Problem-based learning
- Completing coursework assignments (including data analysis, essays and reports); and
- Independent reading.

Practical skills are developed through

- Practical group work;
- Work placements;
- Computer usage;
- Researching; and
- Library skills sessions.

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- Time management;
- Presenting ideas and arguments in a structure manner;

- Written and oral communication;
- Computer literacy;
- Problem solving; and
- Team work.

Assessment

Knowledge is assessed by

- Written seen and unseen examinations;
- Standard essays and extended essays or short pieces of coursework;
- Individual and group presentations;
- Poster presentations;
- Group reports;
- Project work;
- Portfolios;
- Data analysis and interpretation activities;
- Library exercises; and
- A combination of formative and summative assessments (i.e. quizzes).

Thinking skills are assessed by

In all of the manners listed above, and it is important to

- Contribute to discussions;
- Demonstrate clear and logical thought; and
- Demonstrate the ability to think analytically and apply knowledge in various scenarios.

Practical skills are assessed by

- Evidence of logical planning and time management;
- Ability to complete assessments using the appropriate resources;
- Timed tests;
- Presentations; and
- Group working.

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by

- Ability to work to strict deadlines;
- Evidence of interpersonal skills (i.e. team work and leadership);
- Effective oral and written communication skills; and
- Ability to select and use the appropriate problem solving skills.

Quality

How we assure the quality of this programme

Before this programme started

Before this programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

How we monitor the quality of this programme

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);
- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information, programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the Quality and Standards Committee.

Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

The role of the programme committee

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the quality assurance procedures.

The role of external examiners

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future.

Listening to the views of students

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluation questionnaires
- Student representation at Programme Committee meetings (1 meeting per semester)
- Personal tutors;
- Module leaders;
- Programme Leader; and
- Field Leader.

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- Circulating the minutes of the Programme Committee meetings
- Verbal feedback via module leaders
- Providing details on the programme UEL Plus notice board

Listening to the views of others

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Annual student satisfaction questionnaire;
- Questionnaires to former students; and
- Views from local health stakeholders.

Further Information

Alternative locations for studying this programme

Location	Which elements?	Taught by UEL staff	Taught by local staff	Method of Delivery
-	-	-	-	-

Where you can find further information

The programmes in Health are able to make full use of the skills framework implemented across the University at level and level II – using the modules HS1101 *Personal and Professional Skills*, HS1111 *Research Methods* and HS2105 *Employability*.

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site <http://www.uel.ac.uk>
- The programme handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>
- UEL Guide to Undergraduate Programmes
- School of Health and Bioscience <http://www.uel.ac.uk/hab/>
- Public Health Skills and Career Framework
http://www.phru.nhs.uk/Pages/PHD/public_health_career_framework.htm