

1.	GENERAL INFORMATION	
1.	Programme Title:	Master of Public Health
2.	Final Award:	Master of Public Health
3.	Exit Awards:	PgC Public Health PgC Public Health with Social Action PgC Health and Social Care Studies PgD Public Health PgD Health and Social Care Studies MSc Health and Social Care Studies Master of Public Health
4.	Awarding Body:	Glasgow Caledonian University
5.	Period of Approval:	
6.	School:	Health and Life Sciences
7.	Host Department:	Department of Nursing and Community Health
8.	UCAS Code:	NA
9.	PSB Involvement:	NA
10.	Place of Delivery:	GCU Glasgow GCU London
11.	Subject Benchmark Statement:	QAA (2020) Master's degree characteristics statement UK Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework (2016)
12.	Dates of PSP Revision:	December 2023

2. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

The philosophy underpinning the Master of Public Health is to prepare and develop public health practitioners to be able to prevent disease, promote health, and protect the well-being of the public through education, research and public health practice and service. Public health practice is defined by the UK Faculty of Public Health (2014) under the three key domains of health protection, health improvement and health services. Underpinning these themes are the functions of public health intelligence, academic public health and workforce development.

Despite global increases in life expectancy in the last 4 decades (GBD 2019 Demographics Collaborators 2020), there remains strong evidence that health inequalities continue to impact on public health efforts (ONS, 2022; WHO 2013). Exacerbated by the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the widening health inequalities continue to be a key public health challenge for the 21st Century, alongside an ageing population, increasing levels of chronic disease, migration and urbanisation, environmental damage and climate change and the economic crisis (BMA, 2021; McGowan and

Bambra, 2022). The public health workforce is recognised as key in taking forward the public health agenda to help address these issues (WHO & ASPHER, 2020). In order to effectively facilitate this process, those working in the public health arena will require the appropriate and relevant knowledge, skills and attributes. UK wide, this commitment to the education and support of the workforce is acknowledged through the publication of the updated Public Health Skills and Careers Framework (Department of Health 2016) in order to help deliver the public health goals identified in the national Strategic Plan (Public Health England 2019). Key themes in the Skills and Career Framework (Department of Health 2016) are identified as public health action which is evidence based, focusses on joint working and holistic approaches, builds capacity and leadership at all levels, outcomes driven, cost effective, sustainable and takes a system wide view. The curriculum of the Master of Public Health programme seeks to develop knowledge and skills in areas informed by public health competencies used by the Faculty of Public Health in its curriculum for training public health specialists (FPH, 2022). Consequently, students undertaking the Master of Public Health at GCU will be facilitated to develop the skills, knowledge and attributes to actively contribute, support and lead public health initiatives via a programme where the educational aims and objectives have been derived from these underlying principles.

The overall aim of the programme is to provide students from a wide range of backgrounds the opportunity to undertake a taught Master of Public Health that will enable the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, applied knowledge and practical skills and key transferable skills that are of direct relevance for safe and effective public health practice.

The objectives of the programme are to encourage and enable students to practice in the manner that achieves the purpose of public health. The purpose of public health, as defined by the Faculty of Public Health is “The science and art of promoting and protecting health and well-being, preventing ill-health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society” under the three key domains of health improvement, improving services and health protection (Faculty of Public Health, 2022; 2010). The practice of public health involves efforts to improve the health of those members of the population who are at risk of poor health outcomes. Public health practice seeks to tackle wider determinants of health and wellbeing to address health inequalities, and protect the population from hazards which impact health (Faculty of Public Health, 2022). Public health practice is therefore population based, emphasises collective responsibility for health and health protection and facilitated through effective partnership working with the state playing a key role. The learning outcomes for the programme have been mapped to Phase 1 of the Faculty of Public Health’s competency framework (2022) which in turn maps to the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework and Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework (Department of Health 2016).

4. PROGRAMME STRUCTURES AND REQUIREMENTS, LEVELS, MODULES, CREDITS AND AWARDS

The Master of Public Health has been developed within the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework as a modular programme and follows the standard Glasgow Caledonian University structure for Postgraduate programmes comprising 120 credits for PgD and 180 credits for Master’s level awards. The curriculum offers full-time and part-time study pathways and must be

completed within a period of five years. The programme is also offered both onsite and online depending on recruitment of viable numbers for each mode of delivery.

The Master of Public Health programme will offer both full time and part time study routes and delivered by SHLS staff across two sites, GCU Glasgow and GCU London.

Exit awards

Students who meet eligibility criteria may exit with one of the following academic awards:

- Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) in Public Health
- Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) in Public Health with Social Action
- Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) in Public Health
- Master of Public Health (MPH)

Generic Exit Awards for students who do not meet eligibility criteria for relevant Public Health Exit Award

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- Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) in Health and Social Care Studies
- Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) in Health and Social Care Studies;
- Master of Science (MSc) in Health and Social Care Studies

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health

To be eligible for the award of PgC in Public Health, the student must attain accreditation of 60 SCQF points at Level 11 from any of the Public Health core and elective modules, namely:

- The Principles and Theory of Public Health Practice
- Epidemiology: Principles, Application and Evaluation in Practice
- Social Action Approaches in Public Health
- Health Economics
- Applied Statistics and Data Analysis for Public Health
- Navigating the Policy Context
- Infection Prevention and Control in a Global Context
- Evidence Based Public Health
- Advanced Research Methods

A maximum of 30 points may be attained through RPL.

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health with Social Action

To be eligible for the award of PgC in Public Health with Social Action the student must attain accreditation of 30 SCQF points at Level 11 from

- The Principles and Theory of Public Health Practice
- Social Action Approaches in Public Health

Plus 30 credits from any of the other core or elective Public Health modules, namely:

- Epidemiology: Principles, Application and Evaluation in Practice
- Health Economics

- Applied Statistics and Data Analysis for Public Health
- Navigating the Policy Context
- Infection Prevention and Control in a Global Context
- Evidence Based Public Health
- Advanced Research Methods

A maximum of 30 points may be attained through RPL

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health

To be eligible for the award of PgD in Public Health, the student must attain accreditation of 120 SCQF points with a minimum of 90 being attained at Level 11. 75 points must be attained from the 5 core Public Health specific modules, namely:

- The Principles and Theory of Public Health Practice
- Social Action Approaches in Public Health
- Epidemiology: Principles, Application and Evaluation in Practice
- Evidence Based Public Health
- Applied Statistics and Data Analysis for Public Health

And a further 30-points accreditation must be gained through study of the Advanced Research Methods module.

The remaining 15 points must be attained from the successful completion of one of the elective modules within the programme, namely:

- Navigating the Policy Context
- Infection Prevention and Control in a Global Context
- Health Economics

A maximum of 60 points may be attained through RPL.

Master of Public Health

Students who are eligible for the award of PgD in Public Health will also be eligible to undertake the Masters Dissertation module. Successful completion of this module will confer 60 points and lead to the award of Master of Public Health (total accreditation of 180 points). A minimum of 90 points must be gained through study of modules that are part of the programme, with 30-points accreditation being gained through study of the Advanced Research Methods module. A maximum of 120 points may be attained through RPL.

Generic Exit Awards

In line with the University's Assessment Regulations, a student who exhausts their attempts in one or more of the public health modules above, and requires up to and including 40 SCQF points at Level 11 for the completion of an exit award, may be transferred to the appropriate SHLS Generic Award. Students transferred to a generic award will be offered support to identify suitable replacement modules to achieve the required credits for the award. The list of available SHLS Generic Awards are:

- Postgraduate Certificate (PgC) in Health and Social Care Studies
- Postgraduate Diploma (PgD) in Health and Social Care Studies
- Master of Science (MSc) in Health and Social Care Studies

Programme Structure

The modules for the programme are designed to be delivered over three trimesters across the academic year. The core modules are indicated below. In addition, students are required to access an elective module within the Master of Public Health programme to a total of 15 SCQF points. These are subject to availability and will be available according to cohort numbers and preference.

Module	Credits	Trimester A	Trimester B	Trimester C
Core				
Advanced Research Methods	30	x		
The Principles and Theory of Public Health Practice	15	x		
Epidemiology: Principles, Application and Evaluation in Practice	15	x		
Social Action Approaches in Public Health	15		x	
Evidence Based Public Health	15		x	
Applied Statistics and Data Analysis for Public Health	15		x	
Master Dissertation*	60		x	x
Elective – one from the following				
Navigating the Policy Context	15		x	
Infection Prevention and Control in a Global Context	15		x	
Health Economics	15		x	

*Masters Dissertation is completed in trimester C or B depending on the month of enrolment (i.e. September or January)

8. ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Students should expect to complete their programme of study under the [Regulations](#) that were in place at the commencement of their studies on that programme, unless proposed changes to University Regulations are advantageous to students.