

Master of Public Health (MPH) Programme Specification

Academic Year:	2026/2027
Degree Awarding Body:	The University of Bradford
Main Location:	City Campus
Qualifications Framework:	Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England (FHEQ) (QAA 2014)
Target Degree Award:	Master of Public Health (MPH) [FHEQ Level 7]
Intermediate/exit awards:	Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) [FHEQ Level 7] Postgraduate Certificate (PGC) [FHEQ Level 7]
Programme Admissions:	UK and international students
Programme Start Dates:	September
Programme Modes of Study:	12 months full-time (September start)

Please note: The University has a set of terms and conditions for all students accepting an offer to study on a course here at Bradford. This is called the Student Contract. This document sets out the Terms and Conditions which apply when an offer of a place on a programme of study at the University of Bradford is accepted. [View our Student Contract for further details](#). Information about this programme and its modules has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Any change which impacts the terms and conditions of an applicant's offer will be communicated to them.

Minor Modification Schedule

1. June 2025: Annual Changes for the 2025 academic year, including changes to academic regulation.
2. September 2025: Specification reformatted for improved accessibility.
3. May 2026: Annual changes for 2026 entry, admissions and suspending NUR7071-C this year.

Programme overview

Public health in theory and practice entails preventing poor health and wellbeing, alongside improving and protecting the health of the public. The Master of Public Health (MPH) programme builds on a long history in and an excellent reputation for taught postgraduate training in Public Health at the University of Bradford. The Master of Public Health aims to be relevant to a range of public health professionals and researchers and to fulfil the knowledge and research training needs of those wishing to address the contemporary challenges of public health and undertake research in the public health field. The programme offers an innovative approach to learning, enabling it to meet the training needs of allied health and healthcare professionals interested in a career in public health or those seeking new skills in this area.

Contemporary public health practice requires practitioners to be adaptable and flexible, with a broad experience of a range of subject areas. Here, prevention is crucial in confronting the prevalence of long-term chronic conditions that now account for around 70% of the total health and social care spending in England and preventative interventions that encourage and enable positive behaviour change are important components. For example,

...up to 80% of premature heart attacks and strokes, 75% of Type 2 diabetes, and 40% of cancers can be avoided through changing health-related behaviours. To effectively prevent poor health, we need an approach that takes account of the whole person, social context, and wider aspects such as education, employment, social norms, values and environmental factors. This entails the adoption of a comprehensive systems approach in both theory and practice that draws on multiple behavioural and social sciences, including epidemiology, psychology, behavioural science, economics, sociology and anthropology... (Public Health England, 2018).

In recognition of this, the Master of Public Health programme draws on an extensive network of stakeholder engagement and partnerships, including academics from a range of disciplines, researchers, policy makers and public health practitioners from the statutory and the voluntary sectors to illuminate in both theory and real life practice how and why public health systems need to maximise the contribution of implementation, behavioural and social sciences and skills that go beyond the traditional biomedical approach to tackle deep rooted social, economic, political and cultural phenomena.

Whilst the MPH programme addresses the central practice dilemma for public health today – how to address the challenges of an ageing society suffering from increasing and multiple chronic diseases in a context of standstill or diminishing resources, the programme is also aimed at developing strategic leaders with a comprehensive, analytical and critical understanding of the wider determinants of population health and well-being. The programme places implementation and behavioural science as its core drivers to enable students to develop their knowledge in human behaviour and the implications for practice. In this context there is an emphasis on leadership and strategic thinking, developed through comprehensive qualitative and quantitative research, analysis and evaluation.

The programme is tailored to the demographic and epidemiological challenges of contemporary societies, the diseases of affluence and ageing, and the marginalized and vulnerable populations in society. Graduates will be equipped to apply relevant tools in deconstructing contemporary public health challenges towards identifying and implementing solutions. Issues such as changing health demographics, health inequalities, problems of access, quality, and continuity of care, ageing and end of life care will be addressed in both a UK and International context. It will help healthcare professionals to find creative policy solutions and implement tailored practice-interventions. Graduates will be change agents identifying ways to address health problems but also to innovate by building on community and health service assets to enhance the quality of life for millions of people in a safe, ethical and cost effective way.

Linking the Master of Public Health degree to Public Health Careers

Successful completion of the Master of Public Health degree can lead to many employment and career opportunities, below are some examples in the UK:

- Campaigns and Communication Officer
- Public Health Practitioner
- Health Promoter
- Service Manager – Single, Homeless Prevention Service
- Health Improvement Team Leader
- Commissioning Support Officer
- Public Health Intelligence Officer
- Public Health Analyst
- Communities and Prevention Officer
- Community Health System Strengthening Specialist
- Research Associate – Synthesis and Reviews
- Research (PhD)
- Internship with Public Health England.

Internationally, the programme can support a variety of careers in public health in the context of the student's home country's public health systems. Students are fully supported by the Universities excellent careers team as they develop their career aspirations, knowledge and skills for the full duration of their study on the MPH.

The University of Bradford's strengths in research

The University, Faculty of Health and Social Care and School of Nursing, Public Health and Healthcare Leadership are proud to lead world class research in Advanced Healthcare and Sustainable Societies.

- In Advanced Healthcare the University is a partner with Leeds University in the national Wolfson Centre for Applied Health Research, based at the Bradford Royal Infirmary (BRI), part of Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The Wolfson Centre brings together researchers from the two universities with clinicians from the Trust. The aim is to provide better health and social care for those who need it most. It hosts the Centre for Ageing, one of the UK's most successful research groups in applied health research for older people, and the National Institute for Health Research's Yorkshire & Humber Patient Safety Translational Research Centre. Its work around child health includes the groundbreaking 'Born in Bradford' and Born in Bradford's Better Start cohorts.
- The research in Sustainable Societies at the University of Bradford builds on earlier research into civil society and social movements across the globe. Widening participation is essential in building the community's resilience when faced with external pressures and the research focus of Sustainable Societies supports growth in economic, political and relational wellbeing for current and future generations through innovative research and teaching and knowledge transfer embedded in the Master of Public Health programme.
- Bradford is a world leading technology university, with a strategy to integrate outstanding research, learning and business partnership programmes in applied and vocational fields of scholarship. Our Digital Health Enterprise Zone (DHEZ) Academic partnership aims to improve the health and social care of people across the world by enabling the rapid design,

adoption and diffusion of technological care innovations and indeed aims to cement the international reputation of the region as the best place in the UK to innovate in technology-enabled care, and to develop the health and care workforce of the future.

These research hubs will provide opportunities for MPH students to undertake supported empirical research projects; it also affords them the opportunity to be taught by leaders in this field.

Built on this strong foundation, the Bradford MPH programme will equip students with the:

- Skills and knowledge to address public health concerns at local, national and international level.
- Ability to apply relevant theory and scientific principles to practical situations.
- Capability of meeting core-competencies in public health.

The Master of Public Health Degree

The programme is an ideal preparation for individuals whose aim is to work within and/or manage public health interventions and services. The MPH and the individual modules within the programme combine detailed study of general public health topics with a multicultural perspective and affords participants with the opportunity to experience study in a broad range of public health areas as well as offering more specialised focus of public health.

Core and optional modules are delivered by leading experts. The core modules are directed specifically towards current research, topical public health issues, the science of public health and identifying and assessing needs of the population. Students will also undertake an additional optional module which can provide the ability to specialise.

The programme is studied over 12 months full time. For graduates or holders of a relevant professional qualification, who are working or intend to work in public health, the programme provides an opportunity to gain the academic background for leadership roles in public health. Please note that this award does not confer membership of the Faculty of Public Health.

Students completing the MPH will undertake a research project for their dissertation. This can be desktop conceptual research drawing on existing qualitative and/or quantitative data or an empirical research project. This will be supported by stakeholders, experts and the core teaching team affording students the opportunity to engage with real world policies, practices and strategies whilst developing academic and research skills.

The Faculty, School and core team also has a wealth of experience in curriculum design and teaching; most are recognised Fellows of Advance Higher Education, the sector body for excellent university teaching. In addition to these core staff members, the course draws on the expertise of other academics and researchers from across the University including: Dementia, Nursing, Pharmacology, Leadership and Management, Academic Skills Advice, the Language Centre and the Careers Advice team. Expertise is also drawn upon from our external stakeholders including: public health practitioners, strategists and managers from the local authority and voluntary sector

service providers. This combination of experts from academia and public health ensures the programme remains contemporaneous and reflects real world public health issues.

Programme Aims

In summary, the Master of Public Health programme is intended to:

- Provide a critical understanding in public health theories, health promotion, epidemiology, social policy, leadership, inequalities, social determinants and research and their application to contemporary real world practice through education.
- Enable students to critically understand and incorporate a socio-economic perspective of public health, focusing on reducing inequalities in health.
- Enable students to develop skills in alignment with implementation and behavioural science, research and leadership, with a focus on improving public health and wellbeing.
- Provide optional modules to allow students a choice to specialise in one of the following: global nursing perspectives; leading change and service improvement; management of global pharmaceutical supplies or community empowerment and participation.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Students eligible for the FHEQ Level 7 Degree award of Master will be able to:

1. Effectively communicate and apply knowledge and understanding of the fundamental theories and concepts in the range of social science disciplines to public health and health promotion, including, implementation and behavioural science.
2. Critically appraise the relationships between, and historical antecedents of, the principles and theories of public health, addressing the impact of inequalities and social determinants on public health and wellbeing.
3. Critically apply knowledge and understanding of epidemiology and biostatistics to communicable diseases and other public health issues.
4. Critically evaluate and undertake a health needs assessment of a population's health and well-being.
5. Critically appraise the relationship between social policy, public health and effective strategic leadership.
6. Critically research best evidence in health care interventions.
7. Apply skills and knowledge and understanding of research to formulate balanced conclusions and recommendations for future research and practice.

Curriculum

The University of Bradford organizes its Academic Year as two Semesters. Semester 1 is the period between September and January, Semester 2 the period between January and May. Units of study - modules - are studied towards a target award within these Semesters or across the year. The final project is started during the academic year and completed in the summer.

MPH students study 180 credits from the following list, selecting one 30-credit option:

Table 1: Master of Public Health modules

Mod. Code	Module Title	Credit	Period	Select
NUR7066-C	Introduction to Public Health and Health Promotion	30	Sem 1	Core
NUR7067-C	Social Policy, Public Health and Leadership	30	Sem 1	Core
NUR7069-C	Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Communicable Diseases	30	Sem 2	Core
NUR7068-B	Health Needs Assessment in Practice	20	Sem 2	Core
NUR7070-D	Research in Contemporary Public Health	40	Full Year	Core
NUR7072-C	Working with Communities to Improve Health	30	Sem 2	Option 1
LEM7034-C	Leading Change and Service Improvement	30	Sem 2	Option 2
PHA7071-C	Management of Global Pharmaceutical Supply	30	Sem 2	Option 3

Semester 1 Curriculum

In Semester 1, all students will study 60 core taught credits and start preparatory work for the MPH dissertation, introducing them to research design and protocol.

Module summary: Introduction to Public Health and Health Promotion (Core)

This module is designed to introduce the main concepts, principles and practices of public health and health promotion, key aspects of public health work at the local, national and international level, tackling health inequalities and introduce health economics. The module will prepare students with an understanding of the founding principles and practice of public health and health promotion and the key approaches and interventions in priority setting in health care decision making and cost effectiveness of public health and public health interventions. Students will also develop their knowledge of careers within public health and their knowledge of the wider public health workforce.

Module summary: Social Policy, Public Health and Leadership (Core)

This module will introduce the students to the concept of social policy, and the challenges it presents to managers and leaders in Public Health. The students will develop an in-depth critical understanding of the key concepts of social policy and the impact of social policy initiatives for public health policy and implications for development of effective leadership and management strategies necessary for future practice. The students will explore the impact of contemporary policies on the health and well-being of specific populations and groups. The module will prepare students to have critical insight into the policy drivers employed to strengthen public health systems in different contexts. This is a key element for entry into the public health sector, for future

employment choices and will enable students to demonstrate the critical role they can play within organisations for shaping future public health policy and effective leadership strategies.

Semester 2 Curriculum

In Semester 2, there are 50 core taught credits. Students select one 30-credit option from 3 choices and start work on the main part of the MPH dissertation.

Module summary: Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Communicable Diseases (Core)

This module will introduce the students to the range of fundamental study designs in epidemiology/quantitative research of relevance to Public Health, including randomised controlled trials, cohort studies, case-control studies and ecological studies. We will also introduce some basic ideas in epistemology and philosophy of science, as a means of informing a rounded approach to the evaluation of evidence. Fundamental statistical concepts will be introduced followed by an explanation of, and hands-on experience with, common univariate/bivariate analytical methods. In doing so, the module will equip students aiming for a career at the intersection of epidemiology and biological science, with a strong emphasis on clinical and public health medicine with the necessary skills to apply these concepts in practice.

Module summary: Health Needs Assessment in Practice (Core)

Assessing health needs is a key function of public health work at the local, national and international level. This module will provide students with an understanding of the main approaches to, and methodologies for, conducting Health Needs Assessments. This module will prepare students with an understanding of the key approaches and interventions available to address unmet needs and health inequalities identified by this process. The module will also equip students with an understanding of the key approaches and interventions available to tackle health inequalities, and as such, makes a valuable contribution to a career in public health.

Module summary: Leading Change and Service Improvement in Health and Social Care (Option)

This module will explore, how to manage the more complex behavioural and organisational issues of change and lead individuals and teams to deliver change and improvement across diverse professional, functional and hierarchical boundaries. The students will select, analyse and apply a range of quality and service improvement tools, techniques and methods to improve service quality and delivery and manage projects effectively. Using management and leadership theories students will be able to diagnose where change is needed and select and apply a range of strategies and methods for managing change successfully. This module will help students to understand the challenges faced by public health practitioners and strategists when they have to manage change within populations and within organisations.

Module summary: Management of Global Pharmaceutical Supplies (Option)

This module explores processes and strategies for sourcing of medicines, affordability, principles of operations, supply chain design, quality management, sustainability and risk management. Students will also develop their knowledge and understanding of the principles of operations, supply chain and quality management, from raw materials sourcing through to the customer, including how to design and manage a sustainable supply chain and mitigate risks and emerging challenges within the pharmaceutical supply chain. This module will also examine the design of pharmaceutical service provision; its changing role within healthcare systems based on political,

economic, social, technical, legal and environmental changes. This module will enable students to understand the contribution of quality affordable pharmaceutical supplies to the public health agenda and considers the pharmaceutical services of the future.

Module summary: Working with Communities to Improve Health (Option)

This module explores the theory and practice of how to work with communities, looking at personal skill development as well as theory. It will give students critical public health knowledge and insight into working with communities to explore the necessary health prevention strategies employed to improve health. This module uses case studies to examine elements of working with communities and incorporates the use of community development and engagement officers for delivery to hear lived experiences and requires students to find and share cases from their own countries. This will help students to critically think about future prevention strategies needed to address public health issues within specific communities.

Module summary: Research in Contemporary Public Health (Core Project)

The module is studied over two semesters, and all assessments must be completed to pass. The students will be able to engage with all aspects of research design including: philosophy, underpinning theories, methodologies, methods, data analysis, ethics, bias, epistemology and ontology, limitations and dissemination of knowledge. The students will be able to understand how to develop a research protocol in preparation for their dissertation for a Masters degree. The key skills and knowledge in this module will develop their ability to effectively communicate and undertake research; which is essential for public health practitioners, strategists, managers and academics.

Students will undertake a research project that critically addresses a current public health issue. This can be desktop conceptual research drawing on existing qualitative and/or quantitative data or an empirical research project. Choices available for projects are expected to include: meta analysis, qualitative studies, mixed methods studies, systematic reviews, correlation studies. For empirical projects ethical permission will usually be required which means selection of project topic and design in good time. Supervision and guidance will be provided accordingly. The students will produce recommendations for practice, service development and future research projects.

Learning and Teaching Strategy

Whilst following this programme of study students will engage with a range of different methods of teaching, learning and assessment. To a degree, these methods will be dependent on the modules studied, however student-centred approaches to learning are a key feature of the modules and the student will be expected to take responsibility for their learning as they develop their academic skills. There are a number of approaches to module delivery and these include block attendance, study day attendance, distance learning and blended learning utilised for delivery of the modules. The aims of the teaching and learning strategies have been designed so that students will be given the opportunity to develop theoretical and experiential understanding (Programme LO's 1, 2, 3, 4), advance their knowledge and critical thinking (Programme LO's 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7) and to develop a range of skills appropriate to their professional field and workplace setting (Programme LO's 4, 6, 7). The modules nested within the programme offer students the opportunity to build upon the knowledge and skills that they may have acquired through previous learning experiences including

those in the workplace. To support this, the students will have a choice of modules in semester two giving them the opportunity to develop their personal career pathways.

The course of study will expose students to a range of different teaching, learning and assessment strategies required to achieve the learning outcomes. The teaching approaches that are used across the Faculty of Health and Social Care are informed by the University core values which are for teaching and learning to be: Reflective, Adaptable, Inclusive, Supportive, Ethical and Sustainable.

Teaching and learning methods used during this programme are blended to include a mixture of lectures, facilitated group work and online learning. A varied and extensive range of online resources are available to help support the students with their learning and to prepare students for the formative assessments.

Research informed key lectures will deliver core content and provide students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and in-depth critical awareness of the subject matter. It is advised that students consolidate their learning after lectures by reviewing and summarising notes made during lectures. Facilitated group work will be used to facilitate teacher/learner/ peer dialogue and inter-professional discussion and further develop and challenge conceptual understanding, demonstrate autonomy and engage in critical debate, self-reflection and critical evaluation.

The virtual Learning Environment (VLE) will be used to support the blended learning approach and to provide access to online resources, lecture notes, quizzes, online discussion and external links to websites of interest. Directed study will provide students with the opportunity to undertake directed reading, participate in enquiry-based learning, address individual learning needs, contextualise learning to the students own area of practice, reflect on practice and to develop further their own portfolio of learning, which will enhance transferable skills and knowledge related to the enhancement of critical thinking and analysis.

Assessment Strategy

Formative assessment and feedback will be provided at individual tutorials, meetings and through electronic communication to facilitate reflection and student self-assessment. Students will be encouraged to become independent and self-motivated learners. Learning will be summatively assessed against the learning outcomes and programme aims through the use of a range of different assessment techniques that may include one or more of the following approaches that will be on campus and/or online:

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| • Written essay | • Individual presentations |
| • Case studies | • Group presentations |
| • Computer based quizzes | • Undertaking a health needs assessment |
| • Computer based closed book examination | • Written project report |
| • Group discussions | • Completion of a Dissertation |
| • Group presentations | • Research protocol |

The curriculum has been designed to be inclusive by giving students choice in their assessment. For each module, students are given a broad outline of the assignment, coursework, essay, or case study topic, they can choose the focus of their work and apply it to their own practice setting. Some modules also provide the opportunity for students to work in groups to apply work to their practice setting in the form of presentations.

Assessment, Continuation and Award Regulations

This programme follows the Assessment, Continuation and Award regulations for postgraduate taught courses published on the University's Website ([Regulation 9](#)).

Award of the Masters degree requires 180 FHEQ Level 7 credits and achievement of the award learning outcomes. Students who exit the programme with 120 or 60 credits completed may be eligible for an intermediate award in line with the regulations.

Please note that these awards do not confer membership of the Faculty of Public Health.

Admission Requirements

We are proud to be [one of the most inclusive universities in the UK](#). All our students have potential, and we believe that as many people as possible should have the chance to benefit from higher education, no matter what their background or circumstances.

We take the time to understand the background of our applicants, understand their journey to education, and make decisions based on an applicant's potential to thrive at university and beyond.

As the programme is taught in English, all applicants are required to have proficiency at GCSE Grade 4 (national grade C) or above in English Language. Alternative RQF Level 2 qualifications such as Key Skills are also acceptable if equivalent.

International and home students whose first language is not English will need proficiency of IELTS 6.5 or the equivalent in another recognised test. Exceptionally, holders of a UK degree awarded within 2 years prior to entry to the Bradford programme may be exempt from these English test requirements. International applicants who do not meet the IELTS requirement can take a [University of Bradford pre-session English course](#).

Typical entry profiles to the Master of Public Health programme include:

- A minimum of an upper second class (2:1 honours) degree in a relevant subject or the overseas equivalent of an undergraduate degree passed at 60%. Examples of other equivalent international qualifications are provided on the [University of Bradford page for a country or region](#).

- Applications with a lower second class (2:2 honours or 50%) degree in a relevant subject and a minimum of two years professional public health related experience may also be considered.
- A degree level professional qualification in a relevant subject, normally with some experience in the broad field of public health will also be considered.

Applications are welcome from students with non-standard qualifications or adults returning to study (aged over 25 years of age on entry) with significant relevant experience. For such applicants, evidence of interests and work experience would be required and may be assessed by interview.

If applicants have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University of Bradford has procedures to evaluate and recognise this learning to provide applicants with exemptions from specified modules or parts of the programme. Find more information about [recognition of prior learning decisions](#) on the University website.

People thinking of studying with the University of Bradford don't need to wait for the start of the year to contact our Disability Service. The University can arrange for anyone to talk to this team about what support is on offer at Bradford including an invitation to our Get Set Day. To contact the Disability Service please complete the [request support form](#).

Information in this document is for the contemporary recruitment cycle and was accurate at time of publication. The current tariff and accepted qualifications for entry onto the programme is published at the online course page: <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/courses/pg/public-health/>