



# The Graduate School of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

Master of Public Health (MPH)

Programme Handbook 2014/2015



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# Disclaimer

This handbook is a guide to what is expected of you on the MPH, and the academic and pastoral support available to you. Please read it carefully. It will help you to you make the most of your time on the Programme. Some important general aspects covered in this handbook are amplified in the University's Code of Practice for Taught Postgraduate Courses, which you will have been issued with your matriculation papers and which you are also expected to read. This handbook does not supersede the University Regulations, copies of which are available in the College Postgraduate Office. We have tried our best to ensure all information is correct upon printing.

The MPH programme wishes to thank Pat Boreham for her photography



This handbook has been prepared for the benefit of *Master of Public Health* students within the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine. It is intended to provide essential and useful information relating to your postgraduate education in a readily accessible, indexed form. Some of the material contained in this handbook appears in other literature, which you may have received from the University but we hope that this guide will provide a convenient point of reference at the start of your studies, and as you become more established in your work. It is anticipated that the handbook will develop with time into a helpful and dynamic resource and ultimately provide a comprehensive record of your achievements and postgraduate education at Edinburgh.

We realise that postgraduate students may have very different levels of knowledge about the University and Edinburgh. Some may have been undergraduates here and know the place in detail. For others arriving from overseas, this may be their first time in the UK. In preparing this handbook no prior knowledge of the University and Edinburgh is assumed.

We also recommend reading through the taught postgraduate Code of Practice, which can be viewed at:

<http://www.docs.sasq.ed.ac.uk/AcademicServices/Codes/CoPTaughtPGProgrammes.pdf>

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## **1. Master of Public Health**

The Master of Public Health programme is based on a longstanding tradition of academic teaching and research in public health at the University of Edinburgh. Lectures delivered in 1791 by Andrew Duncan, who held the chair of the Institutes of Medicine, considered ways of discovering effective measures designed to achieve improvement in the health of a nation.

Postgraduate training in public health has been offered continuously at the University in one form or another since 1875, when a new postgraduate science degree, aimed at those wanting to be Medical Officers of Health, was introduced. Since the first chair of public health was established in 1898 and the opening of the Usher Institute of Public Health in 1902 the University has engaged in research covering epidemiology, environmental health, infectious diseases, medical statistics and social sciences in health and health care.

This handbook is designed to assist students as they progress through the MPH programme. It provides an overview of important administrative details and information on how the degree programme is managed, outlines key elements of the degree requirements and describes the range of courses offered by the programme.

## 2. On Arrival in Edinburgh

Important registration and matriculation information from the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine can be found at:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/medicine-vet-medicine/postgraduate/admissions/on-campus-students/overview>

Matriculation documents will be required to complete your registration as a student at the University.

### 2.1 Matriculation and registration

All students must matriculate with the University at the beginning of their studies, and then matriculate for each new academic session thereafter.

Matriculation carries with it the agreement to abide by University rules. This includes payment of your tuition fees and other related costs, and allows access to the services and facilities offered to you by the University.

#### **NEW STUDENTS** - Joining a new Programme of Study

For new students matriculation consists of three elements, all of which must be completed before you are fully matriculated as a student of the University:

- Registration - registering at the University by completing a matriculation form and making arrangements for the payment of your tuition fees. Completion of the registration process is only one of the components required for full matriculation at the University of Edinburgh.
- Meeting with your Personal Tutor and, where appropriate, agreeing your courses. The College/School in which you will be studying will supply you with details about the arrangements for meeting your Director of Studies.
- Fulfilling any admission criteria if prescribed by your College.

You can see if you have been registered by checking the Programmes channel in the MyEd Student Portal. Although your registration date will appear on your record within 24 hours of your registration form being received, any other amendments to your student record from the form will

take longer to appear in MyEd.

### **RETURNING STUDENTS** - Returning to continue on a Programme of Study

Fully matriculated status for most continuing students will be achieved on confirmation by your School that you have returned to take up your studies. By continuing to study and holding the status of a fully matriculated student of the University of Edinburgh, you continue to be bound by your agreement to the Sponsio Academica which you signed when first registering as a student to join your programme of study.

You can review your registration and matriculation status in the Programmes channel in the MyEd Student Portal. The Personal Details channel on MyEd shows the contact details that we currently hold. You must advise us of any changes to your contact details or other information provided at initial Registration. A link from the Personal Details channel opens an online form to provide new information.

### **STUDENTS FROM OUTSIDE THE EU**

The UK government's new Points Based Immigration (Tier 4) legislation requires all non-EU students to submit a copy of their passport to the University.

A copy can be submitted to the University in a number of different ways:

- Include a copy of the required pages when you return your registration form in the mail
- You can hand in a copy to Registry, Old College
- You can hand in a copy to Registry staff at Adam House, Chambers Street during Induction Week

The following pages are required to be copied:

- page(s) showing your identity and photograph
- page(s) showing the UK Entry Clearance sticker/stamp

As a Tier 4 student, the University of Edinburgh is the sponsor of your

UK visa. The University has a number of legal duties to manage our sponsorship of your visa. These include:

- monitoring your attendance on your programme and
- reporting to the Home Office where you suspend or withdraw from your studies, complete them early, fail to register or are repeatedly absent to the point of being excluded from studies.

As a student with a Tier 4 visa sponsored by the University of Edinburgh, the terms of your visa require you to, (amongst others):

- Ensure you have a correct and valid visa for studying at the University of Edinburgh, which, if a Tier 4 visa, requires that it is a visa sponsored by the University of Edinburgh;
- **Attend all of your University classes, lectures, tutorials, etc where required. This includes participating in the requirements of your course including submitting assignments, attending meetings with tutors and attending examinations.** If you cannot attend due to illness, for example, you must inform your School. This includes attending Tier 4 Census sessions when required throughout the academic session.

Please note that any email relating to your Tier 4 sponsorship, including census dates and times will be sent to your University email address - you should therefore check this regularly.

Further details on the terms and conditions of your Tier 4 visa can be found in the "Downloads" section at [www.ed.ac.uk/immigration](http://www.ed.ac.uk/immigration)

Information or advice about your Tier 4 immigration status can be obtained by contacting the International Student Advisory Service, located at the International Office, 33 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9JS

Email: [immigration@ed.ac.uk](mailto:immigration@ed.ac.uk)

**New Students only - What should I do if I haven't received my**

### **Registration pack?**

If you have not received your registration pack at your contact address by the end of August 2014, please contact the Student Administration Team requesting an electronic copy of the form.

[Registry@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Registry@ed.ac.uk)

## **2.2 Payment of Fees**

Staff will be on hand at Adam House, Chambers Street, to assist with arrangements to pay Fees

Adam House will be staffed for students from the College of Medicine on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September from 9:15am-12:30pm. You should attend Adam House if:

- You are liable to pay all or part of your tuition fees and have not made arrangements in advance

Further information about payment of fees and contact details for the Finance Department are available from their website.

Further information regarding fees can be found at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/finance/students/fees/matriculation>.

### **We are not prepared to teach anyone who has not paid their fees.**

The University of Edinburgh introduced a Student Debt Policy in the 2007/08 academic year. Failure to pay fees may result in a deferral or interruption of your study. Students who fail to pay outstanding fees will not be eligible to attend the presentation for their award, receive a degree/diploma or transcript. Further information regarding the Student Debt Policy can be found at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/finance/students/fees/collecting-fees>.

The University runs a hardship fund should you find yourself in financial difficulty during your study, information is available at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-funding/financial->

[support/additional-financial-assistance/discretionary-fund](#)

## 2.3 Selecting courses and enrolling on the MPH programme

The final step is to attend programme induction sessions to select courses and confirm your attendance through the University Student Record System. During the induction session you will discuss course choices with the MPH Team who will enrol you onto your courses.

## 2.4 University Card

All new students will be sent an application form in advance of arriving in Edinburgh, usually as their places are confirmed. The student card application form should be returned as soon as possible. This will allow Card Services time to produce your student card in time for matriculation.

If you are staying in University accommodation and have applied for a University card then you may receive it when you collect your keys. If not, then you can collect your card from Adam House, Chambers Street, as follows.

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014      9:15 – 12:30

Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014      9:15 – 12:30

The University card is your student ID that **you are required to carry when on campus**. It is also your library card and door access control card, so you will need it to access the Library and other University facilities. You will also need to display it when sitting exams.

## 2.5 Accommodation

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/accommodation-services>

You are strongly advised to arrange your accommodation before your arrival in Edinburgh. If you wish to apply for University-controlled accommodation you should complete and return (if you have not already done so) the application form sent to you with your offer of admission as a postgraduate student to Accommodation Services, Reception Centre,

Pollock Hall, 18 Holyrood Park Road, Edinburgh EH16 5AY (Tel +44 (0)131 667 1971 Fax +44 (0)131 667 0330 Email [Accommodation@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Accommodation@ed.ac.uk)) as soon as possible. Do not wait until you arrive in Edinburgh to contact Accommodation Services. **Please note** that University accommodation for Postgraduate students is available from **Saturday, 6 September 2014**. If you have not made definite arrangements for your accommodation, you are advised to arrive in Edinburgh well in advance of the start of the academic year in order to do so. Please see <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/accommodation-services/new-prospective/ready-to-apply/arrival-info/overview> for further arrival information.

## 2.6 Banking

If arriving from overseas it is recommended that you open a bank account as soon as possible to facilitate the payment of your award and allowances from your sponsor or handle daily expenses. Important advice on banking can be found at <http://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/international/finance/banking>. To open a bank account you will be required to have the following information:

- Proof of current & previous address
- ID with signature (e.g. Student ID or passport)
- If applicable, scholarship or funding letter
- Proof of fee payment
- Bank letter of Introduction

A Bank Letter of Introduction will be required and can be obtained from the International Office or the CMVM College Office at 0131 650 6460. For faster service you may want to complete the Request Form available at: [http://www.scripts.sasg.ed.ac.uk/registry/student-documents/bank\\_intro.htm](http://www.scripts.sasg.ed.ac.uk/registry/student-documents/bank_intro.htm)

## 2.7 Parking

There is very limited parking space available in the area around Teviot Place and there is an extensive waiting list. However, if you are disabled or have a medical condition, you will be able to get a space. You should contact the Parking Office, 9-16 Chambers Street (650 9101) for an application form and details of car parking charges. Bike parking is entirely

at students' own risk.

## 2.8 Health and Safety

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/>

The *Health and Safety at Work Act* places upon the University a duty to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of all employees and students while on University premises. The University Safety Handbook contains the University Court's Safety Policy Statement and advice on general precautions as well as on precautions with particular hazards. Further information can be found on the Health & Safety website.

Individuals are responsible for their own safety and for the safety of others affected by their work. This includes responsibility for assessing, planning and carrying out any activity, emergency procedures, and the safe storage and ultimate disposal of any materials used. Overall responsibility rests with the supervisor and ultimately with the Head of Section/College.

Please ensure when the fire alarm goes off you leave the building immediately, please **do not** continue to work. The assembly point during an emergency is behind McEwan Hall. The fire alarms at Teviot Place are tested every Thursday at 10am and the test lasts for 45 seconds.

## 2.9 Smoking

The University has adopted a "No Smoking" policy. Smoking is not permitted inside any building within the University of Edinburgh.

## 2.10 Security

Non-emergency telephone number: (0131) 650 2257

Email: [Security@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Security@ed.ac.uk)

Web: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/estates-buildings/what-we-do/security>

In cases of emergency, University staff and students should notify University Security on 2222. This number is only available from the University internal telephone system. An emergency line has been set up for those University personnel who do not have access to the 2222 number. Staff/students in Residences or those calling from a mobile should dial

(0131) 651 3999. It is not advised that you leave personal items unattended in University teaching or common rooms.

### 3. Centre for Population Health Sciences

#### 3.1 College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/medicine-vet-medicine>

The Master of Public Health is a taught Masters programme offered within the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine. The focal point of the programme is the Centre for Population Health Sciences where most of the teaching and administration takes place. The Centre for Population Health Sciences is located in the University's Old Medical School in Teviot Place. Contact details for the Centre are:

Centre for Population Health Sciences  
The University of Edinburgh  
Medical School, Teviot Place  
Edinburgh EH8 9AG  
General Enquiries: +44 (0) 131 650 3237  
Fax: +44 (0) 131 650 6909

In the Coffee Room each student will have a pigeon hole for external or internal mail received by the general office, in addition to other course documents. Any faxes can be received at 0131 650 6909.

#### 3.2 Teaching Rooms

The main teaching rooms are the **Sydney Smith Lecture Theatre** and the **Greenfield Computer Lab** in George Square. For group work students may use the Lind Room (Room 682) subject to availability; please see the PG Administrator for booking.

#### 3.3 Computer Access

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services>

There are 6 computers and a printer in the CPHS PG Computer Hub in Room 681 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, which are available during the hours of 9:00-17:00, Monday - Friday. All MPH students are welcome to use the computers. You will be given the access code and code of conduct upon arrival. The computers are not for personal use or for students outside this

programme, so **please do not bring friends**. The room is small, so be considerate of other users, and power down PCs when you have finished with them (to limit the amount of heat produced by cooling fans). If you are not familiar with computer software packages please take advantage of the Transferable Skills courses that run throughout the year. The CPHS Coffee Room is wireless enabled. We also ask that students do not bring food into the Computer Hub.

Your research costs cover a minimal amount of printing and photocopying within the department, so please ensure you are printing only what is needed. All students will receive £50 in printing credit (which can be used in any University computing facility) upon arrival. Please contact the Postgraduate Administrator if you use all your credit. PowerPoint slides should be set to multiple slides per page in a black and white setting.

Student accommodation such as Pollock Halls of Residence also has computing facilities that are open 24 hours a day. The Main Library and the Greenfield Suites provide accessible computer labs for students.

### 3.4 Library Facilities

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/library-museum-gallery>

**The Medical Libraries** (Main Library, George Square; Royal Infirmary Little France; Western General Hospital) have an outstanding collection of current books (approximately 40,000 titles) and periodicals (approximately 60,000 volumes). All can be accessed via the library's computerised catalogue. In addition, the library provides access to a number of world-wide electronic databases, including Medicine, Biosis CABI and Current Contents and electronic versions of research journals.

Main Library, George Square	650 3409
Royal Infirmary Library	242 6341
Western General Hospital	537 2299

There is a small library on the second level of the CPHS Coffee Room that includes a large selection of journals, textbooks, reference books and

Dissertations. Dissertations submitted in previous years can be borrowed; please see the Postgraduate Administrator.

Staff and students of the university have full access and borrowing rights in all Edinburgh University libraries provided fees are up to date.

### **3.5 Learn**

Learn is the University of Edinburgh's centrally-supported virtual learning environment (VLE). A VLE brings together tools for presenting course content and supporting interaction and communication for staff and students.

Learn is accessed through MyEd and students will automatically have access to information for the courses they are attending. Students generally have little difficulty using Learn, however some introductory information is available at:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/services/learning-technology/virtual-environments/learn/students/student-help>

### **3.6 Photocopying**

All students are allocated a photocopy access code for the photocopier in CPHS (located in the Coffee Room). The access codes will be given out at the beginning of Semester 1. You are not charged for reasonable amounts of photocopying as it is part of the research costs paid with fees.

### **3.7 Student Photographs**

Photos of all students are taken during Week 1 and are displayed on the Centre for Population Health Sciences photo board along with those of staff and PhD students. This helps course organisers, lecturers and other members of staff familiarise themselves with the new students and vice versa. A group photograph will be taken at the same time.

**At no time will your photograph be used on the internet.**

### 3.8 Class Representatives

College teaching staff welcomes feedback from students about the programme. Feedback takes place via discussion with course organisers and questionnaires on individual courses. Students should elect two class representatives to pass on general comments and suggestions to course organisers and the Programme Team. The student representatives will meet regularly with the Programme Team. The class will be asked to elect representatives by the end of week 3.

### 3.9 Coffee Room

Postgraduate students are invited to make use of the staff coffee room facilities in CPHS, where there is a wide choice of teas and coffees and filtered/chilled drinking water. Your course fee will cover the cost of this privilege but in return you will be expected to follow the coffee room etiquette which applies to all users of the facilities. This is displayed on the coffee room notice board; please take the time to read the regulations. **Please bring your own mug.** This is a staff and student coffee room so please clean up after yourself, all students and staff are expected to ensure the teaspoons are clean and available for the next person! The Coffee Room is a staff common room and there may be the odd occasion when it is used for another purpose and may be temporarily unavailable.

## **4. Student Services**

### **4.1 New Student Guide**

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/staff-students/students/new-students>

This website is aimed at all new students (UK/EU and international) and provides guidance on a range of necessary actions such as obtaining a visa, securing accommodation and completing the process of registration, as well as useful advice on money, health, orientation events and student support.

### **4.2 Information Services (IS)**

Information Services (IS) provide useful information on all University computing services, including using the Library, accessing student email accounts:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/students/useful-info>

[www.ed.ac.uk/is/odl-students](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/odl-students)

Learning opportunities to develop your information and IT skills are available through the IS website. These materials include online self-teach learning and workbook resources for personal development, and to help you work and study more effectively.

#### **Getting help**

The IS Helpline provides a first point of contact for enquiries relating to library, computing services and online learning. The helpline is available around the clock with 24/7 cover. More details of the IS Helpline service is available on the IS website:

[www.ed.ac.uk/is/helpline](http://www.ed.ac.uk/is/helpline)

Please contact using your University email account to ensure your enquiry is prioritised.

[IS.Helpline@ed.ac.uk](mailto:IS.Helpline@ed.ac.uk)

### **4.3 Medical Care**

<http://www.health-service.ed.ac.uk/>

Students are encouraged to register with a GP practice as soon as possible after arrival in Edinburgh. The University Health Service provides comprehensive medical care under the National Health Service for all Edinburgh students registered for more than 6 months and their dependants who choose to register with the practice. The practice provides, in addition to the usual primary care medical services, nursing services, physiotherapy, psychiatric clinics, contraceptive, antenatal and child welfare clinics. The Centre also includes a pharmacy.

Richard Verney Health Centre, 6 Bristo Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL

Telephone: 44 (0) 131 650 2777,

E-mail: [univhealthserv@lothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:univhealthserv@lothian.scot.nhs.uk)

### **4.4 The International Office**

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/international-office>

33 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9JS. Tel: +44 (0)131 650 4296

The International Office works both at home and abroad to ensure that students from outside the UK who have good academic backgrounds can obtain access to the University. In addition to undertaking missions overseas to meet potential students and overseas students' advisers, the staff in the International Office are responsible for maintaining the University's international profile, receiving overseas visitors and handling international exchange programmes and agreements. The Office arranges orientation programmes and social functions for overseas students, and also works alongside the International Students Centre to promote the welfare of overseas students within the University. As well as providing advice on issues such as visas and immigration, the Office acts as a liaison service for international students, linking them with a wide variety of student services from accommodation to careers, and student advisory and welfare services.

## 4.5 Students' Association

<http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/>

Every student is a member of Edinburgh University Students' Association (EUSA). All students are encouraged to make full use of the union facilities and also to use the Students' Representative Council (SRC). The Students' Association offers extensive facilities: bar and catering facilities, shops, library and study facilities, debating hall, discos, showers, video games, meeting rooms, laundry service, travel centre, fax service, photo machine, photocopying services and welfare advice. There are around 130 societies covering a wide variety of interests.

<http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/advice/>

The Students' Association runs a drop-in advice centre which provides information and advice on student issues including finance, accommodation, immigration, Council Tax and benefits as well as academic problems.



**Tandem**

**TANDEM**  
SHARING LANGUAGE. SHARING CULTURE.

Launched in Edinburgh in 2007, Tandem is a popular language exchange programme run by EUSA. All students are welcome! Tandem is designed to help you meet people and learn languages in a fun, relaxed, social environment without tutors, exams or lectures. Tandem can be accessed remotely online through Skype, and also includes many face-to-face events, from a weekly Language Café, to monthly speed language matching.

Students create a profile on the Tandem Partner Database, and can then connect with thousands of other language partners, who may be on-campus, or elsewhere.

For more details about Tandem, check out [tandem.eusa.ed.ac.uk](http://tandem.eusa.ed.ac.uk)



### Peer Proofreading

Powered by student volunteers, EUSA's Peer Proofreading provides free writing support for non-native English speaking students.

[www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/proofreading](http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/proofreading)

## 4.6 English Language Teaching Centre

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/english-language-teaching>

For students whose second language is English the ELTC runs various programmes to assist you during your time at Edinburgh. These courses run during Semesters 1 & 2 and are taught both in person and by distance-based learning. The courses include Listening Skills, Discussion Skills, Writing Examinations, Essential Grammar and Writing Postgraduate Assignments.

For those who are interested, the ELTC also runs a Social Programme, which offers various tours, lectures and evening events for those new to Edinburgh.

## 4.75 Institute for Academic Development



The Institute for Academic Development (IAD) provides a number of workshops and resources for University of Edinburgh postgraduate taught students, to help you gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed for studying at postgraduate level.

The workshops are free of charge to students and are organised by the IAD or in conjunction with the Schools and College. Workshops can be booked via MyEd or the IAD website.

### Workshops

Workshops may vary from the list below and Schools may offer additional workshops, arranged in conjunction with the IAD:

- Study Skills

- Dissertation Writing & Planning
- Presentation & Speaking Skills
- Exam Preparation
- Poster production
- Project Planning & Ethics
- Problem Solving

### Resources

There are various resources available on the IAD website, including:

- Preparing for your studies
- Studying at postgraduate level
- Developing your English
- Literature searching
- Managing research workloads
- Writing a postgrad level
- Assignments: planning and drafting
- Critical Thinking
- Using Digital Media
- Guides and Codes

### Contact Details:

Institute for Academic for Academic  
Development  
7 Bristo Square  
Edinburgh EH8 9AL



Blog:

<http://iad4masters.wordpress.com/>

Website:

[www.ed.ac.uk/iad/postgraduates](http://www.ed.ac.uk/iad/postgraduates)

Email: [iad.masters@ed.ac.uk](mailto:iad.masters@ed.ac.uk)

## 4.8 Student Counselling Service

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-counselling>

The Student Counselling Service provides a professional and confidential service to all students of the University. The Service also aims to provide students with opportunities for personal development and growth. A list of the workshops they provide can be found online.

Main Library, 30 George Square, Tel: 650 4170 or Paterson's Land, Moray House, Tel: 651 6200. Email: [Student.Counselling@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Student.Counselling@ed.ac.uk)

## 4.9 Sports & Recreation

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/sport-exercise/>

The Centre for Sport and Exercise and Edinburgh University Sports Union combine to provide a comprehensive service. Edinburgh is one of the most active and successful sporting universities in Britain and offers an unrivalled choice of sports and activities.

Facilities include a sports hall, eight glass back squash courts, circuit and weight training rooms and ergometry suites, a combat salle, archery and rifle ranges, and a Fitness Assessment and Sports Injuries Centre. The playing fields at Peffermill are within easy reach of the main University areas. Grass pitches and a floodlit synthetic grass pitch provide the training and competitive arenas for rugby, football, cricket, hockey, lacrosse and shinty. Other facilities at Peffermill include floodlit outdoor tennis courts, golf practice facilities and a Clubhouse.

Firbush Point Field Centre is situated 80 miles from Edinburgh on the south shore of Loch Tay. This superbly appointed centre provides a residential base for outdoor activities and field studies and is used throughout the year. Instructional courses are available. The centre is well equipped for sailing, canoeing, mountaineering and skiing. The University does arrange for transport to Firbush, please contact the Centre for details.

## 4.10 Child Care

<http://www.arcadianursery.co.uk/>

The University has a day nursery which is run by trained staff seven days a week. Space is limited so please contact the nursery as soon as possible regarding placements. Students are liable for nursery fees, although a subsidy may be available. Other childcare facilities are available throughout the city <http://www.childcare.co.uk/information/childcare-link>

## 4.11 Student Employment & Career Services

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/careers>

The Careers Service offers guidance and job-seeking facilities for postgraduates in any year of study. It can help with advice and information on permanent and temporary employment (part-time/ vacation), on further study, professional training, work overseas and voluntary work.

(Third Floor, Main Library, George Square. Tel: 650 4670)

## 4.12 Student Disability Service

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-disability-service>

We welcome disabled students (including those with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia) and are working to make all of our courses accessible to all students.

You can also contact the Student Disability Service, Third Floor, Main Library, George Square, 0131 650 6828 ([disability.service@ed.ac.uk](mailto:disability.service@ed.ac.uk)) and an Advisor will be happy to meet with you. The advisor can discuss possible adjustments and specific examination arrangements with you, assist you with an application for Disabled Students' Allowance or other funding if you do not qualify for this, give you information about available technology and personal assistance such as note takers, proof readers or dyslexia tutors, and prepare a Learning Profile for your School which outlines recommended adjustments. You will be expected to provide the Service with evidence of disability – either a letter from your GP or specialist, or evidence of specific learning difficulty. For dyslexia or dyspraxia this evidence must be a recent Chartered Educational Psychologist's assessment. If you do not have this, the Service can put you in touch with an independent Education Psychologist.

**If you have been issued Disability stickers by the Student Disability Service, you must ensure these are attached to your assignments.** If you have been granted disabled status, please contact the Programme Administrator who can ensure all course organisers are aware of your personal profile requirements. The Service will arrange an assessment and recommend assessment guidelines for markers.

## **5 Programme Essentials**

### **5.1 Programme Contacts**

#### **Programme Administrator**

The Programme Administrator works closely with the Programme Team, Course Organisers, and colleagues throughout the Graduate School and the wider University. The Programme Administrator is:

**Stuart Mallen**

**Room 685**

Centre for Population Health Sciences

University of Edinburgh

Teviot Place

Edinburgh EH8 9AG

Tel: +44 (0)131 650 3227

Fax: +44 (0)131 650 6909

Email: [Stuart.Mallen@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Stuart.Mallen@ed.ac.uk)

Hours: **Mon – Friday 10am-4pm**

#### **Dealing with queries & problems**

The first point of contact for any queries or problems that arise during your period of study is the **Programme Administrator**. All matters are dealt with in strict confidence. The Programme Administrator will take appropriate action which may involve consulting with the Programme Director, your personal tutor or the Postgraduate College (CMVM) Office.

#### **Programme Director**

The Programme Director is charged with overall responsibility for facilitating your orientation and smooth progression through the degree, from initial induction to the transition into the dissertation stage to successful completion. Your Programme Director is:

**Dr Niall Anderson**

Centre for Population Health Sciences

University of Edinburgh

Teviot Place

Edinburgh EH8 9AG

Tel: +44 (0)131 650 3212  
Fax: +44 (0)131 650 6909  
Email: [Niall.Anderson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Niall.Anderson@ed.ac.uk)  
Office: Room 506A

The Programme Director is available as a second line of pastoral support and advice for any scholarly or personal issues which may arise whilst you are on the programme (the first being your Personal Tutor). It is your responsibility to inform the Programme Director immediately of any problems that are interfering with your coursework or progress through the programme, including any religious or medical requirements that might affect your participation in any aspect of the programme.

### **Programme Team**

The Programme Director works with a team to manage and organise the programme. The team is responsible for promotion and admission, coordination of teaching, assessment, programme evaluation and curriculum development. Please keep in mind the team members may have allocated time slots for appointments and may not operate on a drop in basis.

Current team members include:

<b>Dr Niall Anderson</b>	<a href="mailto:Niall.Anderson@ed.ac.uk">Niall.Anderson@ed.ac.uk</a>
<b>Dr Christine Campbell</b>	<a href="mailto:Christine.Campbell@ed.ac.uk">Christine.Campbell@ed.ac.uk</a>
<b>Prof Sarah Wild</b>	<a href="mailto:Sarah.Wild@ed.ac.uk">Sarah.Wild@ed.ac.uk</a>
<b>Stuart Mallen</b>	<a href="mailto:Stuart.Mallen@ed.ac.uk">Stuart.Mallen@ed.ac.uk</a>

### **Help with Course Choices**

Dr Niall Anderson, Dr Christine Campbell, and Prof Sarah Wild are able to assist with course choices, please see their contact details above.

Course organisers can address queries about individual courses.

## 5.2 Supervisors & Tutors

All taught students at Edinburgh University are assigned a **Personal Tutor** (PT). Your Personal Tutor is a member of academic staff from your matriculated School, who is allocated to you at the beginning of the academic year. Their role is to:

- help you to review your academic progress
- provide opportunities for you to reflect on how your learning can help you pursue your future development
- foster in you a sense of belonging to a community of learners

Your Personal Tutor is available if you have any concerns or problems that might affect your studies, for example when there are special circumstances affecting your studies. They can also advise on academic matters such as course choices in your degree programme. As far as possible, we will try to match students to tutors on the basis of background and interests.

Specific questions about courses and assessment should be raised with the relevant course organiser in the first instance. You should arrange to meet your Personal Tutor at least once each semester to discuss your progress and dissertation plans.

When you progress to the **dissertation** stage, a supervisor suitable for your chosen dissertation topic will be allocated. You will work closely with them on the development and execution of your dissertation, but your personal tutor will still be available to offer general support on non-project matters until the end of your period of study.

## 5.3 Student Status

The full-time curriculum for students is 12 months. **You are expected to remain in Edinburgh until your dissertation hand in on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015.** This period may not be reduced, and may be extended only in exceptional circumstances. Any extension may lead to a lengthy delay in

graduation. The part-time study period is 24 months, which may be increased by up to 12 months.

While some students might wish to undertake paid employment in the evenings or weekends, you are advised that the MPH is planned on the assumption that students are able to devote themselves fully to the demands of the programme. Taking on significant part-time work is liable to create problems particularly when students progress to the dissertation component of their degree. You are advised to consult your tutor and dissertation supervisor about any employment which you might consider undertaking during the academic year.

It is important that the Programme Administrator has accurate and up to date **contact details** for all students enrolled on the programme. Please complete and return the 'contact details' form by **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014**. Please also advise of any address, telephone or email changes during the academic year. Students are able to update their contact details with the University through the MyEd 'Student Personal Details' channel. They can maintain:

- Personal email address and mobile phone number
- Preferred first name (the name they like to be known as)
- Current and future home and semester addresses
- Details of who the University should contact in the event of an emergency

Students also have access in EUCLID to basic Programme information and details of the Additional Achievements that will appear on their Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

The user guide for student self-service is available at:

[http://www.euclid.ed.ac.uk/student/Student\\_Self\\_Service.htm](http://www.euclid.ed.ac.uk/student/Student_Self_Service.htm)

**Please check your University of Edinburgh student email account frequently –official communication from the Programme Team and the University will go to this address and not to personal email accounts** (it is straightforward to set up automatic forwarding to a personal email

account within the sms.ed.ac.uk system, however). Also, please ensure that you can receive electronic attachments, as documents are often sent out via email.

## 5.4 Interruptions & Suspension of Studies

It is a priority for schools and supervisors that you keep to an agreed timetable. If for any reason your programme of study is interrupted by illness or enforced absence, you must inform your supervisor. It may then be possible to arrange an official suspension of your studies and the time you are absent will not count as part of your period of registration.

It is possible to obtain a suspension of studies if you have health or personal problems that are affecting your ability to deliver course work. However, if this occurs in term time the nature of some assignments means there may be a need to suspend for an entire year. If there is a possibility that suspension may later become necessary then you should be advised to obtain, as a precaution, a medical certificate or some such documentation of the scale of the disruption being experienced.

## 5.5 Special Circumstances

Special circumstances denotes a formal process whereby students request (via the Programme Director or PG Administrator) exceptional concessions related to specific pieces of course assessment on the basis of a verifiable medical problem, bereavement, significant personal crisis or accident. **Full detail about what constitutes a legitimate special circumstance and how to apply for special circumstances can be found on Learn.** Please note that the Special Circumstances Committee will only consider submissions which have followed the guidance outlined on Learn.

## 5.6 Student Absence

Unless authorised leave of absence has been granted, full-time students are required to be resident in Edinburgh for the full period of their programme, including the whole of the examination diet (occasionally

assessments may need to be rescheduled with very little notice). This period excludes formal University holidays (winter break, spring break and after final dissertations have been submitted). Please realise that absences may impact on your grades.

If you have to leave Edinburgh for more than 3-7 days during the programme, you must inform your supervisor and the programme administrator in advance of leaving.

If you wish to leave Edinburgh for more than one week, you must give reasons to, and have formal permission in advance, from both the programme director and the supervisor of any project then under way.

If you have to be away from your studies for more than a few days because you are ill;

- You must inform the programme administrator as soon as possible
- If you are unwell for more than seven days (which includes a Sat & Sun) you must submit a medical certificate from your doctor, to the programme administrator, within a week of your return.

If a situation arises beyond your control which means you have to be away without advance permission (e.g. a bereavement) then please inform the supervisor and programme administrator as soon as possible (e.g. by email).

Please realise that time away from your studies may impact on your grades. No concessions for late submissions will be granted unless

- there is documented evidence that you have followed the steps above, OR
- the reasons why you were away from Edinburgh were completely beyond your control.

The Special Circumstances Committee which is held before the Final Exam Board will only consider submissions about absences if the above rules have been followed.

## 5.7 Programme Curriculum & Credits

The curriculum leading to the MPH requires each student to complete courses (totalling 120 credits) and a dissertation (60 credits). The 120 taught course credits comprise five compulsory courses (50 credits) and a variety of elective courses (70 credits) chosen by the student.

**To avoid examination timetabling clashes, it is the students' responsibility to ensure that their record of courses is accurate by the end of week 3 of each semester. Changes to your course registration cannot be made after this time.**

### Compulsory Courses

Introduction to Epidemiology	10 credits
Introduction to Statistics	10 credits
Introduction to Qualitative Research	10 credits
Introduction to Research Ethics	10 credits
Introduction to Systematic Reviews	10 credits

### Elective Courses

The elective courses make up 70 credits of the degree requirements. Students are free to choose any of the courses within the MPH and many relevant courses from other programmes within the University of Edinburgh (subject to timetabling limitations). However, it may be useful to think about guiding course choices by reference to the student's intended career "pathway". We include a number of example pathways below.

Each pathway includes courses designed for students aiming to pursue a variety of professional careers in public health or students who require a more in depth theoretical and empirical grounding that can provide the specialist skills required for an academic career. These should not be regarded as prescriptive, however: many other combinations are useful and possible.

Advice on the choice and combination of recommended elective courses for individual students can be obtained from members of the Programme Team. Some suggested course choices within the domains of epidemiology and statistics, public health, social science and health, ethics and public health are illustrated below. Course outlines are available in Section 7 and on Learn.

**Epidemiology and Statistics**

- Further Statistics
- Statistical Modelling
- Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases
- Advanced Protocol Development

**Public Health**

- Health Promotion
- Introduction to Global Health
- Resource Allocation and Health Economics
- Global Health Epidemiology

**Social Science and Health**

- Sociology of Health & Illness
- Qualitative Research in Health
- Resource Allocation and Health Economics

**Ethics and Public Health**

- Public Health Ethics
- Introduction to Global Health

**Health Technology Assessment**

- Clinical Trials
- Advanced Protocol Development
- Resource Allocation and Health Economics
- Statistical Modelling

**Public Health and Policy**

- Global Politics of Public Health
- Globalisation and Public Health
- Health System Reforms and Public Private Partnerships

## **6 Guidelines & Procedures**

### **6.1 University Degree Regulations**

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/>

The definitive source of information on courses, degrees, and the regulation that govern them is the **Degree Regulations and Programme of Study** which is published online each academic year. The DRPS deals with all postgraduate degrees including the University Guidelines on Submission of Dissertations.

### **6.2 University Complaints Procedure**

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-academic-services/student-complaint-procedure/student-complaint-procedure>

### **6.3 Code of Practice for Taught Postgraduate Programmes**

<http://www.docs.sasg.ed.ac.uk/AcademicServices/Codes/CoPTaughtPGProgrammes.pdf>

The Code of Practice is a guide to required practice based upon the University's Regulations and reasonable expectations. It has been written both for students on degree programmes and for the academic staff who organise and teach them.

The Code provides practical advice on matters that might emerge in taking or running a taught postgraduate programme; it sets out guidance on procedures and good practice relevant to all types of taught postgraduate programmes; and draws attention to rights and responsibilities of both students and staff.

### **6.4 Assessment Procedures**

<http://www.docs.sasg.ed.ac.uk/AcademicServices/Regulations/TaughtAssessmentRegulations.pdf>

Assessment is a two-stage process. Each taught course component is

assessed at the end of the semester in which the course is held. **Progression to the dissertation component is conditional on attaining a minimum of 80 credits with a mark of at least 50% and being awarded an overall average of at least 50% for the 120 credits of study in the taught portion of the programme.**

Each course is assessed using set course work and/or an examination. The course organiser will give you details of course work to be submitted by specific dates (see Section 8.2). Course assignments will be clearly indicated as forming part of your formal assessment, and will be distinct from and additional to, other work which your course organisers may ask you to do for teaching purposes.

**Late** submissions will be penalised at a rate of 5 marks per working day, up to a maximum of 5 days, after which a mark of zero will be given. Students with a valid and documented reason for late submission should inform the Programme Team before the submission deadline.

Submissions that exceed the assigned **word limit** for the assignment will incur a penalty of up to 10 marks.

Students who believe that extenuating circumstances exist which prevent them from sitting an **examination** in the scheduled time or venue should contact the Programme Director. Travel arrangements, early departure during the semester, holidays, etc do NOT constitute extenuating circumstances.

## **6.5 Assignment Submission**

When submitting assignments you should hand in **two hard copies** (to the assessment hand in box outside the PG Administrator's Office) before or by the given submission time and date. A **cover sheet** and **Own Work Declaration Form** are available on Learn, please attach this sheet to the front of the two copies of your assignment. To enable anonymous marking, **please ensure that only your exam number is on your assignment, for example in the header or footer along with page numbers.** Your name should only be on the separate Own Work Declaration Form.

In addition, please submit **one electronic copy** via the Turnitin link on the relevant course page in Learn (see section 6.8 for more details). Follow the guideline above with regard to use of exam numbers only.

**Therefore, for each assignment, please submit:**

- 2 paper coversheets
- 1 paper Own work Declaration
- 2 paper copies of the assignment (Exam number only)
- 1 electronic copy via Turnitin (Learn)

Please be advised that there are **NO resits of exams or resubmissions of assessments** in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

The Programme uses the University's Postgraduate Common Marking Scheme for both the taught and dissertation components:

#### **Assessment of the taught and dissertation components**

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-administration/exams/regulations/common-marking-scheme>

<b>Mark</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>
90-100%	A1	An excellent performance,
80-89%	A2	satisfactory for a distinction
70-79%	A3	
60-69%	B	A very good performance
50-59%	C	A good performance, satisfactory for a masters degree
40-49%	D	A satisfactory performance for the diploma, but inadequate for a masters degree*
30-39%	E	Marginal Fail*
20-29%	F	Clear Fail*
10-19%	G	Bad Fail*
0-9%	H	

\* In those programmes where a diploma may be awarded for the taught component only, a failed dissertation may be put aside and the diploma awarded.

Candidates with marginal failures in elements assessed early in their courses, and for whom such performances may be shown to be atypical in the light of later examination performance, may bring their case to the Examination Board by way of the Special Circumstances Committee.

The following regulations are abstracted from the University's Taught Assessment Regulations (<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/policies-regulations/regulations/assessment>):

### **Regulation 40 Borderlines**

Boards of Examiners must consider students whose marks are borderline for passing a course, progression, award or classification purposes. Borderline marks are defined as marks from two percentage points below the class or grade boundary up to the boundary itself, e.g. 58.00% to 59.99% for an undergraduate 2.1 classification or 38.00% to 39.99% for a pass. Boards of Examiners must use the University borderline definition and may not set and use a different definition.

#### **Application of the regulation**

40.1 Boards of Examiners must publish in advance the factors that will be taken into account for borderline decisions, which can include:

- (a) cases in which a student has performed better in courses at a higher level;
- (b) cases where the amount of credited assessed work to be used for classification or award decisions is less than the norm (e.g., where credits have been awarded for progression purposes only in recognition of special circumstances); and
- (c) Individual student profiles of performance.

40.2 Boards of Examiners cannot selectively use any additional assessment to reach assessment decisions for specific students. See taught assessment regulation 19.

40.3 Borderlines do not apply in the ECA Grade Assessment Scheme.

### **Regulation 52 Postgraduate assessment progression**

For programmes where there is an identifiable taught component followed by a project or dissertation component, students must pass the assessment requirements of the taught stage at an appropriate level at the first attempt before progression to the dissertation. In order to progress to the masters dissertation students must:

- (a) pass at least 80 credits with a mark of at least 50% in each of the courses which make up these credits; and
- (b) attain an average of at least 50% for the 120 credits of study examined at the point of decision for progression; and
- (c) satisfy any other specific requirements for the masters degree programme, that are clearly stated in respective programme handbooks.

When all the marks for the taught components of the programme (120

credits) are available, if the student has achieved PASS marks in at least 80 credits and has an overall average of 40% or more over the full 120 credits, then they will be awarded credits on aggregate for the failed courses.

For programmes where the taught and project or dissertation components are taken in parallel, or where there are not identifiable taught and project or dissertation components, the requirements for progression are determined at programme level, stated in the Programme Handbook.

#### **Application of the regulation**

52.1 For programmes where there is an identifiable taught component followed by a project / dissertation component (e.g. 120 credits of taught courses in semesters 1 and 2, followed by a 60 credit project / dissertation component):

(a) Postgraduate Boards of Examiners are normally convened at least twice during the year for full-time students. The initial meeting to decide matters relating to progression (to masters, or diploma), or failure, is held at the end of the coursework component. A second meeting to consider the dissertation results and the final award of degrees (or diplomas) is held soon after completion of the programme. Both meetings are equally important.

(b) The Postgraduate Board of Examiners has the responsibility to decide which students can progress to the dissertation required for candidature for the award of a masters degree; or, in the case of other awards, exit either directly or following satisfaction of any outstanding requirement.

(c) Exceptionally, with the permission of the relevant College Committee, a student who has been unable to sit an examination because of illness or other extenuating circumstance may, if that circumstance is certified, be allowed to progress to the dissertation stage prior to completion of the coursework assessment on condition that the dissertation will subsequently be set aside if the student is eventually unsuccessful in the coursework element of the programme.

52.2 In general failed course are not included in the student's transcript, but any failed course for which the student has been awarded credits on aggregate must be shown in the transcript as a fail but with credit on aggregate. In reporting course marks, Schools are required to upload a fail but with credit on aggregate outcome on to the student record system, along with other final course marks.

52.3 In Regulation 52(a) above, where some of the 80 credits are pass/fail courses, then where these courses are passed, they can be included in the 80 credit total. However, the pass mark of 40% is the mark that is to be applied in calculations under Regulation 52 (b).  
<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/student-administration/exams/regulations/common-marking-scheme>

52.4 PASS marks are defined in the "PASS" section (A1 to PS) of "Recording of Course Assessment Results within EUCLID"

[http://www.studentsystems.ed.ac.uk/Staff/FAQ/Assessment\\_Results.htm](http://www.studentsystems.ed.ac.uk/Staff/FAQ/Assessment_Results.htm)

!

### **Regulation 53 Postgraduate degree, diploma and certificate award**

In order to be awarded the certificate students must:

- (a) pass at least 40 credits with a mark of at least 40%; and
- (b) attain an average of at least 40% for the 60 credits of study examined for the certificate; and
- (c) satisfy any other specific requirements for the named certificate that are clearly stated in respective programme handbooks.

In order to be awarded the diploma students must:

- (a) pass at least 80 credits with a mark of at least 40%; and
- (b) attain an average of at least 40% for the 120 credits of study examined for the diploma; and
- (c) satisfy any other specific requirements for the named diploma that are clearly stated in respective programme handbooks.

In order to be awarded a masters degree students must:

- (a) have satisfied any requirements for progression, as laid out in taught assessment regulation 52 above, and
- (b) attain an additional 60 credits, by achieving a mark of at least 50% for the dissertation or project component and
- (c) satisfy any other specific requirements for the masters degree programme, that are clearly stated in respective Programme Handbooks.

When all the marks for the taught components of the programme or diploma are available, if the student has achieved PASS marks in at least 80 credits and has an overall average of 40% or more over the full 120 credits, then they will be awarded credits on aggregate for the failed courses, up to a maximum of 40 credits. For a certificate, a maximum of 20 credits may be awarded on aggregate.

#### **Application of the regulation**

53.1 Boards of Examiners, including those involving subjects from two or more of the Schools, are required to establish guidelines in advance on how the results of individual papers or units of assessment are to be aggregated, averaged or profiled to produce the overall final result.

These guidelines are an integral part of the disclosure process and must be published to students within one month of the start of the programme.

53.2 In general failed course are not included in the student's transcript, but any failed course for which the student has been awarded credits on aggregate must be shown in the transcript as a fail but with credit on aggregate. Exam Boards must make this distinction clear when reporting course marks.

53.3 The Board of Examiners should take account of any personal circumstances and of the student's general academic record, when determining the award of a degree. However, it is not within the power of a Board of Examiners to recommend the award of a degree without substantial evidence of attainment to at least the lowest level required for the award of that qualification. Boards of Examiners may not be generous in cases of failure other than within the limits already set out in

these regulations.

53.4 The General Postgraduate Regulations permit a General Postgraduate Certificate to be attained by students who do not fulfil the requirements for a specific diploma or certificate award but who have attained a minimum of 60 credits gained from passes in University courses which count towards graduation. At least 40 of the credits attained must be at level 11.

53.5 PASS marks are defined in the "PASS" section (A1 to PS) of "Recording of Course Assessment Results within EUCLID"

[http://www.studentsystems.ed.ac.uk/Staff/FAQ/Assessment\\_Results.htm](http://www.studentsystems.ed.ac.uk/Staff/FAQ/Assessment_Results.htm)

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#### **Regulation 54 Postgraduate dissertations**

Resubmissions of revised dissertations are not permitted for postgraduate masters programmes unless this has been approved by CSPC on the basis of a case submitted by the relevant College Committee.

#### **Application of the regulation**

54.1 Where a masters programme does not have CSPC authorisation for resubmission of dissertations then, if a Board of Examiners wishes a student to be permitted to resubmit, a case on the basis of special circumstances needs to be submitted to CSPC as a College-requested concession.

Further guidance can be found in the Taught Assessment Regulations at: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/staff/assessment/assessment-regulations>

#### **Marking and Academic Feedback**

Coursework and examinations on the taught component of the programme are marked anonymously by two internal examiners and may be moderated independently by at least one external examiner. Students receive their marks, grades and other feedback on coursework throughout the programme.

A Board of Examiners is convened to consider formally the results of the coursework assessments, examinations and dissertations. Two external examiners (from other UK universities) are also involved in marking a selection of assessments (coursework and the dissertation), considering borderline marks and reviewing overall programme standards. Decisions reached by the Board of Examiners on student progression and recommendations on the award of degrees and diplomas are reported to

the College Postgraduate Studies Committee. Feedback will be filtered to students upon receipt.

Board of Examiners Meetings are held in June & October:

Chair(s):	Professor David Weller
Programme Director:	Dr Niall Anderson
External Examiners:	Professor Jill Pell Dr Judith Green

(NB Students should note that University regulations forbid them from contacting external examiners directly about assessment matters – please follow University of Edinburgh procedures for queries or complaints.)

## **6.6 Dissertation Guidelines**

### **Dissertation Guidance**

The second component of the taught MPH programme is the dissertation. This is an opportunity for students to undertake a library-based or empirical research project that develops their research skills and capacity for independent study.

### **Learning Objectives**

Students will:

- Select a research question/ area of study.
- Develop an appropriate methodology to investigate their research question
- Prepare and analyse secondary data, or undertake a philosophical/ critical analysis of library materials.
- Apply critical skills to evaluating the research they have carried out
- Present a comprehensive write up of the research and its findings

### **Length – Word Count**

- 12,000 words, excluding data appendices and frontispiece (table of contents, abstract, list of figures, etc).
- Anything that appears as data is not counted, for example sets of tables, graphs and quotations from interviews, etc. The bibliography is also excluded from the total word count.

### **Teaching methods**

The allocation of dissertation supervisors will occur during Semester 2. Students can expect to meet with their dissertation supervisor for between 6-10 hours during the course of the academic year. These meetings should be used to develop and refine a research question, discuss the design of the study or dissertation (if theoretical), develop an appropriate methodology, discuss the analysis and presentation of the findings, in addition to any trouble shooting that may be required. The timing and duration of these meetings is to be agreed between the student and their supervisor. Records of these meetings should be kept by the student and will be kept by the supervisors.

Supervisors will read the dissertation not more than twice. They may comment upon each chapter as it is written and one complete draft of the dissertation. The date for submission of draft work (both individual chapters and complete draft) is to be organised by the supervisor and student.

### **Supervisors**

A list of supervisors and their research interests/topics they are prepared to supervise will be circulated to students, who should contact the supervisors they would like to work with. Since many supervisors may be oversubscribed, students should identify a ranked list of projects that they might wish to undertake. The Programme Team will be responsible for helping identify an appropriate supervisor if a student cannot find their own. Only departmental academic staff can supervise MPH dissertations, although joint supervision by an external member of staff is also possible.

**Dissertation allocation for listed projects will be made in such a way as to maximise everyone's chances of assignment to a preferred option, but you may not receive your first choice of project.**

### **Advice from other College teaching staff**

Generally students should not seek advice from other members of the College teaching staff. However, in some cases it may be helpful to the student (and the supervisor) if specific questions about, for example, specialised methods were directed to those with particular expertise. The referral of these questions should be through the supervisor who agrees that such expertise is necessary to progress the dissertation.

### **Format and submission**

**All dissertations should follow the presentation and style guidance outlined below with referencing in accordance with the Harvard system described in the link listed in section 6.6.**

You must submit 2 paper copies of your completed bound dissertation by **16:00 Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015** to the Programme Administrator, along with an Own Work Declaration Sheet (this should NOT be bound into the dissertation). **Also submit** one **electronic** copy of the dissertation via Turnitin/Learn (section 6.8). Earlier hand-ins are welcome.

Late submission will be subject to penalties which will reduce your mark (5 marks per working day, up to a maximum of 5 days), delay the examination of your dissertation and may postpone completion of the degree requirements for the MPH. **Submission extensions are not generally allowed unless medical evidence supports an application for late submission. As outlined in the Postgraduate Assessment Regulations, it is the responsibility of the student to bring any medical issues to the Board's attention. Any application must be made well before the submission date to the Programme Director.**

Even short extensions can delay graduation from November to June of the following year, due to the tight turnaround between the internal examination, the Board of Examiners Meeting and the final nominations for College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine graduation.

### **Criteria for assessment**

Dissertations address many different topics using a variety of study designs and techniques. Some may provide a critical survey or synthesis of research evidence whereas others apply research methods to an existing dataset or develop a critique of a theoretical framework that has been used to inform research in public health. The general criteria that are used to assess the dissertation span a number of domains. To achieve at least a Masters pass, a dissertation must demonstrate a satisfactory level of competence in both analysis and expression. The MPH dissertation marking sheet summarises the criteria and illustrates the range of

performance within each specific area that will be assessed by the internal and external examiners.

Clarity of expression is important. Your work should be carefully presented for the readers (i.e. examiners) who may not necessarily be specialists in the topic your dissertation addresses. Complex ideas, very specialised literature or unusual methods should be fully explained and described using plain English. A brief introduction or lead-in section explaining what each chapter is about will help the reader. Factual accuracy is also important when presenting information in text, tables or graphs.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.docs.sasg.ed.ac.uk/AcademicServices/Regulations/TaughtAssessmentRegulations.pdf>

### **Ethics**

Please review with your supervisor as soon as possible the ethical implications of your dissertation. In CPHS we follow a three level ethical review procedure.

LEVEL 1 **All students** must complete the Level 1 self-audit. This must be undertaken under the oversight of your supervisor, who must agree with all of your answers in this self-audit. Please submit a copy of the form, signed by both you and your supervisor, to the Postgraduate Administrator. The Level 1 form will be available in the Dissertation section of Learn.

If the Level 1 form indicates that there are ethical issues that require further review, you will need to proceed either to Level 2/ Level 3 or submit an application for review to an external ethics committee such as an NHS LREC (e.g. in the latter case, for a project involving NHS patients or staff).

LEVEL 2 If your project does not fall within the remit of a non-University ethics committee, you must fill in the CPHS Level 2/3 form. Please complete this form, (again under the oversight of your supervisor) and then submit it plus a short proposal outlining the study to the Postgraduate Administrator. You should **NOT** begin recruitment or data collection until this form has been reviewed and you are given ethical approval for the

research.

LEVEL 3 All projects that deal with topics that are ethically sensitive (e.g. projects involving vulnerable subjects, covert observation or those raising issues concerning consent or confidentiality of data ) will be reviewed in greater detail by the CPHS ethics committee. Please see guidelines on Learn for these procedures. Once again, you should **NOT** begin any data collection recruitment until the committee has given approval for you to proceed.

When binding your dissertation you are required to include copies of the completed Level 1 form and any other relevant study documents (e.g. information sheets, questionnaires, consent forms, etc) as an appendix.

More information on ethical review procedures within CPHS can be found in the Dissertation section of Learn. Please consult this material for up to date information before beginning discussions with your supervisor.

### **Results and feedback**

The Postgraduate Common Marking Scale described above will be used. The MPH may be awarded with a distinction if a student is awarded at least 70% for the dissertation and has achieved an average of at least 70% for the taught component, passing all courses with a mark of at least 40%.

Examiners may judge that the dissertation reaches the required standard for a Masters level pass, despite the existence of small deficiencies and editorial imperfections. In the event of such issues being identified, students will NOT be requested to correct and re-submit dissertations – only a single submission will be allowed.

No feedback on the result of your dissertation is possible until after the Board of Examiners meeting in October. Please keep in mind the levels of feedback may vary. The final awards list will be posted and feedback will be available upon request. An official transcript of marks will be provided by Registry.

## **Dissertation Presentation & Style Instructions**

### **Size and Thickness of Paper**

All copies either A4 (minimum weight 70 gsm.) or permanent photocopies cut to A4 size

### **Type or Print**

Consistent and clear type of laser print quality should be used for all copies for both text and illustrations.

### **Layout of Text**

- 4cm binding margin
- 2cm head margin
- 2.5cm fore-edge margin
- 4cm tail margin

The text of the thesis should be produced in single-sided copy, on right-facing pages only. Alternatively, the text of the thesis may be produced in double-sided copy; in which case each chapter must start on a right-facing page. The main text should be in not less than 1 1/2 spacing (or 18 points leading). Quotations and notes should be in single spacing. Pagination must be continuous throughout and include all plans, tables, illustrations, etc., which are bound in with the text. Handwritten numbers in indelible ink are acceptable.

### **Character Size**

The size of character used throughout the text, including prefatory material, appendices and displayed matter, should not be less than 2.0 mm for capitals and 1.5 mm for x-height (i.e. the height of lower-case x). Character sizes should be at least 10 points, with body text (text other than headings) not exceeding 12 points.

### **Character Styles — fonts**

Where there is a choice of character style or font, a serif font eg. Times (New Roman) or Palatino - should be used for the main text and a sans serif font - e.g. Helvetica or Arial - for headings and labelling diagrams, etc.

### **Word spacing and division**

Text should be set to ensure an even spacing between words for any particular line. Word division at the ends of lines (hyphenation) should be avoided if possible.

### **Claiming research costs**

You may claim a maximum of £350 in research costs. All receipts must be provided and related to your dissertation for a refund. Please collect all receipts and complete ONLY the name and address column of the expense claim form on the MPH Learn page. Any expense related to the research and production of your dissertation is covered to the maximum claimable amount, for example, printers, toner, journal copies, transcription cost, software, conferences, etc. It takes 4-6 weeks to receive your refund from the finance department in the form of a cheque. Payment is made with expenses only.

## **6.7 Referencing**

Data and information that you use in preparing your coursework and dissertation should be clearly and fully acknowledged. References should be given when:

- Data or ideas are used from any written source
- Passages are summarised from any written source
- Exact words from another person's work are quoted (in such circumstances the extract must then be delimited by quotation marks)

The Harvard (author, date) system should be used for citing references in assignments and dissertations. An excellent guide to the Harvard system of referencing can be found at:

<http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/library/how-to/citing-refs-harvard.html>

The following site may also be of use:

[http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)

## **6.8 Plagiarism**

The University's degrees and other academic awards are given in recognition of the candidate's personal achievement. Plagiarism (the act of copying or including in one's own work, without adequate acknowledgement, intentionally or unintentionally, the work of another) is academically fraudulent and an offence against University discipline. The innocent misuse or citation of material without formal and proper acknowledgement can constitute plagiarism, even when there is no deliberate intent to cheat. In addition, material which one has prepared for assessment on another course (any course, including undergraduate) cannot be submitted again for a second course; this is considered 'self-plagiarism'.

Plagiarism, at whatever stage of a candidate's course, whether discovered before or after graduation, will be investigated and dealt with appropriately by the University. If after investigation, it is established that work submitted for assessment has been plagiarised to a significant extent that will be permanently noted on a candidate's record.

Any student with questions or concerns about the meaning and interpretation of the University's regulations should contact the Programme Director.

University guidelines on the avoidance of plagiarism and the University policy on plagiarism can be found at:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/academic-services/students/postgraduate-taught/discipline/plagiarism>

**It is strongly recommend that you read the information available at the site above, as well as the following:**

<http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/adviceplace/academic/plagiarismandmisconduct/>

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/14-15/regulations/postgrad.php>

## **6.9 Turnitin**

The plagiarism detection service is an online service that enables

institutions and staff to carry out electronic comparison of students' work against electronic sources including other students' work.

The service is managed by The University of Northumbria on behalf of the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and is available to all UK tertiary education institutions by subscription.

The plagiarism detection service works by executing searches of the world wide web, and extensive databases of reference material, as well as content previously submitted by other users.

Each new submission is compared with all the existing information.

The software makes no decisions as to whether a student has plagiarised, it simply highlights sections of text that are duplicated in other sources. All work will continue to be reviewed by the course tutor.

Once work has been submitted to the system it becomes part of the ever growing database of material against which subsequent submissions are checked.

The software is used as a tool to highlight any instance where there is a possible case of plagiarism. Passages copied directly or very closely from existing sources will be identified by the software and both the original and the potential copy will be displayed for the tutor to view. Where any direct quotations are relevant and appropriately referenced, the course tutor will be able to see this and will continue to consider the next highlighted case. There is an on-line demonstration of the system available at <https://www.submit.ac.uk/>

All formal (non-exam) assignments and dissertations should be submitted via the system, which is accessed through the relevant course folder in Learn. The resulting Originality Reports (assessments of textual similarity, given a percentage rating) will be made available to all markers.

**Please make sure that you submit your essay using your exam number only. Do not use your name, do not submit a cover sheet with your name on it, and do not use your name anywhere in the work. This is to ensure that all work is marked anonymously.**

Students are encouraged to use the **General Submissions** tool in the MPH programme folder in Learn to look at originality reports for any document they choose, and may use this section as often as they wish (submissions to this folder are NOT stored in the document library and will have no effect on future submissions). This is a very useful learning tool as very often it will pick up sections of text that have been improperly referenced. Final submissions are made through the individual course folders. Please do experiment with it well before the first submission deadline!

You will find information on using TurnItIn at:

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/information-services/learning-technology/assessment/plagiarism/turnitin>

## 7.0 Course List & Outlines

### 7.1 Course List

#### Compulsory Courses (Semester 1)

Introduction to Epidemiology	10 credits
Introduction to Qualitative Research	10 credits
Introduction to Research Ethics	10 credits
Introduction to Statistics	10 credits

#### Compulsory Courses (Semester 2)

Introduction to Systematic Reviews	10 credits
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#### Elective Courses (Semester 1)

Health Promotion	10 credits
Introduction to Global Health	10 credits
Public Health Ethics	10 credits
Investing in Global Health & Development	10 credits

#### Elective Courses (Semester 2)

Advanced Protocol Development	10 credits
Clinical Trials	10 credits
Communicable Disease Control and Environmental Health	10 credits
Developing & Evaluating Complex Public Health Interventions	10 credits
Epidemiology for Public Health	10 credits
Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases	10 credits
Further Statistics	10 credits
Genetic Epidemiology	10 credits
Global Health Epidemiology	10 credits
Qualitative Research in Health	10 credits
Resource Allocation & Health Economics	20 credits
Sociology of Health & Illness	20 credits
Statistical Modelling	10 credits

## 7.2 Details of Course Organisers for the Programme

NAME	COURSE	PHONE NO	EMAIL
Professor Amanda Amos	Health Promotion	650 3236	<a href="mailto:Amanda.Amos@ed.ac.uk">Amanda.Amos@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Niall Anderson	Introduction to Statistics Statistical Modelling	650 3212	<a href="mailto:Niall.Anderson@ed.ac.uk">Niall.Anderson@ed.ac.uk</a>
Professor Kenneth Boyd/Dr Martyn Pickersgill	Public Health Ethics		<a href="mailto:K.Boyd@ed.ac.uk">K.Boyd@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Christine Campbell	Introduction to Systematic Reviews	650 2807	<a href="mailto:Christine.Campbell@ed.ac.uk">Christine.Campbell@ed.ac.uk</a>
Professor Harry Campbell	Global Health Epidemiology	650 3218	<a href="mailto:Harry.Campbell@ed.ac.uk">Harry.Campbell@ed.ac.uk</a>
Professor Sarah Cunningham-Burley	Introduction to Research Ethics	650 3217	<a href="mailto:Sarah.C.Burley@ed.ac.uk">Sarah.C.Burley@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Amy Chandler	Introduction to Qualitative Research	650 3981	<a href="mailto:A.Chandler@ed.ac.uk">A.Chandler@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Jeni Harden	Sociology of Health & Illness	650 6991	<a href="mailto:Jeni.Harden@ed.ac.uk">Jeni.Harden@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Ruth Jepson	Developing & Evaluating Complex Public Health Interventions	651 1592	<a href="mailto:Ruth.Jepson@ed.ac.uk">Ruth.Jepson@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Marilyn Kendall	Qualitative Research in Health	650 9235	<a href="mailto:Marilyn.Kendall@ed.ac.uk">Marilyn.Kendall@ed.ac.uk</a>
Professor Gordon Murray	Clinical Trials	650 3233	<a href="mailto:Gordon.Murray@ed.ac.uk">Gordon.Murray@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Ruth McQuillan	Introduction to Global Health	651 1751	<a href="mailto:Ruth.McQuillan@ed.ac.uk">Ruth.McQuillan@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Harish Nair	Epidemiology for Public Health	650 6963	<a href="mailto:Harish.Nair@ed.ac.uk">Harish.Nair@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Jackie Price	Advanced Protocol Development	650 3230	<a href="mailto:Jackie.Price@ed.ac.uk">Jackie.Price@ed.ac.uk</a>
Professor Igor Rudan	Investing in Global Health & Development	650 3210	<a href="mailto:Igor.Rudan@ed.ac.uk">Igor.Rudan@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Joel Smith	Resource Allocation & Health Economics	650	<a href="mailto:Joel.Smith@ed.ac.uk">Joel.Smith@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Janet Stevenson	Communicable Disease Control & Environmental Health	-	<a href="mailto:janet.stevenson@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk">janet.stevenson@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk</a>
Dr Evropi Theodoratou	Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases	650 4335	<a href="mailto:e.theodoratou@ed.ac.uk">e.theodoratou@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Pam Warner	Further Statistics	650 3248	<a href="mailto:Pam.Warner@ed.ac.uk">Pam.Warner@ed.ac.uk</a>
Professor Sarah Wild	Introduction to Epidemiology	651 1630	<a href="mailto:Sarah.Wild@ed.ac.uk">Sarah.Wild@ed.ac.uk</a>
Dr Jim Wilson	Genetic Epidemiology	-	<a href="mailto:jim.wilson@hgu.mrc.ac.uk">jim.wilson@hgu.mrc.ac.uk</a>

## 7.3 Individual Course Descriptions

### Introduction to Epidemiology (Core)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Professor Sarah Wild / Dr Sarah Hill / Dr David McAllister
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Professor Sarah Wild / Dr Sarah Hill / Dr David McAllister
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 1 Weeks 1-11 Tuesday, 14:00-15:50
<b>Short course description:</b>	This course introduces approaches to describing and comparing the distribution and determinants of factors related to health within and between populations in the context of public health practice, research and policy.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Aim:</b>	To introduce students to measures of health and disease and their comparison across populations, how possible associations between exposures/ risk factors and disease outcomes are investigated and critical appraisal of epidemiological studies.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	Understanding of strengths and weaknesses of routine population health and disability data and their summary measures Understanding of design, analysis and interpretation of epidemiological studies in the context of public health practice, research and policy Understanding of sources of error and ability to critically appraise epidemiological studies
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	The course will consist of lectures and practical sessions.
<b>Assessment:</b>	2500 word assignment

## Introduction to Qualitative Research (Core)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Zoe Morrison
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Zoe Morrison
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 1 Weeks 1-11 Wednesday, 11:10-13:00
<b>Short course description:</b>	The course provides an introduction to qualitative research methods. Underlying approaches will be examined and then different methods will be looked at in more detail. Practical components will be incorporated into the sessions, including discussion and facilitated working in small groups. Students will be expected to complete preparatory reading in advance of each class, participate in class exercises and discussions and do background reading on topics covered. Students will learn about qualitative data generation, how to analyse qualitative data, what some of the challenges of mixing methods are and how to appraise published qualitative research. Students will work to develop an outline research proposal informed by class work and formative feedback.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Aim:</b>	To provide an introduction to analysing qualitative research.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the underlying approaches to qualitative research, the differences between quantitative and qualitative research and the challenges of mixing methods.</li><li>• Identify some of the different ways in which qualitative research may be used.</li><li>• Compare and contrast focus groups, individual interviews and participant observation. Understand techniques for making sense of unstructured data.</li><li>• Be confident about all aspects of the research process and be reflexive researchers.</li><li>• Be able to critically appraise published qualitative research.</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	The course will consist of lectures and practical sessions.
<b>Assessment:</b>	2,000 word assignment

## Introduction to Research Ethics (Core)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Professor Sarah Cunningham-Burley
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Professor Sarah Cunningham-Burley and others
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 1 Weeks 1-5 Wednesday, 14:00-15:50
<b>Short course description:</b>	The course will look at the ethical requirements for undertaking public health research: epidemiological, experimental and qualitative research. It will also consider the basic principles of good scholarship common to all fields of public health research. The areas to be considered will include issues of ethics and governance and basic ethical principles.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Aim:</b>	To introduce students to some of the principles of research ethics and research governance procedures.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	Students should develop an understanding of the ethical principles underlying public health research. By the end of the course, they should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify the ethical issues that may arise when undertaking different types of research in Public Health and assess critically the published literature.</li><li>• Appreciate the principles of good scholarship in the context of public health research.</li><li>• Develop an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of different qualitative methods, the links between them and how they can be employed to undertake research in Public Health.</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	The course will use a mixture of learning methods, including self-directed learning, group work and lectures.
<b>Assessment:</b>	2000 word essay.

## Introduction to Statistics (Core)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Niall Anderson
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Niall Anderson
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 1 Weeks 1-11 Tuesday 10:00-10:50 Friday 09:00-10:50
<b>Short course description:</b>	The course provides an introduction to the key concepts of statistical methods typically used in public health research, and will introduce students to fundamental techniques used to describe, analyse and interpret quantitative parametric data for two groups.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Aim:</b>	The course aims to provide an introduction to statistical thinking and to explain some of the basic principles underlying statistical methods, without considering particular techniques in full mathematical detail. This should allow sufficient knowledge to appraise statistical methods described and applied in the literature. In addition, the course aims to provide a broader framework for critical appraisal of all aspects of published quantitative public health research, so that students are equipped to assess the literature in all areas of their future study and careers.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Show knowledge of the basic principles underlying statistical thinking.</li><li>• Show knowledge of best practice in describing data statistically, using graphs and using tables.</li><li>• Show knowledge of the commonly used two group statistical tests used in the literature.</li><li>• Demonstrate understanding by appraising taught statistical methods described and applied in the literature.</li><li>• Demonstrate an understanding of how these principles are applied to real life data.</li><li>• Be able to describe data and carry out simple statistical analyses using SPSS statistical software, and interpret them correctly</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	The course will consist of lectures, tutorial and computer practical sessions.
<b>Assessment:</b>	Written exam at the end of semester.

## Introduction to Systematic Reviews (Core)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organisers:</b>	Dr Christine Campbell
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Christine Campbell and guest lecturers
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 Week 1-5, Week 7 Friday 14:00-15:50
<b>Short course description:</b>	This course will introduce students to basic concepts of systematic reviews, and pooling of data through meta-analysis. Areas to be considered will include the rationale for systematic reviews, how they impact on health care decision-making, and the basic steps in undertaking a systematic review. The principles of meta-analysis will be discussed, along with some basic examples.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Aim:</b>	To introduce students to the basic concepts underpinning systematic reviews and meta-analysis. To begin the development of the range of skills necessary to undertake a systematic review, and to develop understanding of the role of systematic reviews in evidence based health care and decision making.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop an understanding of the principles of systematic reviews and meta-analysis, including rationale, literature searching strategies, quality assessment of studies and pooling of data using techniques such as meta-analysis.</li><li>• The approach to systematic reviews by organisations including the Cochrane Collaboration will be described, and students will be expected to gain understanding of these approaches.</li><li>• Develop very basic understanding of the statistical and other concepts underpinning meta-analysis and other methods of pooling data.</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	There will be a mixture of learning methods including self-directed learning projects, seminars, group work and lectures.
<b>Assessment:</b>	Critical appraisal of a published systematic review.

## Advanced Protocol Development (Elective)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Jackie Price
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Jackie Price
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 Weeks 1-5 Wednesday 9:00-10:50
<b>Short course description:</b>	Preparation of a study protocol
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	Introduction to Epidemiology Introduction to Research Ethics Introduction to Qualitative Research Introduction to Statistics
<b>Aim:</b>	To provide advanced practical skills for the preparation of a protocol for conducting an epidemiology study.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand the practicalities of conducting an epidemiological study.</li><li>• Plan the methodological detail of the study.</li><li>• Write a detailed research protocol.</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	Classes will comprise a mixture of lecture and workshop sessions. Lectures will outline the general principles of protocol development, and provide examples of successful protocols using a variety of epidemiological research designs. Students will be expected to develop an outline of an application mid-way through the course and present this to their peers for discussion. This will form the basis of the protocol submitted for assessment at the end of the course.
<b>Assessment:</b>	Each student will submit a final protocol for marking. This will be a substantive piece of work, equivalent to a grant application to a funding body such as the Chief Scientist Office or the Medical Research Council.

## Clinical Trials (Elective)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Professor Gordon Murray
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Professor Gordon Murray
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 Weeks 1-5, 7-11 Tuesday 14:00-15:50
<b>Short course description:</b>	Design of clinical trials, principles of analysis, reporting and interpretation of findings.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Aim:</b>	To introduce students to the role of clinical trials, and the most frequently used designs, together with the principles that underpin their analysis and interpretation.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	<p>Understand the role of the randomised controlled trial in a range of areas of application. Identify appropriate populations for different types of analysis. Understand the principles of analysis. Contribute to the design of clinical trial protocols. Areas to be covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Basics of clinical trial design</li><li>• Randomisation, avoidance of bias, ethical issues</li><li>• Types of trial design</li><li>• Parallel groups, cross-over trials, N-of-1 trials</li><li>• Sequential methods, interim analysis, data monitoring committees</li><li>• Sample size calculations</li><li>• Explanatory versus Pragmatic trials</li><li>• Regulatory/organisational aspects</li><li>• Analysis of parallel group studies</li><li>• Trials for equivalence/ non-inferiority</li><li>• Use of baseline values</li><li>• Interpretation of results: multiple testing, subgroup analysis</li><li>• Reporting guidelines</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	Lectures, tutorials, class exercises
<b>Assessment:</b>	Design of a clinical trial protocol

**Communicable Disease Control and Environmental Health  
(Elective)**

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Janet Stevenson
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Janet Stevenson & guest lecturers
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 Weeks 1-5, 7-11 Tuesday 09:00-10:50
<b>Short course description:</b>	The course provides an introduction to communicable diseases and an appreciation of the theory and practice of their control and prevention.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	Biological sciences undergraduate/post graduate degree or equivalent Med/Vet course.
<b>Aim:</b>	To provide an introduction to communicable disease control and health protection principles.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	By the end of this course students will be able to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• understand the significance of communicable disease as a public health issue both in the UK and internationally</li><li>• describe the epidemiology of important communicable diseases in the UK and internationally</li><li>• describe the principles of surveillance, investigation, control and prevention of communicable disease in the UK and internationally</li><li>• outline the different methods available for the control of communicable diseases</li><li>• apply the principles of investigating an outbreak of communicable disease</li><li>• outline the principles underlying vaccination and immunisation and the methods for monitoring and evaluating immunisation programmes.</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	The course will consist of lectures and practical sessions.
<b>Assessment:</b>	2500 word essay

## **Developing and Evaluating Complex Health Interventions (Elective)**

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Ruth Jepson
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Ruth Jepson
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 Mondays 09:00-10:50
<b>Short course description:</b>	Public health interventions require robust and relevant development and evaluation methods. This module will be relevant to Master students who are involved in, or who would like to learn about the development or evaluation of public health interventions, and a range of methods for evaluating these, both experimental and non-experimental.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	
<b>Aim:</b>	
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	The main learning objectives of this course will be to understand and demonstrate: 1) The differences between simple, complex and complicated public health interventions and the importance of causality 2) The main phases in intervention development 3) The relationship between development and evaluation of interventions 4) Different approaches to evaluation including novel approaches such as realist evaluation and natural experiments 5) When to use the different evaluation approaches
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	The course will consist of lectures and practical sessions.
<b>Assessment:</b>	70% project plan (1500 words), based on group project 30% group presentation

## **Epidemiology for Chronic Diseases (Elective)**

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Evropi Theodoratou
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Evropi Theodoratou
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 Weeks 1-5 Tuesday & Friday 11:10-13:00
<b>Short course description:</b>	The burden of chronic diseases is growing in all parts of the world. This module will be relevant to Master students that want to understand the global burden of chronic diseases, learn about the worldwide patterns and trends, and be able to explain the role of risk factors and conduct risk predictions. Epidemiological methods beyond the ones taught at introductory level will also be discussed.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	Introduction to Epidemiology
<b>Aim:</b>	
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	Students will be able to: 1) Discuss the global patterns of major chronic diseases including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancers, and chronic respiratory diseases. 2) Critically compare (a) the major risk factors for the above diseases, and (b) the burden of disease attributable to these risk factors in high versus low and middle income countries across the world. 3) Discuss advanced study designs and epidemiological methods including the concept of risk prediction and how risk scores can be developed and validated 4) Evaluate the contribution of inequalities to chronic diseases 5) Discuss the roles of molecular and genetic epidemiology in understanding chronic disease aetiology 6) To critically evaluate the literature and apply this knowledge to key topics in chronic disease epidemiology
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	The course will consist of lectures and practical sessions.
<b>Assessment:</b>	An assignment in the form of an Essay.

## **Epidemiology for Public Health (Elective)**

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Harish Nair
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Harish Nair
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 Mondays 14:00-15:50
<b>Short course description:</b>	The course provides grounding in some of the areas of applied epidemiology that are part of public health practice. It provides an introduction to the principles underlying public health practice, such as identifying and utilizing appropriate data sources, screening and surveillance for infectious and non-communicable diseases, and assessment of health programmes.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	Introduction to Epidemiology
<b>Aim:</b>	
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define and describe the epidemiological principles underpinning public health practice</li><li>• Develop an understanding of assessing health programs</li><li>• Critically appraise a surveillance or screening program</li><li>• Design a surveillance or screening program for a population</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	The course will consist of lectures and practical sessions.
<b>Assessment:</b>	An assignment in the form of an Essay.

### Further Statistics (Elective)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Pamela Warner
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Pamela Warner
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 <b>Weeks 1-5</b> Mondays 11:10-13:00 (Greenfield Computer lab) & Thursdays 9:00-10:50 (SSLT) <b>Weeks 6-10 Wednesdays 9:00-10:50</b> (Greenfield/SSLT)
<b>Short course description:</b>	<p>This course is designed to consolidate understanding of the key statistical concepts introduced in the core <i>Introduction to Statistics (ItS)</i> course, and build on these, extending knowledge and skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Further types of simple analysis, and more advanced methods (eg for more than 2 groups, using data transformations, repeated measurements).</li><li>· Use of stratification to explore confounding and effect modification.</li><li>· Sample size calculations.</li></ul>
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	Introduction to Statistics (core)
<b>Aim:</b>	To provide students with a deeper understanding of basic methods of data summary and statistical inference as applied in public health and medical research, and to provide experience and training in applying these appropriately to data, and in reporting findings.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	<p>By the end of the course students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Select and apply a data transformation/method of analysis appropriate to each of a variety of analytical objectives and data distributions/structures.</li><li>▪ Use both a calculator and the software package SPSS to perform a broad range of statistical analyses, and be able to interpret these appropriately</li><li>▪ Understand the issues in sample size estimation and undertake simple sample size calculations.</li><li>▪ Understand the rationale for stratification and deploy this technique to explore confounding and effect modification.</li><li>▪ Interpret appropriately the results of statistical analyses undertaken</li></ul> <p>New topics to be covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Sample size estimation for simple studies</li></ul>

- Analysis of variance (including for repeated measures data).
- Non-parametric/ distribution-free methods, including non-par correlation
- Confidence limits for median and difference of two medians
- Assessment of measurement quality/agreement between a pair of variables by the methods of McNemar, kappa and Bland-Altman
- Chi-squared test for association in larger two-way tables, including trend test and paired proportion data
- Stratification, including *brief introduction* to: Mantel-H adjusted OR for association in 2x2 tables stratified by a third variable (and chi-squared test)
- Introduction (only) to logistic regression as alternative for trend test and MH adjusted OR

**Teaching methods:**

The course teaching is designed to allow each student to work at her/his own pace, with tutor support. The main engagement with new material is via specified preparatory readings and computer laboratory practicals, with tutors in attendance. There are minimal formal lectures but there will be overview lectures and handouts bringing out key points in the material studied each week (readings and laboratory/calculator exercises). Optimum learning will require full engagement with preparatory reading, computer practicals and calculator exercises. Throughout the entire course, formative quizzes/tasks will enable students to monitor their learning.

**Assessment:**

Examination with structured questions.

## Genetic Epidemiology (Elective)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Jim Wilson
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Jim Wilson
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 Weeks 7-11 Tuesday & Friday 11:10-13:00
<b>Short course description:</b>	This course will provide an introduction to the basic principles of genetic epidemiology applied to complex diseases of public health importance. The course will introduce sufficient basic concepts in genetics to motivate the later explanations, and then consider the range of study designs used in practice and the rationales for these. Appropriate statistical methods will be outlined and other issues such as public on-line sources of genetic data and ethical principles will also be discussed.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	Further Statistics
<b>Aim:</b>	To introduce students to some basic concepts of genetics, and then describe the key study designs and methods used in the investigation of the genetic causes of common, complex diseases that impact on public health.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand basic concepts in genetics such as recombination, PCR, microsatellite markers, etc.</li><li>• Understand the concept of complex, as opposed to Mendelian, diseases.</li><li>• Be familiar with commonly used study designs, such as association and nuclear family designs, and understand strengths and weaknesses of these.</li><li>• Understand the principles of the appropriate methods of statistical analysis for these designs.</li><li>• Be able to evaluate and assess published literature in genetic epidemiology.</li><li>• Have exposure to on-line sources of genetic data.</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	The course will consist of a series of ten 2 hour lecture/ seminar sessions.
<b>Assessment:</b>	Written examination, consisting of short answer questions.

## **Global Health Epidemiology (Elective)**

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Professor Harry Campbell
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Professor Harry Campbell
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 Thursday 11:10-13:00
<b>Short course description:</b>	This module will consider some research aspects of important topics in International Health, including burden of disease estimation, policy and investment matters, research ethics, gender issues and international development. The student will gain some experience of international health issues through 2 case studies in two different areas of international health research: HIV & palliative care research in Africa. A session will also discuss practical issues in conducting health research in developing countries.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Aim:</b>	
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	By the end of the module the student will understand and be able to critically discuss <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• main results and the methods employed in estimating Global Burden of Disease</li><li>• links between GBD and health policy - investment in global health research</li><li>• research ethics considerations in international health research</li><li>• research issues on gender and international health / development</li><li>• issues of research logistics in developing countries</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	6 x 2 hour lectures/seminars
<b>Assessment:</b>	An essay

## Health Promotion (Elective)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Professor Amanda Amos
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Professor Amanda Amos and guest lecturers
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 1 Weeks 1-11 Monday 11:10-13:00
<b>Short course description:</b>	The course will introduce and explore some of the key concepts and models in health promotion and health education and their underpinning principles and values. The main part of the course will consider the stages involved in health promotion programme planning, development and evaluation. This will include critical reflection on most widely used models and theories of health-related behavioural change. Examples of good practice will be used to illustrate and explore key issues.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Aim:</b>	To provide an introduction to the theory and practice of health promotion, and to critically review approaches to planning and evaluation in health promotion and their application.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe and discuss the factors, principles, perspectives and theories which contribute to and shape current health promotion policy and practice.</li><li>• Show a critical understanding of a range of approaches and methods used in health promotion planning and evaluation, and their appropriateness and applicability.</li><li>• Describe and discuss the main stages involved in planning and evaluating health promotion programmes and activities.</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	The course will use a mixture of learning methods including lectures, workshops and self-directed learning.
<b>Assessment:</b>	An essay (2500 words) in which the student will produce a plan for a health promotion programme or intervention on a topic of their own choice.

## Introduction to Global Health (Elective)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser</b>	Dr Ruth McQuillan
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Ruth McQuillan
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 1, weeks 1-11 Monday, 14:00-15:50

**Short course description:** This is a seminar-based course which aims to provide an overview of key issues, themes and challenges in global health. The first 2 weeks of the course set the scene by exploring what is meant by global health, examining different approaches to global health priority-setting and looking at sources of global health data. The next four weeks take an epidemiological approach, focusing on the global burden of infectious disease, non-communicable disease, maternal and child health and injury and violence. The final four weeks of the course focus on the cross-cutting issues of health inequity, gender, participation and health systems.

The first 2 sessions of the course will be delivered in traditional lecture format, followed by discussion. The remainder of the course will be seminar-based, with each seminar being led by a different group of students. In preparation for each seminar, all students will be expected to watch a weekly online lecture and do a short preparation exercise before coming to class.

**Course prerequisites:** None

**Learning objectives:** At the completion of this course, you should:

- Understand what is meant by global health and how this term has evolved and be aware of some of the key institutions involved in influencing global health policy and outcomes today;
- Be familiar with some of the basic statistical and epidemiological terms you are likely to come across, be aware of the challenges inherent in producing reliable global health data and be aware of what is meant by the global burden of disease approach;
- Understand the characteristics and underlying drivers of key global health challenges in infectious disease, non-communicable disease, maternal and child health and injury and violence.
- Understand what is meant by health inequity and the social determinants of health and appreciate the central importance of acting on health inequity in order to meet global health goals.
- Be aware of the impact of gender on health outcomes across the life course and of approaches to analysing and

understanding the impact of gender on health outcomes.

- Be familiar with the concept of participation in the context of health and healthcare and understand the role of civil society organisations in influencing health and healthcare policy and outcomes in different global settings.
- Understand what is meant by a health system and appreciate the ways in which acting on health systems can bring about health improvement.

**Assessment:**

A 1500 word essay on a topic to be announced, plus a 1000 word reflective piece of writing on a topic of the student's choice, based on the seminar session that he/she helped to lead.

## Investing in Global Health and Development (Elective)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Professor Igor Rudan
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Professor Igor Rudan
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 1 Weeks 6-11 Tuesday 11:10-13:00 Friday 11:10-13:00
<b>Short course description:</b>	<p>A need for transparent, fair, replicable processes and tools that could be used to direct global health funding, set priorities for investments, monitoring the distribution of funding in real time, and evaluate the impact of those investments, is now greater than ever before. In this course we will present a range of conceptual frameworks and tools that are available for priority setting, monitoring and evaluation of investments in global health and development that could be used by funders, managers, recipients and other stakeholders at the global, regional, national and sub-national level. We will present a number of original solutions to cost-effective investing in global health and development. We will also provide an assessment of the applicability and strengths of several tools developed by groups from the University of Edinburgh and beyond.</p>
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	<p>For the range of systems for investing in global health described below, students will be able to:</p> <p>discuss the principles &amp; ethos of each;</p> <p>demonstrate the ability to apply them to real-life situations;</p> <p>appraise critically the strengths and weaknesses of each approach and their application in practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EQUISTCHNRI</li><li>• PLANET</li><li>• approaches based on collective knowledge/intelligence</li><li>• mHealth/eHealth</li></ul> <p>the "stock market" approach</p>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	Lectures

**Assessment:** 2500 word essay

**Public Health Ethics (Elective)**

**Credit Value:** 10

**Course Organiser:** Professor Kenneth Boyd / Dr Martyn Pickersgill

**Course Instructor(s):** Professor Kenneth Boyd / Dr Martyn Pickersgill / Dr Lydie Fialova

**Time:** Semester 1 Weeks 6-11  
Wednesday 14:00-15:50

**Short course description:** The course will examine some of the key ethical issues in public health, including the links between local and global perspectives and concerns. It will consider how approaches from and debates within philosophy, the social sciences and law (for instance, about personhood, dignity, rights and justice) can contribute to our understanding of the historical and contemporary shaping of current ethical issues, the nature of their impact in relation to public health, and how they might be tackled. Topics to be covered include health promotion, infectious diseases, and screening.

**Course prerequisites:** Introduction to Research Ethics

**Learning objectives:** By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Explain the significance of some of the key ethical concerns in public health today.
- Describe the links between individual and societal rights, and local and global concerns.
- Analyse current and emerging concerns in public health by drawing on concepts and debates from philosophy and the social sciences.
- Evaluate ethical arguments in terms of how debates emerge and how agendas are set.
- Recommend solutions for ethical concerns.

**Teaching methods:** Lectures

**Assessment:** 2500 word essay

## **Qualitative Research in Health (Elective) - 10 credits**

**Course Organiser:** Dr Marilyn Kendall

**Course teachers:** Dr Emma Carduff, Dr Bruce Mason; Dr Suzanne Grant; Dr Nick Jenkins; Dr Ellen Stewart, Dr Marilyn Kendall.

**Time:** Semester 2 Weeks 7-11 Wednesday 11.10 -13.00

### **Course description**

This course is an in-depth examination of qualitative approaches, methods and issues, looking specifically at their application in health related research. It includes narrative research, qualitative longitudinal and multi-perspective research, ethnography, researching sensitive issues, online researching and different analytical approaches.

**Course prerequisites:** Introduction to qualitative research, or equivalent

### **Learning outcomes:**

- Development of an in-depth understanding of the application of qualitative research methods in the investigation of health related issues
- Knowledge of different approaches to conducting qualitative research
- Ability to critically assess established and novel approaches in the field

**Assessment:** Written assignment

## Resource Allocation and Health Economics (Elective)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	20
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Joel Smith
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Joel Smith
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 Weeks 1-5, 7-11 Thursday 14:00-15:50
<b>Short course description:</b>	This course will examine the economic principles and methods used to analyse health and health care. The emphasis is on the application of economics to key research issues and policy challenges surrounding the health of populations.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Aim:</b>	To illustrate how economic principles and methods can be used to inform research and knowledge based policy in health and health care.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gain knowledge of the central insights of microeconomic theory that can be applied to health and health care.</li><li>• Develop understanding of market and non-market mechanisms for financing and organising efficient provision of health care.</li><li>• Acquire skills for conducting and appraising economic evaluations of health programmes and policies.</li><li>• Enhance awareness of how concepts of equity and fairness can be used to evaluate inequality and inequity in health and health care.</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	Teaching will involve a mixture of lectures and workshops.
<b>Assessment:</b>	Written assignment of around 3,500 words.

## **Sociology of Health and Illness (Elective)**

<b>Credit Value:</b>	20
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Jeni Harden
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Jeni Harden
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 Weeks 1-5, 7-11 Wednesday 14:00-15:50
<b>Short course description:</b>	This course introduces sociological perspectives on health, illness and the practice of public health. Key themes include the social patterning health and illness, lay and expert knowledge, constructions of health and illness, and lay /expert relations.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Aim:</b>	To introduce students to the main theoretical perspectives in the sociology of health and illness, and their application in public health research.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	Students will develop an understanding of different sociological perspectives and be able to evaluate the strengths and weakness of different theories.  They will learn to examine key concepts and approaches in public health from a critical sociological perspective, developing their awareness of issues regarding the production and distribution of power and knowledge.  They learn to link individual experiences of health and illness with social forces, group dynamics, and the social construction of normality.
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	Seminars will be structured around key themes, and will examine key research papers. All students are required to do pre-seminar reading and make one presentation to the class, which will be assessed.
<b>Assessment:</b>	Seminar presentation (20%) and an assignment of 2,500 words (80%).

## Statistical Modelling (Elective)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	10
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Niall Anderson
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Dr Niall Anderson / Dr Linda Williams
<b>Time:</b>	Semester 2 Weeks 7-11 Monday 11.10-13.00, Thursday 9:00-10:50
<b>Short course description:</b>	This course describes the main principles of statistical modelling and introduces three types of model commonly used in epidemiological studies: linear regression, logistic regression and survival analysis.
<b>Course prerequisites:</b>	Introduction to Statistics, Further Statistics (or equivalent experience)
<b>Aim:</b>	To introduce students to the principles and practice of statistical modelling, and to provide training and experience in applying these appropriately to data using statistical software.
<b>Learning objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Show knowledge of and ability to select and interpret results of suitable analytical approaches to statistical modelling</li><li>• Show knowledge of approaches to exploring interactions and confounding.</li><li>• Understand the principles of good practice in model building and validation.</li><li>• Demonstrate an understanding of the interpretation of linear regression, logistic regression and survival analyses.</li><li>• Undertake modelling exercises appropriately using statistical software.</li></ul> <p>Topics to be covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Simple and multifactorial linear models, including ANOVA models</li><li>• binary logistic regression</li><li>• Kaplan-Meier plots and log-rank tests</li><li>• Cox proportional hazards model</li><li>• variable selection methods</li><li>• diagnostic methods</li></ul>
<b>Teaching methods:</b>	Lectures, class exercises & computing practicals
<b>Assessment:</b>	Assignment comprising data report.

## Dissertation (Core)

<b>Credit Value:</b>	60
<b>Course Organiser:</b>	Dr Niall Anderson, Dr Christine Campbell & Professor Sarah Wild
<b>Course Instructor(s):</b>	Personal supervisors
<b>Course Prerequisites:</b>	Variable, depending upon type of project proposed
<b>Aim:</b>	To undertake a library-based or empirical research project.
<b>Learning Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Select a research question/ area of study.</li><li>• Develop an appropriate methodology to investigate their research question.</li><li>• Prepare and analyse secondary data, or undertake a philosophical/ critical analysis of library materials.</li><li>• Apply critical skills to evaluating the research they have carried out</li><li>• Present a comprehensive write up of the research and its findings (Max. 12,000 words excluding bibliography, appendices and data presentation).</li></ul>
<b>Teaching Methods:</b>	<p>The allocation of supervisors will occur during Semester 1. Students can expect to meet with their dissertation supervisor for between 6-10 hours during the course of the academic year. These meetings should be used to develop and refine a research question, discuss the design of the study or dissertation (if theoretical), develop an appropriate methodology, discuss the analysis and presentation of the findings, in addition to any trouble shooting that may be required. The timing and duration of these meetings is to be agreed between the student and their supervisor. Records of these meetings should be kept by the student and will be kept by the supervisors.</p> <p>Supervisors will read the dissertation not more than two times. They may comment upon each chapter as it is written and one complete draft of the dissertation. The date for submission of draft work (both individual chapters and complete draft) is to be organised by the supervisor and student.</p>
<b>Assessment:</b>	Formal dissertation – maximum 12000 words

## 7.4 External Courses

The following are courses that run outside the Centre for Population Health Sciences but are related to postgraduate public health study\*. Students may take these courses as part of their elective credits. Please note there may be clashes with our time table and permission may be required by the course organiser to attend. Course descriptions and timetable information can be found at <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/14-15/>

### **School of Social and Political Science:**

**Contact:** [Gradschool.sps@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Gradschool.sps@ed.ac.uk)

Analysing Qualitative Data  
Core Quantitative Data Analysis 1 and 2  
Economic Issues in Health Policy  
Global Politics of Public Health  
Globalisation and Public Health  
Health Systems Reform & Public Private Partnerships  
Introduction to Health Systems  
Introduction to Medical Anthropology  
Population Health and Health Policy  
Qualitative Methods and Ethnographic Fieldwork  
Research Design  
Research Skills in Social Sciences: Data Collection  
Social Determinants of Health and Public Policy  
Survey Methods and Data

### **School of Molecular, Genetic & Population Health Sciences**

Emerging Infectious Diseases\*\*  
Evidence Based Medicine\*\*  
Family Medicine in Developing & Emerging Economy Health Care\*\*  
Global Health Challenges: An Introduction\*\*  
Globalisation and Non Communicable Diseases\*\*  
HIV and Non Communicable Diseases\*\*  
Maternal Health\*\*  
Neglected Tropical Diseases\*\*  
Newborn and Child Health\*\*  
Water and Sanitation\*\*

\*This list should not be taken as exhaustive.

\*\*These courses are offered via distance learning. Once registered for these courses you may not opt out.

## 7.5 Workshops

We are pleased to be able to offer a number of Workshops in Semesters One and Two run by Information Services, ELTC and CPHS. To get the most out of your time on the MPH, we advise taking part in all sessions.

<p><b>Writing a PG Assignment</b>                  Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014                  and Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October                  2014, 11am-12pm, Faculty                  Room South, DHT</p>	<p>This session is run by the English Language Teaching Centre and is designed to introduce some of the skills needed to complete pieces of writing for formal assessment of Masters courses.</p>
<p><b>Literature Searching Workshop</b>                  Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> September                  2014, 14:00-16:00                  Greenfield Lab (Large)</p>	<p>This session is run by Marshall Dozier of the Main Library; it will offer hands on advice about searching for research literature in bibliographic databases.</p>
<p><b>CMVM Scientific Academic Writing – On-Line Course October- November 2014 (More detailed dates to follow)</b></p>	<p>This course is run over 5 weeks entirely using Learn. It covers topics such as                  The nature of academic writing                  Use of sources &amp; avoiding plagiarism                  Writing an introduction                  Writing critically                  Concluding and revising                  Students will undertake a short written exercise each week that will build into a single essay by the end of the course. Members of the programme team will provide feedback on this final piece of work (NB no marks awarded – this will not contribute to the formal assessment of the programme).</p>
<p><b>Public Health Research: Dissertation Writing</b>                  Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015                  14:00                  SSLT</p>	<p>This session provides advice and information on how to write your MPH dissertation. This will include practical tips on how to plan your thesis, writing as a process, style and structure. It will also include advice on what examiners are looking for, what makes a good thesis and common mistakes.</p>

## 8.0 Timetable

### 8.1 Session Dates

<http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/semester-dates/201415>

#### Semester 1

08 – 12 September 2013	Induction Week
15 September – 17 October	Block 1
20 October – 28 November	Block 2
01 December – 05 December	Revision week
08 December – 19 December	Exams/Assessment
22 December – 11 January 2015	Winter Break

#### Semester 2

12 January – 13 February 2015	Block 3
16 – 20 February	Innovative Learning Week*
23 February – 3 April	Block 4
6 April – 17 April	Spring Vacation
20 April – 24 April	Revision week
27 April – 22 May	Exams/Assessment
20 August	Dissertation Submission

Please be advised the Main Library hours may vary during the winter and spring breaks along with statutory holidays.

\*Note that Semester 2 courses that run over the entire semester will NOT run during the Innovative Learning Week, i.e. courses are weeks 1-5 and 7-11.

## 8.2 Induction Week Schedule & Important Dates

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2014

8:00am-10:00pm	Welcome Service at Edinburgh Airport and Waverley Railway Station ( <a href="http://www.ed.ac.uk/staff-students/students/new-students/arrival/1.76796">http://www.ed.ac.uk/staff-students/students/new-students/arrival/1.76796</a> ).
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### Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2014

10:00	International Day: Welcome Session, 10am-4pm Appleton Tower, George Square. For further information please contact the International Office by email at: <a href="mailto:isas@ed.ac.uk">isas@ed.ac.uk</a>
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### Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014

10:00 – 11:30 am	CMVM Induction, Anatomy Lecture Theatre, Medical School (Doorway 3), Teviot Place
5:00 – 7:00pm	Postgraduate Speed Networking, Debating Hall, Teviot Row House

### Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014

12:30 – 4:00pm	Postgraduate Taught Student Welcome, Assembly Hall, New College
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### Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014

10:15 – 11:45 am	Programme Induction & Departmental Tour: Welcome Session by Dr Niall Anderson and Professor Harry Campbell
12:30-1:30 pm	Lunch

### Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014

10:00 am	Tour of the Greenfield Suite Microlab / Library Induction/Learn Introduction Meet at CPHS Coffee Room at 9:45 am
2:00 pm	<i>Tour of the Greenfield Suite Microlab / Library Induction/Learn Introduction</i> <i>Meet at CPHS Coffee Room at 1:45 pm</i>

### Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014

9:30- 1:00pm	Course Selection Session: Course Organiser Talk / Q & A Session regarding Course Choices (SSLT)
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### **Semester One Dates to Remember**

**Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014 – Week 1**

1:00-2:00pm	Week one Lunch, CPHS Coffee Room
2:00pm	Individual Photographs for all Students plus Group picture (Please note the photos will be used on the Departmental Board only, not posted on the Internet at any time), SSLT

**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014 – Week 6**

9:00am	Individual Photographs (if not taken in Week 1), Usher Room (Mandatory Attendance)
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**Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014 – Week 10**

	<b>Assignment submission deadline:</b> Introduction to Research Ethics
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**Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 – Week 12**

	<b>Assignment submission deadline:</b> Introduction to Epidemiology
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**Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014 – Week 12**

	<b>Assignment submission deadline:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Global Health</li> <li>• Public Health Ethics</li> </ul>
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**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 – Week 13**

	<b>Assignment submission deadline:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Promotion</li> <li>• Investing in Global Health &amp; Development</li> </ul>
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**Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 – Week 13**

	<b>Assignment submission deadline:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Qualitative Research</li> </ul>
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## Semester Two Dates to Remember

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015

	<b>Semester 1 marks and feedback returned</b>
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### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015

2:00-5.00pm	Dissertation Writing Workshop (SSLT)
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### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015

2:00-4.00pm	Dissertation Information Session (SSLT)
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### Thursday, 2nd April 2015

	<b>Assignment submission deadline:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced Protocol Development</li> <li>• Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases</li> </ul>
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### Tuesday, 21st April 2015

	<b>Assignment submission deadline:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Systematic Reviews</li> <li>• Statistical Modelling</li> <li>• Epidemiology for Public Health</li> </ul>
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### Thursday, 23rd April 2015

	<b>Assignment submission deadline:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Health Epidemiology</li> <li>• Sociology of Health and Illness</li> </ul>
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### Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015

	<b>Assignment submission deadline:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical Trials</li> <li>• Communicable Disease Control</li> </ul>
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### Thursday, 30th April 2015

	<b>Assignment submission deadline:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualitative Research in Health</li> <li>• Resource Allocation and Health Economics</li> </ul>
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### Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015

	<b>Semester 2 marks and feedback returned</b>
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### **Later Dates to Remember**

**Thursday, 20th August 2014**

4.00pm	<b>Dissertation submission deadline:</b>
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NB **Exam dates** in both Semesters are set by Registry at central university level  
– students will be notified of relevant dates as they become available.

### **8.3 Course Timetable for 2014/15**

**The course timetable is also available online within Learn and is posted on the MPH Information Board outside the SSLT. Any changes or cancellations of classes will be posted on Learn.**

**Master of Public Health Timetable 2014-15**  
**Semester 1 Block 1, 15 Sep – 17 Oct 2014 (Weeks 1 – 5)**

Core Courses (10 Credits)	Additional Sessions
10 Credit Elective	Workshops: Dissertation
20 Credit Elective	

	9:00-9:50	10:00-10:50	11:10-12:00	12:10-13:00	13:00-14:00	14:00-14:50	15:00-15:50	16:10-17:00
<b>Mon</b>			<b>Health Promotion</b> SSLT			<b>Intro to Global Health</b> SSLT		
<b>Tues</b>		<b>Intro to Statistics</b> SSLT	<b>16 September</b> Writing a PG Assignment <i>Faculty Room South, DHT</i> <b>30 September</b> Writing a PG Assignment Feedback <i>Faculty Room South, DHT</i>			<b>Intro to Epidemiology</b> SSLT plus tutorial rooms when required		
<b>Wed</b>			<b>Intro to Qualitative Research</b> SSLT			<b>Intro to Research Ethics</b> SSLT		
<b>Thurs</b>								
<b>Fri</b>	<b>Intro to Statistics</b> SSLT + <i>BMTO tutorial rooms (4) (9:00-10:00)</i> SSLT 10:00-11:00		<b>19 September</b> Literature Searching/Review Workshop <i>Greenfield Lab (Large Room)</i>		<b>Wk 1 Lunch</b>			

**Master of Public Health Timetable 2014-15**  
**Semester 1 Block 2, 20 Oct – 28 Nov 2013 (Weeks 6 – 11)**

	9:00-9:50	10:00-10:50	11:10-12:00	12:10-13:00	13:00-14:00	14:00-14:50	15:00-15:50	16:10-17:00
<b>Mon</b>			Health Promotion <i>SSLT</i>			Intro to Global Health <i>SSLT</i>		
<b>Tues</b>	Intro to Statistics <i>Greenfield Large Lab</i>		Investigating Global Health Development <i>SSLT</i>			Intro to Epidemiology <i>SSLT plus tutorial rooms where required</i>		
<b>Wed</b>			Intro to Qualitative Research <i>SSLT</i>			Public Health Ethics <i>SSLT</i>		
<b>Thurs</b>								
<b>Fri</b>		Intro to Statistics <i>SSLT</i>	Investigating Global Health Development <i>SSLT</i>					

**Exam/Assessment Period: 8 – 19 December 2014**

**Term Break: 19 December 2014 – 12 January 2015**

**Master of Public Health Timetable 2014-15**  
**Semester 2 Block 3, 12 Jan – 13 Feb 2014 (Weeks 1 – 5)**

	9:00-9:50	10:00-10:50	11:10-12:00	12:10-13:00	13:00-14:00	14:00-14:50	15:00-15:50	16:10-17:00
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Evaluation of Complex Interventions</b> <i>7 George Square, S37</i>		<b>Further Statistics</b> <i>Greenfield Microlab</i>			<b>Epidemiology for Public Health</b> <i>SSLT</i>		
<b>Tues</b>	<b>Communicable Disease Control &amp; Health Protection</b> <i>SSLT</i>		<b>Epidemiology for Chronic Diseases</b> <i>SSLT</i>			<b>Clinical Trials</b> <i>SSLT</i>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Advanced Protocol Development</b> <i>SSLT</i>		<b>Global Burden of Mental Illness</b> BMT0 Tutorial Room 3			<b>Sociology of Health &amp; Illness</b> <i>SSLT</i>		
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Further Statistics</b> <i>SSLT</i>		<b>Global Health Epidemiology</b> <i>SSLT</i>			<b>Resource Allocation &amp; Health Economics</b> <i>SSLT</i>		
<b>Fri</b>			<b>Epidemiology for Chronic Diseases</b> <i>SSLT</i>			<b>Intro to Systematic Reviews</b> <i>SSLT</i>		

**Master of Public Health Timetable 2014-15**  
**Semester 2 Block 4, 23 Feb – 3 April 2014 (Weeks 6 – 11)**

	9:00-9:50	10:00-10:50	11:10-12:00	12:10-13:00	13:00-14:00	14:00-14:50	15:00-15:50	16:10-17:00
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Evaluation of Complex Interventions</b> <i>7 George Square, S37</i>		<b>Statistical Modelling</b> <i>Greenfield Microlab</i>			<b>Epidemiology for Public Health</b> <i>SSLT</i>		
<b>Tues</b>	<b>Communicable Disease Control &amp; Health Protection</b> <i>SSLT</i>		<b>Genetic Epidemiology</b> <i>SSLT</i>			<b>Clinical Trials</b> <i>SSLT</i>		
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Further Statistics</b> <i>Greenfield Microlab / SSLT</i>		<b>Qualitative Research in Health</b> <i>SSLT</i>			<b>Sociology of Health &amp; Illness</b> <i>SSLT</i>		
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Statistical Modelling</b> <i>Greenfield Microlab</i>		<b>Global Health Epidemiology</b> <i>SSLT</i>			<b>Resource Allocation &amp; Health Economics</b> <i>SSLT</i>		
<b>Fri</b>			<b>Genetic Epidemiology</b> <i>SSLT</i>			<b>Intro to Systematic Reviews</b> <i>SSLT</i>		

**Term Break: 6 April – 17 April 2015**

**Exam/Assessment Period: 27 April – 22 May 2015**

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