

**DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD**

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| Course Title  | <b>BSc (Hons) Public Health</b>  |
| Awarding Bodies   | <b>University of Suffolk</b>   |
| Level of Award <sup>1</sup>                               | <b>FHEQ Level 6</b>  |
| Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition | <b>None</b>  |
| Credit Structure <sup>2</sup>                             | <b>360 Credits<br/>Level 4: 120 Credits<br/>Level 5: 120 Credits<br/>Level 6: 120 Credits</b>  |
| Mode of Attendance  | <b>Full-time and Part-time</b>   |
| Standard Length of Course <sup>3</sup>                    | <b>3 years full-time</b>   |
| Intended Award  | <b>BSc (Hons) Public Health</b>  |
| Named Exit Awards   | <b>DipHE Public Health<br/>CertHE Public Health</b>  |
| Entry Requirements <sup>4</sup>                           | <b>Typical Offer: 110 UCAS tariff points (or equivalent)</b><br><br><b>For those students with A levels, at least one ‘A2’ level should be in a science subject, at grade D or above (or equivalent). Note Nutrition, Sports Science, and Health and Social Care count as science A-levels for the purpose of this programme. Students with a BTEC National Diploma in a relevant subject (e.g. BTEC ND Health) require merit-merit-merit profile.</b><br><br><b>Five GCSEs grade C or above (or equivalent) to include English, Mathematics and Science</b> |
| Delivering Institution(s)                                 | <b>University of Suffolk</b>   |
| UCAS Code   | <b>L431</b>  |

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BSc (Hons) Public Health course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2017/18 academic year<sup>5</sup>.

**Course Summary**

Public health refers to the science and art of promoting and protecting health and well-being, preventing ill-health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society. The aim of

<sup>1</sup> For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

<sup>3</sup> Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

<sup>4</sup> Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

<sup>5</sup> The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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this academic BSc honours degree programme is to develop graduates with a strong understanding of the principles of public health who are able to apply that knowledge in practice. The programme arose out of increased national and international interest in upstream, population-based preventative healthcare, crystallised in recent legislative changes to healthcare provision.

Public health is at the forefront of tackling the broad range of factors that influence health and lead to health inequalities. This public health programme is designed for people interested in the possibilities of public health initiatives, both within the UK and globally, to help improve people's health through social change, empowerment and improved quality health care.

The Faculty of Public Health (FPH) is the standard setting body for specialists in public health in the United Kingdom. The FPH is a joint faculty of the three Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom (London, Edinburgh and Glasgow).

- The FPH identifies three domains of public health practice:
- Health protection
- Health improvement
- Service quality

These domains are further supported by nine key competency areas that may be addressed through training and education:

**Key Area 1:** Surveillance and assessment of the population's health and wellbeing

**Key Area 2:** Assessing the evidence of effectiveness of health and healthcare interventions, programmes and services

**Key Area 3:** Policy and strategy development and implementation

**Key Area 4:** Strategic leadership and collaborative working for health

**Key Area 5:** Health Improvement

**Key Area 6:** Health Protection

**Key Area 7:** Health and Social Service Quality

**Key Area 8:** Public Health Intelligence

**Key Area 9:** Academic Public Health

Although the FPH do not currently validate any undergraduate programme, this degree would seek to structure itself around the competencies laid out by the FPH as an exemplar of good practice. By doing so, successful graduates will have acquired a thorough knowledge across the broad public health arena and be well placed to secure employment across a wide range of roles. This may be in order to gain the professional experience required to apply for specialty training in public health and obtain Fellowship of the Faculty as a public health specialist or for a career in an allied field, either within the UK or overseas. Additionally, graduates would be extremely well placed for further postgraduate study, in particular for a masters or doctorate in public health.

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This body of knowledge will be underpinned by an understanding of valid epidemiological evidence that can be applied to health promotion stratagem in specialist areas. In addition the significance of, and relationship between, global institutions such as the World Health Organisation and international policies, such as the Ottawa Charter, to local, national and international approaches to public health will be assessed. Students will engage with and apply scientific evidence to the promotion of specific health concerns such as healthy eating and sexual health. They will discuss the significance of global policies to international, national and local policies and strategies.

An integrated curriculum design has been developed, structured around four main strands.

1. **Academic core subject areas**, which introduce, develop and consolidate key themes across the programme: Pathophysiology, epidemiology, health promotion, health and social psychology, health economics and policy. These areas are represented in the mandatory modules that form the academic core of the degree scheme. Academic integrity, fundamental to student employability, has been developed and based on QAA subject benchmarks drawn from health studies, social policy and administration, medicine, sociology and psychology.
2. **Academic optional module** which introduces the concept of public health leadership, enabling students to understand and apply underlying theoretical concepts in ways that can be utilised within the workplace.
3. **Work-based optional module** which offers students the opportunity to gain direct experience in the workplace in which they can develop personal and professional skills and specifically apply their academic knowledge to real public health issues that are currently being addressed in their workplace area.
4. **Academic, personal, professional and scholarly skills**, integrated throughout the curriculum with a focus on case study learning. These are particularly highlighted at each level in three mandatory modules bringing together the three above strands of the degree scheme. At level 4 the students take personal and professional development, at level 5 research methods, culminating at level 6 with the dissertation module.

This degree aims to meet the need for graduates knowledgeable and skilled in the theory and practice of public health, equipping students with appropriate skills and knowledge that can be employed within the workplace. The overarching principle is that understanding the diverse nature of health and its importance in protecting and promoting the health of individuals and society is both intrinsically valuable and vital to the wellbeing of society. Generating graduates equipped in this way is considered to be a collaborative process between the School of Science, Technology and Health, the workplace and the students. This process is regarded as a creative partnership which acknowledges the importance of developing students' knowledge base and personal experiences of health, and facilitating their desire to pro-actively apply and utilize them in their own lives, in the workplace and within society as a whole.

Understanding the multifactorial but holistic nature of public health involves challenging, analysing and utilising existing theories and knowledge; reflecting and evaluating people's personal and practical experiences; critically assessing and considering the value and importance of research in developing and investigating the nature of health and wellbeing in society; and looking at the application of knowledge, evidence bases and a variety of public health skills to effect change in society. Health is understood to have diverse and various meanings; to be directly relevant and applicable to the individual, to be part of the

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individual's own society and culture as part of a wider global community. We consider wellbeing to be where an individual is empowered and able to support their own personal and professional development, contributing towards society in a creative and constructive way.

Underpinning these approaches, is the belief that theory, research and practical experience of public health are inter-related and interface with one another. Thus knowledge and understanding of health can be developed in a meaningful and constructive way, enabling individuals to directly apply it to specific areas of need. Thus, the degree programme will raise awareness of the individual's responsibility towards developing their knowledge base and personal experience of health and wellbeing through the academic integrity of the curriculum. It promotes the student's personal development in gaining key transferable graduate skills, and provides them with the option to experience learning in industry thereby gaining management and leadership skills, which they can extend and apply as responsible and proactive members of society and highly employable practitioners.

### Course Aims

- To enable the student to gain a comprehensive understanding of the diverse and multi-disciplinary nature of public health as shaped by individual human experience, theoretical constructs and informed by epidemiological, social, cultural and global factors.
- To enable the student to develop a critical understanding of the principles of human pathophysiology, epidemiology, health and social policy, health promotion and health economics and apply them to specific health needs of individuals and groups.
- To facilitate the student to develop a reflective, critical ability and to recognise and evaluate the relationship between individual human experience, theoretical constructs and evidenced based knowledge.
- To offer students the opportunity to apply and evaluate knowledge in relation to the practice of public health in the workplace and to formulate management and leadership strategies to effect change; and to enable them to reflect on and demonstrate their comprehensive knowledge and practical ability in each of the key graduate skills at level 6.
- To enable the development of scholarly and research skills, including sourcing materials and analysis of the significance of research findings; the ability to seek out, use and evaluate quantitative and qualitative methodologies; the demonstration of understanding, application and analysis of epidemiological methodology and to facilitate students in undertaking a research dissertation.

### Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BSc (Hons) Public Health course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)<sup>6</sup>.

At the end of level 6 students will be able to:

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<sup>6</sup> As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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### **Knowledge and Understanding**

1. Investigate, explore and critically examine a specialist subject pertaining to public health which is of particular interest to them.

### **Mental or cognitive skills**

2. Critically compare and assess differences between local and global health contexts and apply this to local health promotion needs and strategies.
3. Synthesise and critically analyse public health issues and relevant strategies pertaining to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

### **Subject Specific and Practical Skills**

4. Apply, critically evaluate, and integrate scientific processes to health needs assessments and public health intervention strategies.
5. Critically analyse relevant and current debates surrounding the impact of key factors, advancements and developments in Global Health and appraise and evaluate interaction between, and interdependency of, global and local health issues.

### **Key Skills**

6. Demonstrate leadership qualities, including effective communication, initiative and proactive approaches, self-reflexivity; the ability to negotiate informally with peers and formally with members of organisations in understanding of others and adaptability in team situations.
7. Project manage your own dissertation including the ability to liaise with your supervisor and others as appropriate, follow University policy guidelines and prioritise your work; and be able to accurately reflect the research process, use an appropriate research design, and interpret, critically analyse and synthesise the significance of the process and your findings.
8. Demonstrate problem-solving skills including a strong ability to propose and critically evaluate alternative solutions to health and wellbeing promotion strategies at a local, national and international level.

### **Course Design**

The design and delivery of this course is guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- Health Studies (2008)
- Social Policy and Administration (2016)
- Medicine (2002)
- Sociology (2007)
- Psychology (2010)

### **Course Structure**

The BSc (Hons) Public Health comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

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|                | Module  | Credits | Module Type <sup>7</sup> |
|----------------|---|---------|--------------------------|
| <b>Level 4</b> |   |         |                          |
|                | Introduction to Psychology                    | 20      | M                        |
|                | Human Physiology                              | 20      | M                        |
|                | Human Physiological Measurements              | 20      | M                        |
|                | Principles of Health Promotion                | 20      | M                        |
|                | Epidemiology                                  | 20      | M                        |
|                | Personal and Professional Development         | 20      | M                        |
| <b>Level 5</b> |   |         |                          |
|                | Research Methods and Scientific Communication | 20      | M                        |
|                | Data Analysis and Statistics                  | 20      | M                        |
|                | Biology of Disease                            | 20      | M                        |
|                | Health Policy                                 | 20      | M                        |
|                | Social Marketing                              | 20      | M                        |
|                | Health Economics                              | 20      | M                        |
| <b>Level 6</b> |   |         |                          |
|                | Contemporary Issues in Public Health          | 40      | M                        |
|                | Global Health                                 | 20      | M                        |
|                | Dissertation                                  | 40      | M                        |
|                | One of the following:                         |         |                          |
|                | Public Health in Practice                     | 20      | O                        |
|                | Public Health Leadership                      | 20      | O                        |

Optional modules are only offered in the third year.

**Awards**

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BSc (Hons) Public Health. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Public Health on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Public Health on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

**Course Delivery**

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time on BSc (Hons) Public Health are likely to have approximately 15 contact hours for level 4, 15 contact hours for level 5 and 10 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars and workshop activities. Students will normally be expected to undertake a minimum of 14 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

<sup>7</sup> Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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### Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be approximately 60% coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) and 40% written and practical examinations.

### Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

### Course Costs

Students undertaking BSc (Hons) Public Health will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

| Student Group           | Tuition Fees                |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Full-time UK/EU         | £9,250 per year             |
| Part-time UK/EU         | £1,454 per 20 credit module |
| Full-time International | £10,080 per year            |
| Part-time International | £1,680 per 20 credit module |

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

### Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).