



MSc Public Health

Brighton and Sussex Medical
School

2025-2026

All you need to know before
you join us



brighton and sussex
medical school



Welcome to Your Future in Public Health!

Are you ready to make a difference?

The MSc Public Health at Brighton and Sussex Medical School equips you with the skills and knowledge to become a leader in public health, making a real impact on communities worldwide.

Join a vibrant, interdisciplinary learning environment guided by passionate experts who are at the forefront of public health research and practice.



Why Choose This Course?

- **Boutique Learning Experience:** Enjoy learning with a small cohort and dedicated tutors who will tailor your unique journey from start to finish and support you from before induction to employment.
- **Extracurricular Opportunities:** We offer exciting extracurricular experiences between teaching weeks. Engage in research seminars, community-building events, and interactive workshops that deepen your knowledge and strengthen your connections with peers and faculty.
- **Expert Guest Lectures and Employment Links:** Learn from guest lecturers who are leaders in their field, enhancing your educational experience with cutting-edge insights. These industry and sector connections provide valuable networking opportunities, paving the way for future employment and career growth.

A taster of our unique features:

Join exclusive extracurricular research projects where you'll collaborate with leading researchers to produce impactful reports that shape public health policies and interventions. A chance to gain real-world experience and make a tangible difference!

Engage in a powerful workshop on racism and health using innovative theatrical tools to explore systemic inequalities and their impact on public health. A unique, interactive experience that deepens understanding and inspires action.

Master advanced tools and approaches for Health Needs Assessments, equipping yourself with cutting-edge techniques to analyse data, identify key health challenges, and develop evidence-based interventions. Essential for future public health leaders!

Receive individually tailored employability support from the regional employability lead for public health, ensuring personalised career guidance, networking opportunities, and a strong pathway into your ideal role.

Be part of our research community by attending monthly seminars, featuring expert talks, engaging discussions, and a complimentary lunch. A great way to expand your knowledge, connect with researchers, and explore new ideas in a relaxed setting!

Course Pathways

Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) – 60 Credits (UK: £3,677 / International: £7,527)

Build a skills-focused, solid foundation in public health with key modules: Principles and Practice of Public Health; Two optional modules of your choice.

Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) – 120 Credits (UK: £7,353 / International: £15,053)

Deepen your expertise with advanced modules: Principles and Practice of Public Health; Epidemiology; Research Methods and Critical Appraisal; Essential Statistics for Health and Medical Research; Two optional modules tailored to your interests and career.

Master of Science (MSc) – 180 Credits (UK: £11,030 / International: £22,580)

Master the field with comprehensive research and practice: All core modules from the PGDip; Either two optional modules and a 60-credit dissertation OR three optional modules and a 40-credit dissertation by publication.

Postgraduate 20-credit single modules UK: £1,226 (per module)

Module Overview

See further details at the end of this document

| Module Name | Module Lead | Assessment Type | Month in the Year |
|--|--|--|--|
| Principles and Practice of Public Health (MDM50) | Dr Tilly Paz | Skills Portfolio | Mid-October |
| Research Methods and Critical Appraisal (MDM10) | Dr Sara Donetto | Research Proposal | Multiple occurrences (recommended in November) |
| Global Burden and Management of Disease (MDM102) | Dr Anne Gatuguta | Presentation and Exam | November and December |
| Essential Statistics for Health and Medical Research (MDM66) | Dr Kavi Sharma | 6-Piece Assignment | Mid-January |
| Epidemiology (MDM12) | Dr Marija Pantelic | Exam | End-February |
| Health Protection (MDM33) | Dr Louise Sigfrid | Written Assignment and In-Person Presentation | March |
| Advanced Qualitative Research Methods (MDM201) | Dr Sara Donetto | Written Assignment (50%) and Oral Presentation (50%) | March |
| Economic Evaluation in Healthcare (MDM190) | Dr Natalia Ivashikina & Dr Saiedeh Babashahi | Written Assignment and Exam | April and May |
| The Social Determinants of Health: From Theory to Action (MDM200) | Dr Tilly Paz | Report | May |
| Leadership and Change Management (MDM110) | Breda Flaherty | Essay | May and June |



Dissertation Pathways

60-credit Dissertation (MDM164)

- An in-depth research project of 12,000 words is ideal for those looking to specialise deeply in one area.
- Choose 2 optional models in this pathway.

40-credit Dissertation by Publication (MDM94)

- A publishable research paper with extended sections of background and methodology, 8,000 words.
- Choose 3 optional modules in this pathway.

We provide dedicated support and advice on these options and help you choose the path that best suits your career goals and research interests!

Meet the Team



Dr Marija Pantelic – Course Leader and Associate Professor
Dr Tilly Paz – Deputy Course Leader and Assistant Professor
Dr Gemma Archer – Dissertation Lead and Assistant Professor
Liz Morris – Course Coordinator

Prof Carrie Llewellyn - Head of the Department of Primary Care and Public Health
Prof Anjum Memon - Chair in Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine & Educational Supervisor for Public Health Trainees
Dr Louise Sigfrid – Module Lead for Health Protection, Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health, University of Oxford

Some of our guest lecturers

Dr Antiopi Ntouva – Public Health Consultant at the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities at the Department of Health

Dr Katie Cuming – Public Health Consultant, leading on Healthy Lifestyles at Brighton and Hove City Council

Prof Mahmood Bhutta – Chair in ENT Surgery, Professor of Sustainable Healthcare

Dr Fiona Wright – Consultant in Public Health; Formerly working in various London councils and NHS commissioning agencies

Charlotte Anderson – Principal Epidemiologist, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

Emily Cheek – Environmental Public Health Scientist, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)

Helen Cheney – Health Protection Specialist, East Sussex County Council, Lewes, UK

Lisa Harvey-Vince – Chartered Fellow Environmental Health Practitioner (CEnvH, FCIEH)

Kirsty Hewitt – Health Protection Consultant, (UKHSA)

Anna Hoad – Senior Health Protection Nurse (RN, MSc), South East Health Protection Team, UKHSA, UK

Dr Stephanie Hyams – Public Health Specialty Registrar, (UKHSA)

Dr Tom Irving – Public Health Specialty Registrar, (UKHSA)

Emma Lamb – Environmental Public Health Scientist, UK Health Security Agency

Dr Catrin Moore – Senior Lecturer, Antimicrobial Resistance Lead, St George's University of London, UK

Dr Bernadette Purcell – Health Protection Consultant, (UKHSA)



Get Excited – Get Involved!

- Individual online meetings with the team before induction day.
- **Induction Day:** 16 September 2024 – Meet your peers and lecturers, and get ready to start your journey!
- **Follow Us:** Stay connected on Twitter – [@BSMSPCPH](https://twitter.com/BSMSPCPH)

Ready to Apply? Be part of a community that shapes the future of public health. Apply now and make an impact!

Click [here](#) to apply.

For any questions, contact us at: t.paz@bsms.ac.uk

Read about our modules

Descriptions
Module leads
Assessment

In the next pages

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MDM50 Principles and Practice of Public Health

Module Lead: Dr Tilly Paz

Public health is about more than just health services—it's about shaping the conditions in which people live, work, and thrive. This dynamic module introduces the essential principles and real-world applications of public health, equipping you with the critical skills to address contemporary health challenges at local, national, and global levels.

Throughout the week, you'll explore key themes such as evidence-based practice, economic evaluation, intervention planning, health inequalities, and sustainability. Interactive lectures, hands-on workshops, and expert-led discussions will immerse you in the core methods of public health, from conducting a health needs assessment and writing a grant application, to designing interventions and evaluating their impact.

By the end of the module, you'll have the tools to critically analyse public health policies, contribute to evidence-based decision-making, and develop innovative strategies to reduce health inequalities. Whether you're aspiring to work in policy, research, or frontline services, this module will prepare you to make a tangible impact on population health.

Assessment: A 3,000-word skills-based portfolio based on course work (comprising of 3 x 1000-word short reports). Various methods of support are offered, and students score an average of 70%.

MDM12 Epidemiology

Module Leads: Dr Marija Pantelic and Dr Gemma Archer

Step into the world of epidemiology and uncover the patterns and causes of diseases that shape public health. This module provides a comprehensive introduction to the core concepts and methods of epidemiology, blending interactive lectures with hands-on practical exercises to ensure you gain a solid understanding of this vital discipline.

Epidemiology lies at the heart of public health practice, equipping you with the tools to design, analyse, and interpret studies that reveal the distribution and determinants of diseases across populations. While epidemiology and calculations may seem intimidating at first, this module is designed to make epidemiology accessible, engaging, and empowering. Our supportive approach breaks down complex ideas into manageable steps, helping you build confidence through practical applications.

By the end of this module, you'll not only have a clear grasp of epidemiological principles but also the highly valued analytical skills to address real-world public health challenges. Whether you're looking to deepen your expertise or explore new career paths, this module will prepare you to make meaningful contributions to improving population health.

Assessment: A written exam following a detailed mock and exercises in class. Students score an average of over 70%.

MDM33 Health Protection

Module Lead: Dr Louise Sigfrid

Discover the essential strategies that safeguard public health in the face of infectious diseases and environmental threats. This module introduces the core practice and principles of infection control, the management of environmental hazards, emergency preparedness and response, with a specific focus on challenges faced in the UK.

Through a combination of interactive learning and real-world case studies delivered by multidisciplinary experts, you'll gain a clear understanding of the preventative and reactive measures that protect communities and explore your role in designing and implementing effective solutions. Whether addressing outbreaks, environmental hazards, mitigating risks, or promoting safe environments, this module equips you with the knowledge and skills to make a tangible impact on public health practice.

Take this opportunity to deepen your understanding and become a proactive leader in health protection, ready to respond to critical challenges and contribute meaningfully to your field.

Assessments: Assessment: A rapid evidence review (70%) and an oral presentation (30%), enabling students to critically evaluate current research and effectively communicate their findings, strengthening their ability to inform and shape evidence-based public health policy and practice.

MDM102 Global Burden and Management of Disease

Module Lead: Dr Anne Gatuguta

This module provides an in-depth examination of the leading causes of mortality and morbidity globally, focusing on their sociocultural, political, economic, and environmental determinants. Students will explore the most prevalent conditions among communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health, sexual health, neglected diseases, mental health and humanitarian health. The module critically analyses key populations affected by these conditions, and the current prevention and control strategies, including interventions, policies, and the role of key actors.

Students will develop practical skills, enabling them to critically engage with measures of disease burden (e.g., DALYs, YLL), evaluate strategies for preventing and managing disease and disability, and synthesize evidence to address major challenges in global health.

Assessment: a 15-minute oral presentation (25%) and an in-person written examination (75%), where students have the opportunity to apply their newly acquired skills in analysing and contributing to the forefront of global health research, policy and practice.

MDM200 The Social Determinants of Health: From Theory to Action

Module Lead: Dr Tilly Paz

Health is shaped by numerous factors, and some are far broader than the self and its immediate environment. This module unpacks the **social determinants of health (SDH)**, equipping you with the knowledge and skills to critically assess how economic, environmental, and social factors drive health inequalities.

Through interactive discussions, real-world case studies, and applied public health methods, you'll explore key frameworks and policies addressing SDH, impacting a variety of health issues that have strong links with inequalities. You will explore physical and mental health, as well as stigma and loneliness, through critically reviewing strategies for action, and learning how to design interventions that tackle the root causes of health disparities at local, national, and global levels.

By the end of the module, you'll have a deeper understanding of the forces shaping population health—and the tools to drive meaningful change in policy and practice. This module is essential for those interested in public health leadership, health policy, and community-based interventions.

The module is designed to benefit especially those who are in practice or wish to be in practice, providing a “what works” approach and focusing on practical ideas.

Assessment: A 3,000-word report that covers one intervention and one policy around two different social determinants of health. (100%)

MDM190 Economic Evaluation of Healthcare

Module Leads: Dr Natalia Ivashikina and Dr Saeideh Babashahi

This module provides a comprehensive introduction to health economic evaluation, equipping students with the knowledge and skills to critically analyse and conduct evaluations of healthcare interventions. Beginning with basic principles of health economics, the module advances into methods for measuring and analysing costs and outcomes, addressing uncertainty, economic modelling, and decision-making in resource allocation. Practical examples from the UK and global contexts are used to highlight the application of economic evaluation in public health, pharmaceutical interventions, and healthcare programs in low- and middle-income countries.

The module will be delivered through a combination of interactive lectures, group discussions, practical sessions, tutorials and independent learning. Students will develop key skills in appraising health economic studies, applying decision-making frameworks like multi-criteria decision analysis, and effectively communicating results to stakeholders. By the end, students will be prepared to navigate the complexities of health economics, support evidence-based resource allocation, and contribute to policy and practice in healthcare.

Assessment: 1,500-word written assignment (50%) to critically appraise a published health economic evaluation study, and a 24-hour written take-home exam (50%).

MDM66 Essential Statistics for Health and Medical Research

Module Lead: Dr Kavi Sharma

This module is tailored for students and healthcare professionals seeking to enhance their understanding of statistical skills and techniques in health research. It begins by covering statistical basics, including foundational statistical concepts, sample size calculation, and the use of IBM SPSS software. The module then builds upon these basics to explore key topics such as hypothesis testing, correlation, regression analysis, questionnaire design, and survival analysis.

Through a combination of lectures and hands-on, computer-based learning with SPSS, participants will gain the ability to design and conduct statistical tests, evaluate methodologies, and interpret findings. The module provides a dynamic learning experience with ample support throughout.

By the end of the module, participants will have developed confidence in applying statistical analysis techniques in medical and health research contexts and professionally communicating their findings.

Assessment: six concise 500-word reports that enable students to apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios.

MDM201 Advanced Qualitative Research Methods

Module Lead: Dr Sara Donetto

Elevate your qualitative research skills and unlock new ways to explore complex healthcare questions. This module provides an in-depth exploration of qualitative methodologies, equipping you with the tools to investigate human experiences and behaviours, and the intricate relationships between people, technologies, and environments.

Designed for those with foundational knowledge of qualitative research, this module delves into modes of enquiry with diverse aims, from understanding lived experiences and analysing social practices to fostering participatory knowledge creation. As well as engaging critically with a range of qualitative approaches, you'll examine and reflect on ethical considerations in qualitative research and explore how to meaningfully involve patients and the public in the research process.

With an emphasis on bridging theory and practice, this module will enable you to integrate qualitative research tools into your professional work and make innovative, impactful contributions within healthcare.

Assessment: A written assignment (50%) and an oral presentation (50%), allowing students to critically engage with advanced qualitative methodologies and effectively communicate their research insights.

MDM10 Research Methods and Critical Appraisal

Module Lead: Dr Sara Donetto

Are you ready to become a confident, skilled researcher capable of evaluating and conducting impactful studies? This module offers a comprehensive introduction to research design, equipping you with a strong foundation in diverse methodologies and methods. You'll dive into the core principles of research paradigms, learning to choose the right methods for different types of questions while honing your ability to critically appraise research papers with confidence.

With a focus on real-world relevance, this module bridges theory and practice, enabling you to tackle research challenges in your field with confidence and clarity. Whether you're advancing your career or aspiring to make a difference through research, this module provides the tools and insights to help you succeed.

Assessment: A research proposal on a topic that truly matters to you. From crafting a well-defined research question to selecting and justifying the most suitable design.