



UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Program description

Master in Public Health

120 ECTS/Campus Tromsø

The program description has been approved by the Faculty of Health Sciences 3rd October 2024



Study programme name	Master in Public Health (MPH)
Degree obtained	Master's degree, 120 ECTS
Target group	This program is suitable for students, early career or senior professionals with at least a bachelor's degree and with an interest in public health. Students should have the ambition to pursue a career in public health, health sciences or research. A completed MPH degree will qualify for PhD studies given that specific grade requirements are fulfilled.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge	Admission is regulated through Regulations concerning admission to the University of Tromsø - The Arctic University of Norway - Lovdata Admission requirements: • A bachelor's degree corresponding to 180 ECTS, and a specialization of minimum 80 ECTS within the subject areas of the master's program. Examples of relevant subject areas are health sciences, nutrition, sport science, veterinary science, social sciences, statistics, mathematics, computer science, biology, developmental studies, economics, healthcare management and medical technology. • Grade point average of C (3.0) or higher. • Applicants with education from non-Nordic countries must document English language proficiency. The master's program in Public Health requires the following minimum scores in English proficiency: IELTS: Reading 6.5, Listening 6.5, Speaking 6.5, Writing 6.5 TOEFL: Reading 19, Listening 20, Speaking 20, Writing 24 • Self-financing international students must also fulfil any admission requirements set by the central administration of UiT. International admissions UiT Applicants from Norway or Nordic countries: The application deadline for Norwegian and other Nordic applicants is 15 April for admission to the autumn semester. Nordic application code: 3013 Søking og opptak UiT Applicants from outside the Nordic countries: The application deadline for non-EU/EEA applicants is November 15th. The application deadline for EU/EEA and Swiss applicants is 1st March. Online application, study code 2035. International admissions UiT
Certificate of good conduct	Not relevant
Suitability assessment	Not relevant
The study programme's Learning Outcome	After completing the mandatory core courses, the students should be able to: Knowledge • Critically analyze the context and significance of public health in a changing society with a holistic and interdisciplinary approach.

- Assess the main causes of global health inequalities.
- Assess and discuss the principles of ethics and the ethical challenges in public health.
- Explain and discuss the basis of quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- Assess demographic structures, demographic change, and discuss their public health implications.
- Critically evaluate significant causes and drivers of morbidity and mortality within specific populations, at-risk and vulnerable groups.
- Comprehend advanced knowledge in evidence synthesis, including the process of systematically reviewing literature and combining results from different studies.
- Discuss the structure, governance, and funding mechanisms of health systems and the organization of healthcare services.
- Assess and discuss the role, responsibilities, and importance of involvement of various stakeholders in public health.
- Comprehend advanced knowledge in policymaking to promote and protect health.
- Recognize and critically appraise international, national, and regional laws and regulations relevant to public health protection and promotion.
- Discuss the key concepts of health economics and their application to health care systems, policymaking, and resource allocation.

Skills

- Employ demographic data for public health assessments.
- Design and conduct research that contributes to the evidence base for public health practice, involving relevant stakeholders.
- Master qualitative and quantitative methods to collect, analyze, and interpret data in public health contexts.
- Design, implement, and evaluate public health programs and interventions.
- Synthesize and critically evaluate evidence from various data sources to support public health practice, policy, and decision-making.
- Develop and employ targeted communication strategies for health promotion and public health advocacy, considering cultural awareness and sensitivity.
- Advocate for healthy public policies and services that promote and protect individual and community health and well-being.
- Apply economic evaluations to health interventions.

General Competence

- Demonstrate leadership, collaboration, and decision-making skills in interdisciplinary group settings to address diverse health challenges effectively.
- Critically perform self-assessment to identify development needs for achieving career goals.
- Act according to ethical standards, promoting professional accountability, social responsibility, and the public good.
- Develop and deliver presentations targeted to diverse audiences.
- Critically evaluate advantages, disadvantages, and limitations of various public health interventions, policies, and methodologies

Additionally, each student will choose one stream, which have their own learning outcomes outlined below:

Epidemiology & data science in health

Knowledge

- Advanced knowledge in epidemiology and statistical methods to design, conduct and analyze research studies in health.
- Comprehensive expertise in the opportunities and challenges associated with health registry data and health survey data, including their potential for integration with other registries and the regulations governing their use.

Skills

- Plan, design, and conduct an epidemiological study to investigate disease patterns, frequency, determinants, and causes within a population, including methods for data analysis, presentation, and interpretation.
- Structure, handle, analyze, visualize data from health registries or health surveys using suitable software.

Health economics

Knowledge

- Assess and critique economic concepts like demand, supply, market failure and how it relates to arguments for government intervention in health, consequences of different funding and payment systems.
- Analyze and compare concepts in health economic evaluation, such as quality adjusted life years, estimation of cost per QALY - including evaluating strengths and potential weaknesses of these concepts.

Skills

- Evaluate advantages and disadvantages of different funding and payment systems in health.
- Model and conduct cost benefit analysis of health interventions.

Health promotion and disease prevention

Knowledge

- Develop expertise in health promotion and disease prevention strategies through comprehensive study of epidemiology, global health trends, occupational health, healthcare systems, and intervention strategies, implementation, and evaluation methods.
- Evaluate the importance of health behavior theories and determinants of health.
- Critically assess public health governance and funding, key international and national actors and the interplay of politics and economics with public health needs.

Skills

- Design and evaluate interventions for health promotion and disease prevention in local, regional, and global context.
- Analyze challenges and develop strategies for effective and adequate responses respecting ethical principles and understanding cultural diversity in health promotion and disease prevention.

	Advocate and communicate effective health messages to relevant stakeholders and develop leadership skills in project management, collaboration, and cooperation in the field of health promotion and disease prevention.												
Academic content and description of the study programme	Public health is the science and practice focused on protecting and improving the health of people and their communities through education, policy-making, and research for disease and injury prevention. It seeks to understand the factors influencing health and disease, and to identify and implement effective interventions to enhance population health. The Master of Public Health (MPH) program equips you with a diverse set of highly sought-after skills. Upon completion, you will be able to advise on societal interventions to prevent illness, analyze how shifts in disease patterns impact healthcare resource utilization, and recommend how to prioritize healthcare resources to optimally achieve policy goals. The program is available for both full-time and part-time study. Courses are typically offered in blocks throughout the semester. While some courses require physical attendance in Tromsø, other courses or portions of courses may be available remotely. The MPH program comprises a total of 120 ECTS. It includes five mandatory courses in core areas such as public health, global health, health economics, research methods, policy, advocacy, and implementation strategies. Additionally, there is a mandatory 10 ECTS course on sustainable innovations, a joint requirement for all master's programs at UiT, and a 30 ECTS master's thesis. During the second semester, the students chose one out of three distinct streams, allowing students to specialize in specific public health themes. Each stream includes 15-20 ECTS of specialized courses, with the remaining 10-15 ECTS fulfilled through elective courses. Courses outside of the program must be approved as elective courses by the program board. Starting in 2025, the program will offer three streams: Epidemiology and data science in health, Health economics, and Health promotion and disease prevention. Students also have the option to participate in an exchange program during the third semester, which will then replace the stream. Please note that all master's programs at UiT will undergo revisions from 2024 to 2026, and this study description may be subject to minor changes.												
Table: programme structure	<table><tr><th>Semester</th><th>10 credits</th><th>10 credits</th><th>10 credits</th></tr><tr><td>1. semester</td><td>Introduction to Public health (mandatory)</td><td>Epidemiology, applied biostatistics, qualitative methods and systematic reviews (mandatory)</td><td>Health economics and policy (mandatory)</td></tr><tr><td>2. semester</td><td>Global and environmental health (mandatory)</td><td>Epidemiological methods I (mandatory)</td><td>Epidemiological methods II (elective) OR</td></tr></table>	Semester	10 credits	10 credits	10 credits	1. semester	Introduction to Public health (mandatory)	Epidemiology, applied biostatistics, qualitative methods and systematic reviews (mandatory)	Health economics and policy (mandatory)	2. semester	Global and environmental health (mandatory)	Epidemiological methods I (mandatory)	Epidemiological methods II (elective) OR
Semester	10 credits	10 credits	10 credits										
1. semester	Introduction to Public health (mandatory)	Epidemiology, applied biostatistics, qualitative methods and systematic reviews (mandatory)	Health economics and policy (mandatory)										
2. semester	Global and environmental health (mandatory)	Epidemiological methods I (mandatory)	Epidemiological methods II (elective) OR										

				Health promotion and disease prevention (elective)
	3. semester	Sustainable innovation (joint course from the faculty, mandatory)	Data Science in health (elective) OR Other elective course	Cost benefit analysis (elective, 5 ECTS) OR Occupational health (elective 5ECTS) OR Other elective course
	4. semester	Master thesis in public health, 30ECTS		
The students can choose between three different streams: Epidemiology & data science in health Mandatory courses for this stream: - Epidemiological methods II (10 ECTS) - Data science in Health (10 ECTS) + 10 ECTS elective courses Health economics Mandatory courses for this stream: - Epidemiological methods II (10 ECTS) - Cost benefit analysis (5 ECTS) + 15 ECTS elective courses Health promotion and disease prevention Mandatory courses for this stream: - Health promotion and disease prevention (10 ECTS) - Occupational health (5 ECTS) +10 ECTS elective courses The students can also choose to go on exchange/internship during the third semester. The exchange will then replace the stream. Exchange courses must be approved in advance by the program board to be able to replace a stream. Stream courses will only be offered if we have a sufficient number of students registered for the course.				
Learning activities, examination and assessment	The program offers a diverse array of teaching and learning activities, with a strong emphasis on student-centered learning. Students are expected to engage in both independent and group work, actively taking responsibility for their own learning, including studying at home beyond scheduled curriculum activities. The program includes the following learning activities:			
	- Self-studies - Lectures - Seminars - Group work - Flipped classroom/team-based learning activities - Case-based learning			

	Assessment and Examination The program includes both mandatory written assignments and oral presentations. Exams are designed to reflect the learning objectives specified for each course. Students will be graded on a scale from A to F, where A to E denote passing grades, and F represents failure. Some courses may only offer a pass/fail grade. Examinations will take various forms, including written in-school exams, take-home exams, and oral exams.
The study programme's relevance	A Master's in Public Health is a comprehensive degree that equips students for careers in public health from local to global settings. Graduates of the MPH program can pursue diverse roles in policy development and analysis, epidemiology and research, program management, health education, and administration. Potential employers include governmental and non-governmental organizations, regional health authorities, municipalities, the private sector, universities, and research institutions.
Work scope	The expected workload for one academic year is 1500-1800 working hours. To achieve the set work goals, students should expect to work 40 hours per week on their studies, including self-study.
For master's theses/independent work in master's degrees	Students are required to complete a master's thesis with a scope of 30 ECTS. The thesis should be written individually under supervision. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the research activities taking place at the research environments at UiT and the Department of Community Medicine. A master's thesis seminar will be held during the first year, where relevant topics will be presented and through different learning activities, the students will develop their own project protocol for their master's thesis during the three first semesters. The students are supposed to hand in a project description that must be approved before initiating the work with the master's thesis. A supervision contract will be established that regulates the obligations and scope of supervision for both the supervisor and the student. It is not possible to write the thesis in article form. It is not permissible to write the master's thesis together, but several students can work on the same project/dataset with their own research questions.
Language of instruction and examination	English.
Internationalisation	The MPH program is an international study program conducted in English, designed to provide local, regional, and global perspectives on public health. Students will have the opportunity to engage with international guest lecturers, and many of the lectures, group activities, and assignments will emphasize international themes.
Student exchange	It is possible to go on exchange during the third semester. The MPH program has exchange agreements with University of Gothenburg in Sweden. In addition, UiT has agreements with many universities through the UArctic program and north2north exchange program
Supervised professional training	Not relevant
Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility	The Department of Community Medicine (ISM) at the Faculty of Health Sciences is administratively responsible for the study program. The academic leadership resides with the MPH Program Board, which includes representatives from the academic environments that provide teaching for the program. The Program Board also includes student representatives.

Quality assurance	The study program will be quality assured through various forms of evaluation. Both final evaluations and ongoing study discussions will be conducted. The program board, including student representatives, will play a crucial role in assessing the program's overall integration and is responsible for the evaluation and development plan. Biannual evaluation reports will be produced. The evaluation reports will adhere to the guidelines in the "Quality System for Education at UiT."
Other regulations	

