UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Program description

Master in Public Health (MPH)

120 ECTS/Campus Tromsø

The program description has been approved by the board of the Faculty of Health Sciences on 24.09.2026.



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 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. Online application, study code 2035. The application deadline for EU/EEA and Swiss applicants is 1st March. Online application, study code 7131. International admissions | UiT
Certificate of good conduct	Not relevant
Suitability assessment	Not relevant
The study programme's Learning Outcome	After completing the mandatory components of the programme, 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. • 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. ***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. • Explain the purpose and main components of economic evaluation in health care, and analyse the results of such evaluations. • Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of different funding and payment systems in health. ***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
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, policymaking, 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 offered as a full-time study with a progression over 2 years. Courses are typically offered in blocks throughout the semester. Most courses require physical attendance in Tromsø, but 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 are 30 ECTS elective courses and a 40 ECTS master's thesis. The third semester is an elective semester comprising 30 ECTS. Elective courses must be at master's level and have relevance to public health or health, either directly or indirectly.

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<tr><td></td><td>Students may choose relevant courses at UiT or other universities, subject to approval by the Programme Board. Some courses may be pre-approved, and the list of available or pre-approved courses may change over time.
Students may also complete all or part of the third semester through an approved exchange programme. Exchange courses must be approved in advance and may replace elective coursework.
The master’s thesis has a scope of 40 ECTS. The thesis course begins in the second semester with a mandatory 10 ECTS component, including master’s thesis seminars, selection of project/topic and supervisor, and development and approval of the project protocol. The remaining 30 ECTS are completed in the fourth semester.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Table: programme structure</td><td>
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<tr><th>Semester</th><th>10 credits</th><th>10 credits</th><th>10 credits</th></tr>
<tr><td>1. semester</td><td>HEL-3045 Introduction to Public Health (mandatory)</td><td>HEL-3047 Introduction to Research Methods in Public Health (mandatory)</td><td>HEL-3046 Health Economics and Policy (mandatory)</td></tr>
<tr><td>2. semester</td><td>HEL-3048 Global and Environmental Health (mandatory)</td><td>HEL-3049 Epidemiology and Applied Biostatistics I (mandatory)</td><td>HEL-3950 Master's Thesis in Public Health (mandatory, 10 ECTS)</td></tr>
<tr><td>3. semester</td><td>TVR-3000 Activating Transformations for Sustainability (ACTIONS) (elective, 10 ECTS)</td><td>Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Occupational Health (working title; elective, 10 ECTS)</td><td>Advanced Epidemiology and Public Health Data Analysis (working title; elective, 10 ECTS)</td></tr>
<tr><td>4. semester</td><td colspan="3">HEL-3950 Master's Thesis in Public Health (30 ECTS)</td></tr>
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The courses shown in the third semester are programme electives. Students may instead choose other approved master's-level courses or approved exchange courses as described above.
The titles of the two programme electives without course codes are working titles. Final titles and course codes will be inserted when the individual course descriptions are approved.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Learning activities, examination and assessment</td><td>The program offers a diverse array of teaching and learning activities, with a strong emphasis on student-centred 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.</td></tr>
<tr><td>The study programme’s relevance</td><td>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</td></tr>
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	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 40 ECTS. The thesis should be written individually under supervision. The thesis course begins in the second semester with a mandatory 10 ECTS component. This includes mandatory master's thesis seminars, selection of project/topic and supervisor, development and approval of the project protocol, and completion of required supervision agreements and relevant approvals. The remaining 30 ECTS are completed in the fourth semester through the research project and thesis writing. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the research activities taking place at UiT and the Department of Community Medicine. A supervision contract regulates the obligations and scope of supervision for both the supervisor and the student. It is not permissible to write the master's thesis together, but several students can work on the same project/dataset with their own individual 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. Exchange courses must be approved in advance by the program board and may replace approved elective coursework. 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. A list of possible locations will be presented during the first semester.
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 course evaluations and ongoing discussions about the program will be conducted. The program board, including student representatives, has an important role in assessing the overall coherence of the program and is responsible for the evaluation and development plan. Evaluation reports will be produced every two years in accordance with the Quality System for Education at UiT.
Other regulations	