



**School of Health and Social Care**

**MSc Public Health with interim awards of  
PG Diploma Public Health  
PG Certificate Public Health**

## **PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

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## BASIC PROGRAMME DATA

Originating institution(s)	Bournemouth University, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences
Award(s) and title(s)	MSc Public Health, PG Diploma Public Health, PG Cert Public Health
UCAS Programme Code(s) (where applicable and if known)	UCAS Programme Code(s)
HECoS Code(s) per programme/pathway	
External reference points(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UK Quality Code for Higher Education;</li> <li>• Chapter A1: UK and European reference points for academic standards (October 2013)</li> <li>• A2: The subject and qualification level The UK Public Health Skills and Knowledge Framework</li> </ul>
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) links	None
Place(s) of delivery	Bournemouth University and online
Mode(s) of delivery	Full and Part-time. MSc and PG Dip – taught PG Cert - on line
Credit structure	MSc Public Health 180 M level (90 ECTS) PG Diploma Public Health 120 M level (60 ECTS)PG Certificate Public Health 60 M level (30 ECTS)
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSc Public Health - one year full time or three years part-time.</li> <li>• PG Cert online –1 year P/T (max 2 years)</li> </ul>
Date of original approval(s)	2002, reviewed September 2006, 2009 and 2014
Date of first intake	September 2016
Expected start dates	September
Student numbers	Minimum 10 /maximum 20 (Optimum 18)
Placements	N/A
Partner(s) and model(s)	N/A
Date and version number of this Framework/Programme Specification	July 2022, v4.2-0922
Student intake(s)/cohort(s)	September 2022 students

**FHSS 151605** - This Framework/Programme Specification was revised in January 2016 following the approval of modifications.

**BU 1819 01**, approved 28/02/2019. Previously version 4.1-0918

**EC 1819 31**, approved 13/06/2019

**EC 2122 14**, approved 20/12/2021

**EC 2122 45**, approved 24/05/2022

**EC 2122 59**, approved 07/07/2022

## 1 AIMS OF THE DOCUMENT

The aims of this document are to:

- Outline the academic/professional context of the programme
- Define the structure of the programme
- Identify programme level learning outcomes
- Articulate the regulations governing the awards offered through this programme

## 2 ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CONTEXTS

The MSc Public Health is designed to meet the current health strategy, the public health agenda for local authorities and the requirement for the public health workforce to be skilled, staffed and appropriately resourced. It also considers the wider requirements of an international public health agenda. In order to tackle inequalities and the wider determinants of public health, solutions to public health issues are accepted as requiring multi-agency involvement and partnership working development activities involving local government and the NHS (Department of Health, 2011). These solutions are also essential within the international arena.

The MSc Public Health draws on four core areas essential for successful public health function:

- Surveillance and assessment of population health and wellbeing
- Assessment of the effectiveness of interventions and services to improve population health and wellbeing
- Policy and strategy development and implementation
- Leadership and collaborative working (PHORCaST, 2009).

Given the wider determinants of health, the MSc programme recognises Public Health as being the domain of a range of practitioners and professionals not necessarily from health care backgrounds. It embraces this notion reflecting the philosophy of the current public health agenda, principally that:

*“Public Health is an approach which focuses on the health and wellbeing of a society and the most effective means of protecting and improving it. Public health encompasses the science, art and politics of preventing illness and disease and promoting health and wellbeing. It addresses the root causes of illness and disease, including the interacting social, environmental, biological and psychological dimensions, as well as the provision of effective health services. Public Health addresses the inequalities, injustices and denials of human rights, which frequently explain large variations in health locally, nationally and globally. Effective public health works through partnerships that cut across professional and organisational boundaries and seeks to eliminate avoidable distinctions. It relies upon evidence, judgment and skills and promotes the participation of the populations who are themselves the subject of policy and action” (UK Public Health Association 2011).*

## **2.1 AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME**

The overall aim of the MSc in Public Health programme is to enable individuals from multi-agency and professional backgrounds to expand their academic expertise and knowledge to assist in development of their public health role.

The primary role of this programme is to produce master's level graduates who are able to:

- Access, appraise, use and contribute to the development of knowledge relevant to improving the public's health.
- Manage and prioritise public health resources.
- Explore, and enable effective partnership working within the local, regional, national and international context.

## **2.2 INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

### **2.2.1 MSc in Public Health**

This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, and skills, as follows.

#### **A SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**

- A1 The context and scope of public health, epidemiology and partnership working
- A2 The nature of knowledge and research approaches
- A3 Applied public health strategies
- A4 Health promotion theory and strategy
- A5 The exploration of a specific public health issue

#### **B INTELLECTUAL SKILLS**

- B1 Critically review and evaluate evidence in terms of its source, reliability, validity and significance.
- B2 Synthesise information and ideas autonomously
- B3 select, design and carry out research/project activity that has congruence and intellectual integrity.

#### **C SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS**

- C1 Critically evaluate public health issues.
- C2 Apply in-depth knowledge and critically reflect on public health issues
- C3 Critically evaluate the complexities of their own role within the context of partnership working
- C4 Apply research skills related to an area of Public Health, in order to enhance existing knowledge or develop new approaches to existing problems.

#### **D TRANSFERABLE SKILLS**

- D1 Disseminate their ideas in written format, orally and visually
- D2 Effectively utilise Information Technology
- D3 Have developed and be able to apply critical evaluation skills
- D4 Have developed self-appraisal and reflective skills
- D5 Use reflective practice to define complex problems and develop creative problem solving skills.

### **2.2.2 PG Diploma Public Health**

This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, and skills, as follows.

#### **A SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**

- A1 The context and scope of public health, epidemiology and partnership working
- A2 The nature of knowledge and research approaches
- A3 Applied public health strategies
- A4 Health promotion theory and strategy

#### **B INTELLECTUAL SKILLS**

- B1 Critically review and evaluate evidence in terms of its source, reliability, validity and significance.
- B2 Synthesise information and ideas autonomously

#### **C SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS**

- C1 Critically evaluate public health issues.
- C2 Apply in-depth knowledge and critically reflect on public health issues
- C3 Critically evaluate the complexities of their own role within the context of partnership working

#### **D TRANSFERABLE SKILLS**

- D1 Disseminate their ideas in written format, orally and visually
- D2 Effectively utilise Information Technology
- D3 Have developed and be able to apply critical evaluation skills
- D4 Have developed self-appraisal and reflective skills
- D5 Use reflective practice to define complex problems and develop creative problem solving skills

### **2.2.3 PG Certificate Public Health**

#### **A SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**

- A1 The context and scope of public health
- A2 The nature of knowledge and research approaches
- A3 Applied public health strategies
- A4 Health promotion theory and strategy

#### **B INTELLECTUAL SKILLS**

- B1 Critically review and evaluate evidence in terms of its source, reliability, validity and significance.
- B2 Synthesise information and ideas autonomously

#### **C SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS**

- C1 Critically evaluate public health issues.
- C2 Apply in-depth knowledge and critically reflect on public health issues
- C3 Critically evaluate the complexities of their own role within the context of partnership working

#### **D TRANSFERABLE SKILLS**

- D1 Disseminate their ideas in written format, orally and visually
- D2 Effectively utilise Information Technology
- D3 Have developed and be able to apply critical evaluation skills
- D4 Have developed self-appraisal and reflective skills

### **2.3 LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGIES AND METHODS**

A range of teaching and learning strategies is employed within these programmes to facilitate students' development of subject knowledge and understanding, intellectual skill, subject specific and transferable skills.

For students studying on the taught face-to-face units knowledge, understanding and intellectual skills will be acquired and enhanced through participation in lectures, seminars, discussions, presentations, engagement with blended learning, independent reading and study, tutorials with staff, critical reflection and feedback from assignment work. Subject specific skills will be acquired through all strategies described above, but in addition students may reflect on current or past experiences of public health furthermore transferable skills are acquired through experiential workshops (e.g. IT and library sessions).

For students studying via online delivery lectures and tutorials will be accessed electronically to enable the independent acquisition and appraisal of knowledge. This will include discussions and seminars via blogs to encourage critique of theory and practice through debate, and development of presentation and dissemination skills. Independent reading and study is encouraged to develop library skills to acquire and appraise knowledge, along with participation in quizzes, watching audio visual materials and listening to podcasts.

### **2.4 ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES AND METHODS**

Assessment is via coursework using a range of methods. Using a range of unit assessments is strategic because it reflects the nature of public health work in practice and includes presentations, reports and proposals. Uni assessments will be submitted online. The MSc Public Health includes a dissertation. The unit specification documents provide more detail of the indicative assessment.



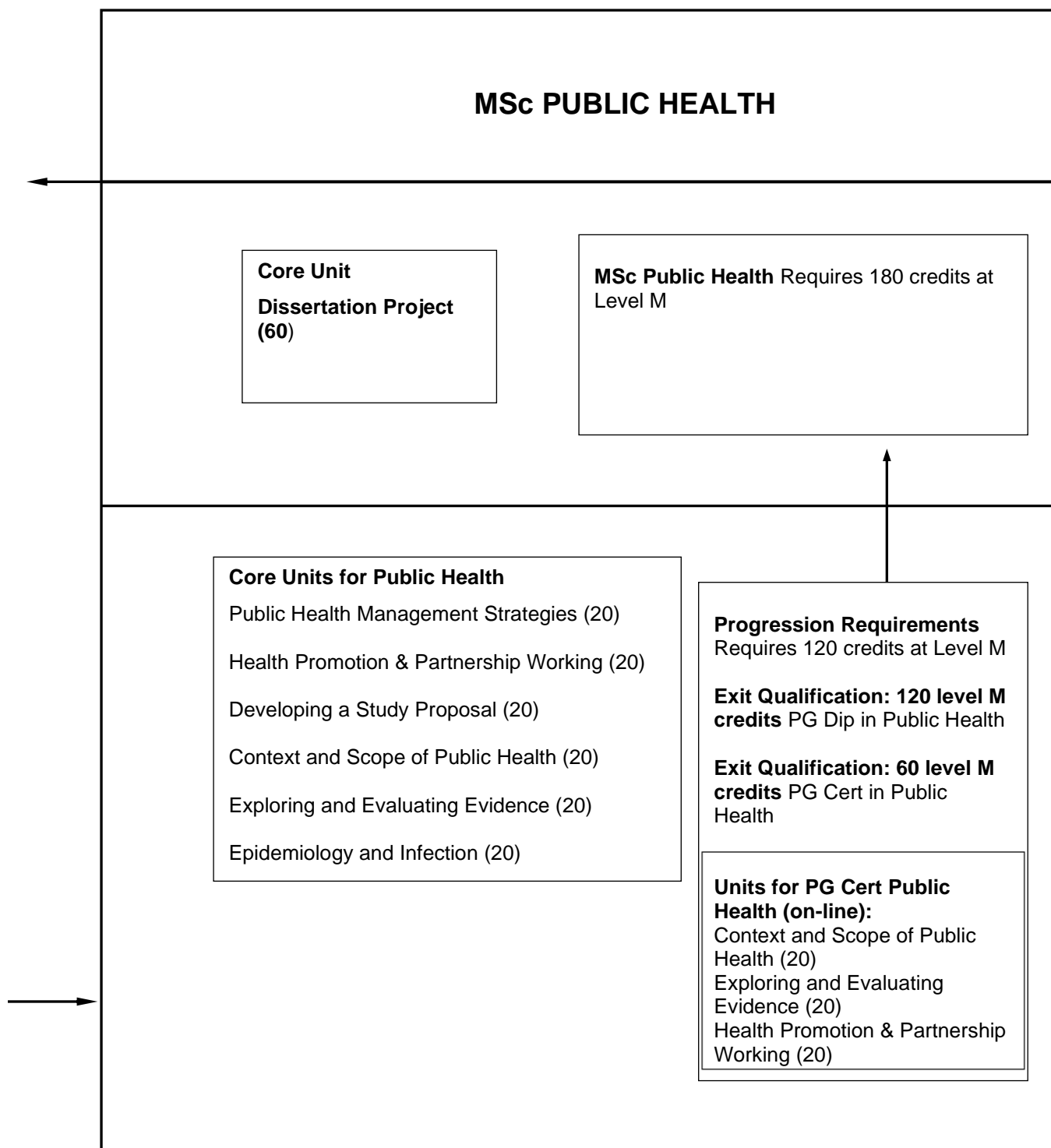
### 2.5.1 Programme Skills Matrix showing the relationship between ILOs for the MSc Public Health and its constituent units

Units		Intended Learning Outcomes																	
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	
LEVEL M	Dissertation Project					√		√	√				√	√	√	√	√	√	
	Public Health Management Strategies			√							√							√	
	Health Promotion & Partnership Working	√		√	√					√	√	√		√	√	√	√		
	Developing a Study Proposal		√				√	√						√	√	√	√	√	
	Context and Scope of Public Health	√		√	√		√			√		√		√	√	√			
	Exploring and Evaluating Evidence		√				√			√				√	√	√	√		
	Epidemiology and Infection	√	√				√			√		√		√	√	√		√	
<b>A – Subject Knowledge &amp; Understanding</b> A1 The context and scope of public health, epidemiology and partnership working A2 The nature of knowledge and research approaches A3 Applied public health strategies A4 Health promotion theory and strategy A5 The exploration of a specific public health issue										<b>C – Subject-specific / Practical Skills</b> C1 Critically evaluate public health issues. C2 Apply in-depth knowledge and critically reflect on public health issues C3 Critically evaluate the complexities of their own role within the context of partnership working C4 Apply research skills related to an area of Public Health, in order to enhance existing knowledge or develop new approaches to existing problems.									
<b>B – Intellectual Skills</b> B1 Critically review and evaluate evidence in terms of its source, reliability, validity and significance. B2 Synthesise information and ideas autonomously B3 Select, design and carry out research/project activity that has congruence and intellectual integrity.										<b>D - Transferable Skills</b> D1 Disseminate their ideas in written format, orally and visually D2 Effectively utilise Information Technology D3 Have developed and be able to apply critical evaluation skills D4 Have developed self-appraisal and reflective skills D5 Use reflective practice to define complex problems and develop creative problem solving skills									

## 2.5.2 Programme Skills Matrix showing the relationship between ILOs for PG Cert Public Health and its constituent units

Units						Intended Learning Outcomes													
		A1	A2	A3	A4		B1	B2		C1	C2	C3	C4	D1	D2	D3	D4		
	Health Promotion & Partnership Working	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Context and Scope of Public Health	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			
	Exploring and Evaluating Evidence		✓				✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		
A – Subject Knowledge & Understanding						C – Subject-specific / Practical Skills													
A1	The context and scope of public health, epidemiology and partnership working					C1	Critically evaluate public health issues.												
A2	The nature of knowledge and research approaches					C2	Apply in-depth knowledge and critically reflect on public health issues												
A3	Applied public health strategies					C3	Critically evaluate the complexities of partnership working.												
A4	Health promotion theory and strategy																		
B – Intellectual Skills						D - Transferable Skills													
B1	Critically review and evaluate evidence in terms of its source, reliability, validity and significance.					D1	Disseminate their ideas in written format, orally and visually												
B2	Synthesise information and ideas autonomously					D2	Effectively utilise information technology												
						D3	Have developed and be able to apply critical evaluation skills												
						D4	Have developed self-appraisal and reflective skills												

## 2.6 PROGRAMME DIAGRAM



## **2.7 ADMISSION REGULATIONS**

Please refer to the course website for further information regarding admission regulations for this programme: [MSc Public Health | Bournemouth University](#)

## **2.8 ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS**

The regulations for this programme are the University's Standard Postgraduate Regulations.

## 2.9 PROGRAMME PROFILE

Originating Institution(s): <b>Bournemouth University</b>			Place(s) of Delivery: <b>Bournemouth University</b>			Framework Title (in full): <b>HSC Post Graduate Framework</b>						Mode(s) of study <sup>1</sup> : <b>FT and PT</b> Expected Length of study <sup>2</sup> : <b>FT = 1 year</b> <b>PT = 3 years</b> BU Credit Structure & ECTS <sup>3</sup> : <b>Level M 180 (ECTS 90)</b>		
Faculty: <b>Faculty of Health and Social Sciences</b>			Language of delivery (if not English):			Programme Award and Title: <b>MSc Public Health</b>								
Partner: <b>None</b>			Programme HECoS code:			Interim Award and Titles & required credits: <b>PG Diploma Public Health 120 level M credits</b> <b>PG Cert Public Health 60 level M credits</b>								

Unit identification		Cost Centre(s) <sup>4</sup>				Unit Details						Assessment Regs <sup>7</sup> :SR		
Unit version no.	Unit name	HECoS Subject Code			HECoS Subject Code	Contact hours	Prog year <sup>5</sup> FT	Prog year <sup>5</sup> PT	Core / option	No of credits <sup>6</sup>	Level (4,5,6, PgC, PgD, 7)	Assessment <sup>8</sup> Element Weightings <sup>9</sup>		
												Exam 1	C/Work 1	C/Work 2
3.1	Context and Scope of Public Health					30	1	Variable	Core	20	7		100%	
2.1	Exploring and Evaluating Evidence					30	1	Variable	Core	20	7		100%	
1.1	Epidemiology and Infection					30	1	Variable	Core	20	7		100%	
3.1	Health Promotion and Partnership Working					30	1	Variable	Core	20	7		100%	
1.2	Developing a Study Proposal					30	1	Variable	Core	20	7		100%	
2.1	Public Health Management Strategies					30	1	Variable	Core	20	7		100%	
2.3	Dissertation Project					12	1	Variable	Core	60	7		100%	

Effective from <sup>10</sup> Prog Year / Month / Year			Contact in School: Dr Liz Norton E mail: lnorton@bournemouth.ac.uk		Date approved <sup>11</sup> :		Programme Specification version no. <sup>12</sup> : 4		Placement <sup>13</sup> : Not applicable		
Yr. 1	Sept	2014	Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (if appropriate) <sup>14</sup> : Not applicable								
Yr. 2											
Yr. 3											
Yr.4											

Originating Institution(s): <b>Bournemouth University</b>  Faculty: <b>Faculty of Health and Social Sciences</b>  Partner: <b>None</b>			Place(s) of Delivery: <b>Bournemouth University</b>		Framework Title (in full): <b>HSC Post Graduate Framework</b>  Programme Award and Title: <b>PG Cert Public Health</b>  Interim Award and Titles & required credits:N/A										Mode(s) of study <sup>1</sup> : <b>PT</b> Expected Length of study <sup>2</sup> : <b>PT= 1 year</b> BU Credit Structure & ECTS <sup>3</sup> : <b>Level 7 60 (ECTS 30)</b>		
			Language of delivery (if not English):														
			Programme HECoS code:														
Unit identification					Cost Centre(s) <sup>4</sup>				Unit Details						Assessment Regs <sup>7</sup> :SR		
Unit version no.	Unit name				HECoS Subject Code			HECoS Subject Code	Contact hours	Prog year <sup>5</sup> FT	Prog year <sup>5</sup> PT	Core / option	No of credits <sup>6</sup>	Level (4,5,6, PgC, PgD, 7)	Assessment <sup>8</sup> Element Weightings <sup>9</sup>		
															Exam 1	C/Work 1	C/Work 2
3.1	Context and Scope of Public Health								30	1	Variable	Core	20	7		100%	
2.1	Exploring and Evaluating Evidence								30	1	Variable	Core	20	7		100%	
3.1	Health Promotion and Partnership Working								30	1	Variable	Core	20	7		100%	
Effective from <sup>10</sup> Prog Year / Month / Year			Contact in School: Dr Liz Norton E mail: lnorton@bournemouth.ac.uk					Date approved <sup>11</sup> :		Programme Specification version no. <sup>12</sup> : 4				Placement <sup>13</sup> : Not applicable			
Yr. 1	Sept	2016	Name of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body (if appropriate) <sup>14</sup> : Not applicable														
Yr. 2																	
Yr. 3																	
Yr.4																	