



LUND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Medicine

LUND UNIVERSITY
Board of the Faculty of Medicine

CURRICULUM

Diary No
M2007/1752

Approved by the Board of the Faculty of Medicine on 30 January, 2007. Applies as from 1 July, 2007. Revised of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine on 11 December 2007

1

Master's Programme in Public Health

120 credits Level A LADOK Code: VAFHV

Programme Outline

The programme is based on previous studies in related fields at the bachelor level and has the principal aims that the students should develop a scientific attitude and acquire a sound knowledge of methods for independent public health work at different levels of the community and for research in that field. The programme also forms a basis for research training in public health.

The programme provides cross-disciplinary perspectives on the planning, follow-up and evaluation of public health projects and programs, and the student acquires adequate knowledge of global health and disease patterns; the drafting, implementation and follow-up of health policies; epidemiology and qualitative methods; and methods for needs assessment, priority setting, intervention, quality control, and evaluation of programmes of health promotion and disease prevention.

Demands for qualified staff in the field of public health have grown in recent years as employers have realized that the health of the population is one of the decisive factors for the establishment of a sustainable model of societal development. The implementation and evaluation of the UN Millennium Development Goals, involving also the WHO and the World Bank, further accentuate the need for public health competence. A master's degree in public health or equivalent training is a requirement from SIDA as well as the UN organizations when recruiting staff for international work in this field.

In this programme, students acquire the necessary theoretical and methodological knowledge for continued research training in public health. Courses within the programme may be credited towards advanced degrees at Swedish universities and colleges.

Goals

Knowledge and Understanding

On completion of the programme, students are expected to be able to

- demonstrate a broad knowledge base and problem-solving ability in the field of public health



- demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of how theory and practice interact in the field of public health and thereby understand and master complex situations and complete tasks under time pressure
- demonstrate the understanding and knowledge needed to identify and assess health hazards independently and handle practical and critical situations in the field of public health
- demonstrate understanding and knowledge of leadership and an ability to work in project-oriented formats
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge and understanding of global socio-economic and cultural conditions and so solve practical problems and implement decisions in a work situation
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of how preventive public health work may be done, what strategies are applicable to the promotion of public health, and how ill health may be prevented at international, national, regional, local and individual levels.

Proficiencies and Abilities

On completion of the programme, students are expected to be able to

- demonstrate an ability to apply advanced methods in the field of public health, e.g. practical proficiencies in the fields of epidemiology, qualitative methods and research ethics
- independently understand and critically evaluate research in that field and take part in the design and implementation of studies in public health
- demonstrate the theoretical and methodological knowledge necessary for the completion of a research training programme in public health
- integrate the interdisciplinary knowledge and competencies they have acquired in the programme in order to complete their own assignments independently and within a reasonable time-span, frame questions for scientific study, and take part in research and development work at an advanced level
- demonstrate ability to communicate results, conclusions and arguments, in writing and orally, concerning their own work and that of others, both nationally and internationally
- demonstrate communicative abilities and an ability to teach members of different staff categories.



Evaluation Competence and Attitudes

On completion of the programme, students are expected to be able to

- evaluate critically and assess the effects of health policies, health promotion and disease prevention at all levels, also with consideration of various ethical, financial and social aspects
- demonstrate awareness of the limitations and opportunities of public health science and make ethical and responsible judgments of the effects of their actions
- demonstrate an ability to take responsibility for and identify the need for further knowledge and knowledge development within their field.

Courses

S1	<i>Public Health and Global Health Patterns, 15 credits</i>	
	<i>Epidemiology and Biostatistics, 15 credits</i>	
S2	<i>Planning and Management in Public Health, 15 credits</i>	
	<i>Qualitative Methods, 7.5 Credits</i>	<i>Health Communication, 7.5 credits</i>
S3	<i>Health Policies, 7.5 credits</i>	<i>Health Promotion, 7.5 credits</i>
	<i>Health Economics, 7.5 credits</i>	<i>Elective courses, 7.5 credits</i>
S4	<i>Degree Paper, 30 credits</i>	



LUND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Medicine

LUND UNIVERSITY
Board of the Faculty of Medicine

CURRICULUM

Diary No
M2007/1752

Approved by the Board of the Faculty of Medicine
on 30 January, 2007. Applies as from 1 July, 2007.
Revised of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine on
11 December 2007

4

The programme begins with a survey course in *Public Health and Global Health Patterns*, (15 credits) in which the most important health problems, health indicators and health factors for low-, middle- and high-income countries are described.

The public health research methods courses, *Epidemiology and Biostatistics* (15 credits) and *Qualitative Methods* (7.5 credits), are included in semesters 1 and 2 to make it possible for students to begin planning for their fourth-semester *Degree Paper* (30 credits) early and to develop a critical attitude to scientific reports.

Courses designed to improve the students' theoretical and practical familiarity with important tools for public health work, such as *Planning and Management in Public Health*, (15 credits), *Health Communication* (7.5 credits), *Health Policies* (7.5 credits), *Health Promotion* (7,5 credits) and *Health Economics* (7.5 credits) are given in semesters 2 and 3. During semester 3, students are free to select either a breadth or in-depth course offered within the programme or some other relevant university course.

Degree

On completion of the programme, the student is awarded the degree of Master of Medical Science with a Major in Public Health (*Medicine masterexamen med huvudområdet folkhälsovetenskap*), 120 credits.

Entrance Qualifications and Selection Criteria

Over and above the general entrance qualifications, i.e. a basic degree of at least 180 credits or an equivalent foreign degree, a special qualification in English, corresponding to English B, is required. In the selection of candidates, priority will be given to applicants who have two years' work experience in the field of public health. Such work experience is defined as work promoting health in a population or population group. Examples of this is work with a view to

- preventing illness and eliminating threats to people's health
- improving information with the purpose of promoting public health
- improving conditions for the coordination and implementation of measures to deal with health hazards.