Buckinghamshire New University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Key Information

Programme Title:	BA (Hons) Public Health BA (Hons) Public Health with Foundation Year BA (Hons) Public Health with International Foundation Year
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	Buckinghamshire New University
Subject Cluster:	Community Health & Primary Care
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	BA (Hons) Public Health
Pathways (if applicable)	
FHEQ level of final award:	6
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	Certificate of Higher Education Diploma of Higher Education BA Public Health
Accreditation details:	
Length of programme:	3 years 4 years with Foundation Year
Mode(s) of Study:	Full Time
Mode of Delivery:	In person (on-site) delivery
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	Health Studies (2019) Social Policy (2019)
Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):	UK Public Health Register
Course Code(s):	BAPUBHBF / BAPUBHFY
UCAS Code(s):	
Approval date:	1 December 2022
Date of last update:	

2. Programme Summary

This programme will enable you to develop an in depth understanding of the concepts of national and global public health. It will explore how public health has been shaped through history as well as develop understanding of contemporary issues which affect health and wellbeing across the lifespan. Evidenced-based practice, epidemiology, and the determinants of health will form core themes throughout the programme. The development, implementation and effectiveness of health improvement interventions will be explored. This programme will appeal to those wishing to consider a career in public health both in the

United Kingdom (UK) and Internationally. Specifically, it will equip you with the knowledge and skills to work in a wide range of services such as the NHS, local and national government agencies, non-government agencies, the public and private sectors nationally and internationally. It will appeal to a wide range of applicants who are concerned about the global risks to health from planetary and environmental hazards including climate change and the use of plastics, and threats from infectious agents such as Covid.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

1. Develop in students a systematic understanding of the concepts of public health and health promotion initiatives nationally and globally

2. Increase students' critical awareness of contemporary research pertaining to current issues in public health across the globe

3. Develop in students skills in independent learning and decision making in public health

4. Enable students to understand the ethical responsibilities of all global citizens to safeguard the physical, emotional and mental health of individuals, groups and populations

5. Develop students' leadership skills to drive improvement in health and reduce health inequalities

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	Explain and critically discuss the importance of safeguarding individuals, groups and populations and managing the risks associated with public health.
K2	Discuss critically the concepts of public health in relation to understanding populations, cultures and collective responsibility and the impact on health and wellbeing.
K3	Demonstrate in depth understanding of mental health in relation to public health in individuals, groups and populations.
K4	Demonstrate critical understanding of the drivers of public health policy makers by exploring how health related decisions are made internationally, nationally and locally.

Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
C1	Identify, discuss and critically evaluate historical and contemporary public health and health promotion.

C2	Evaluate and explain models of health promotion and behaviour change in relation to public health practice.
C3	Evaluate the value of leading public health and health promotion activities in improving health reducing health inequalities.
C4	Critically explore epidemiological data and draw appropriate conclusions that demonstrate understanding of the spread of disease across the world.

Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
P1	Challenge assumptions, abstract concepts and explore data to solve complex public health problems across the world.
P2	Apply a variety of experiences and learning opportunities to consider innovative methods of improving health and wellbeing across the globe.
P3	Show critical awareness of the concepts of safeguarding individuals and populations from the harmful effects of the environment and human behaviours.
P4	Show critical understanding of the ethical responsibilities contained in public health research and related topics.
P5	Identify and explore health inequalities across the world and act responsibly to improve population health and well being.

Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Utilise critical writing skills to demonstrate independent and creative solutions to problems.
T2	Exhibit critical understanding of the collective responsibilities of a 'global citizen'.
T3	Identify and critically discuss responsibilities of managing self and others in promoting health and well being.

Graduate Attributes

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens.

On this programme, attributes are developed through engagement in varied learning opportunities. Public health aims to improve population health and reduce health inequalities and in keeping with this, programme learning and its application to practice is underpinned by values of equity and inclusivity (K1, K3, P3, T2). Students will develop in depth knowledge and understanding of factors influencing national and global public health (K2, K4) exploring how public health has been shaped through history (C1) as well as gaining appreciation of contemporary issues which affect health and wellbeing across the lifespan (C4). Evidenced-based practice, epidemiology, and the determinants of health form core themes throughout the programme (P1, P5), enabling students to understand factors

contributing to the development, implementation and effectiveness of health improvement interventions (C2, C3). Course studies prepare students for a career in public health both in the United Kingdome (UK) and internationally, through facilitating the knowledge and skills required to work in a wide range of organisations including public sector, governmental and non-government agencies, nationally and internationally (P2, T1, T3).   Through developing abilities and confidence in interpreting public health data, research evidence, and in communicating findings (P4) students will feel able to work with others to address contemporary health issues and contribute meaningfully to improving the health and wellbeing of local communities and wider populations.

4. Entry Requirements

The University's general entry requirements will apply to admission to this programme with the following additions / exceptions:

- UCAS Tariff - 88 - 112 points. Applicants will vary from young college leavers committed to public service to mature students looking to extend their knowledge within the field of public health. It will also attract those seeking a career change or to enhance their promotion career prospects. Such a degree is particularly attractive to international students.

If you do not meet the entry requirements you may, if you have relevant professional experience, still be invited for interview, where you will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our accreditation of prior learning (APL) process.

5. Programme Structure

Pathway 1 or stand-alone course

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
Foundation Year[1]	**Core modules:** **FY026 Preparing for Success: Knowledge and Creativity** **FY027 Preparing for Success: Self Development and Responsibility** **FY028 Inquiry Based Learning** **FY008 Ways of Learning About the Social World** **Option modules:** No option modules are available at this level.	**N/A.** No credit is awarded at this Level.
International Foundation Year	**Core modules:** **FY042 English for Academic and Professional Communication** **FY044 Inquiry Based Learning** **FY045 Global Health and Wellbeing** **Option modules:** No option modules are available at this level.	**N/A.** No credit is awarded at this Level.
Level 4	**Core modules:** **NAM4017 Policy and Politics in Public Health (20 credits)** **NAM4018 Introduction to Epidemiology (20 credits)** **NAM4019 Society, Culture and Community (20 credits)** **NAM4020 Foundations for Public Health Practice (20 credits)** **NAM4021 Safeguarding: A Public Health Perspective (20 credits)** **Opportunity modules:**	**Certificate of Higher Education**, awarded on achievement of 120 credits at Level 4

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[1] Modules on the Foundation Year only apply to learners who are enrolled on the "with Foundation Year" programme.

	You must choose 2 x 10 credit Level 4 Opportunity modules from the Opportunity module catalogue www.bnu.ac.uk/oppmodules	
Level 5	**Core modules:** **NAM50 Health Promotion in Action (20 credits)** **NAM5029 Collaborating for Success in Public Health (20 credits)** **NAM5030 Patterns, Trends and Innovations (20 credits)** **Research Methods (20 credits)** **Option modules:** Choose modules to the total of 20 credits: **NAM5032 Inspiring Individuals to Improve Health (20 credits)** **NAM5034 Placements (20 credits)** In addition, you must choose 2 x 10 credit Level 5 Opportunity modules from the Opportunity module catalogue www.bnu.ac.uk/oppmodules	**Diploma of Higher Education**, awarded on achievement of 240 credits, including a minimum of 120 credits at Level 5
Level 6	**Core modules:** **At Risk Populations and Mental Health (20 credits)** **Educating for Improved Health (20 credits)** **Extended Independent Work (40 credits)** **Global Public Health (20 credits)** **Option modules:** Choose modules to the total of 20 credits: **Settings-Based Health Promotion (20 credits)** **Medical Ethics and Law (20 credits)**	**Ordinary Degree**, awarded on achievement of 300 credits, including 60 credits at Level 6 and 120 credits at each of Levels 4 and 5 **Honours Degree**, awarded on achievement of 360 credits, including 120 credits at each of Levels, 4, 5 and 6

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to changes in the subject area.

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

This programme will include a variety of teaching and learning activities including:

Lectures

This is the most formal teaching strategy employed in teaching the modules. It can be an effective method of delivery but it is most effective when followed up by seminar, discussion, debate, practical or tutorial session to consolidate learning. Staff will make appropriate use of the VLE (Blackboard) facilities or any other appropriate facility. This should enable lecturers to enhance the traditional communication and learning mediums, as well as making material available to students at home and university. Lectures will be undertaken by experts in the field of public health and related subjects such as mental health and safeguarding, health promotion.

Seminars

These can vary from large group seminars, which provide an opportunity for the student-led formal debate of particular topic areas, to 'impromptu' discussion sessions with smaller groups, which may, for example follow the showing of a video. Students will be encouraged to debate and challenge assumptions in relation to public health practice.

Tutorials / directed study

Mainly in smaller groups or for individuals, tutorials are guided learning sessions, which can support a formal lecture by students working together in smaller groups, for example preparing a student presentation or an event. Alternatively, individual tutorials will support personal learning and development.

Specialists/Visits

Other techniques such as museum visits, specialist public health guest lectures and computer aided learning tools such as the university's VLE will be used where appropriate. This variety of techniques is aimed at stimulating student learning. The teaching and learning strategies for individual modules are detailed in the relevant module pro-forma.

Volunteering

To extend knowledge and understanding of public health practice, volunteering opportunities within voluntary sector organisations and lifestyle services, will be encouraged. Volunteering is optional and not a required component in any module, and therefore students will not be disadvantaged if volunteering is not undertaken.

Assessment

The following summative assessment activities are used on this programme:

• Essay– This assessment type will vary across the modules but will expect students to write in depth about a particular topic or question and they will be expected to draw upon and reference a wide range of evidence or sources (e.g. reference books, journal articles etc.).

• Project (other than a dissertation) – this will involve practical exercises– organising an event/ presenting a poster and undertaking an observational study.

• Presentations – These will be either as an individual or group presentation • Portfolio – This will involve a collection of work over time that will contribute to a CV for future employment.

• Report / Case study – This will be a description or account of a case that will match a prescribed format or template.

• Dissertation - A dissertation is a substantial piece of writing based on independent research on a subject undertaken under the direction of a supervisor. It is designed to show that students can work independently to research and analyse a subject in depth.

Formative work will be embedded throughout the programme to ensure that individual learning is supported throughout.

Contact Hours

Full-time undergraduate students study 120 credits, per year of the course, which equates to 1200 hours of learning hours per year of the course

7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the following assessment regulations:

- Academic Assessment Regulations

8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support you to be successful with your studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases - many of which are available in electronic format – and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the MyBNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news, record your attendance at sessions, and access your personalised timetable
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on University regulations, exams, and other aspects of students and course administration
- Central student services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling
- Support from the Bucks Students' Union, including the Students' Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on University processes.

9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has a number of ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. You will be able to comment on the content of their programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys

- Programme Committees, via appointed student representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment
- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Review by the relevant PSRB(s)
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement – see detailed mapping below
- The Apprenticeship Standard – see detailed mapping below
- The PSRB Standards of Proficiency (SOP) for
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy

Mapping of Subject Benchmark Statement and any relevant Apprenticeship Standard to Programme Learning Outcomes

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Practicing professionally, ethically and legally	X			X				X					X	X				X		
Using public health information to influence population health and wellbeing		X		X			X		X		X				X		X			
Assessing the evidence for public health interventions						X	X	X	X											
Protecting the public from health risks while addressing differences in health exposure and outcomes		X									X						X			
Implementing public health policy and strategy			X	X			X	X				X					X			

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Benchmark / Standard requirement	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Collaborating across organisations to deliver the public health function			X									X			X					
Planning, implementing and evaluating public health programmes and projects						X	X	X				X	X	X	X					
Communicating with others to improve health outcomes	X	X										X				X		X		

Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Level 4																				
Foundations for Public Health Practice		x				x										x		x		
Society, Culture, Community		x							x						x		x			
Safeguarding: A Public Health Perspective	x												x		x					
Introduction to Epidemiology						x			x		x									
Policy and Politics in Public Health	x			x																
Level 5																				
Health Promotion in Action							x	x						x						
Collaborating For Success in Public Health		x										x						x		
Patterns, Trends and Innovations	x	x						x	x		x	x				x				
Research Methods									x		x			x						
Level 6																				

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
At Risk Populations and Mental Health			x	x																
Educating for Improved Health							x	x										x		
Global Public Health											x			x			x			
Extended Independent Work: Dissertation									x		x			x		x				