

course factfile

Work Based Public Health at Honours / Masters Level

Successful completion leads to the award of a 30 credit certificate of professional development (CPD) at either Honours level (equivalent to third year at university) or Masters level.

Introduction

'Choosing Health: making healthy choices easier' puts public health at the heart of the government agenda to improve the health of everyone across the nation. This agenda can only be achieved through the development of a skilled public health workforce in all organisations that offer a public service.

Most health care deals with consequences of a disease process. The public health practitioner seeks to work more 'upstream', to look at what causes disease and what interventions may be employed to positively influence and promote health. For many practitioners this requires a redefining of roles and responsibilities and a change in the way they work.

This certificate of professional development (CPD) seeks to prepare practitioners for this change, to facilitate the learning that will enable them to make the transition smoothly and develop their public health role effectively. That is why the learning on this largely work-based programme is built around the development of real projects, which are determined by population need and that impact on the determinants of health.

It is anticipated that participants will come from a wide range of local workplaces, including the local authority, voluntary organisations and Primary Care Trusts. Through this mixing of people from different disciplines, the programme has the ability to cut across traditional institutional and organisational boundaries and to secure effective partnership working between multidisciplinary organisations that are all working towards a healthier future for all. Effective public health practice needs people who may have different jobs and work at different levels, but can understand and respect what others are doing.

This course aims to strengthen the public health capacity and capability of front-line staff, through work based action and learning at either Honours or Masters level. Participants will acquire the skills and knowledge to plan, implement and critically review a

public health project in the workplace. Projects will be tailored to fit participants' professional backgrounds and may include investigating epidemiological data, auditing and improving services, reviewing policy initiatives, a health impact assessment, or lobbying and advocacy work.

Learning outcomes

After completing this CPD, participants will be able to:

- Review current evidence, concepts or assumptions about public health in the workplace or community, in order to identify and plan a public health project
- Demonstrate the ability to implement an appropriate strategy for achieving the project's aims and outcomes
- Critically evaluate the ability to achieve personal and project goals, using a suitable reflective framework

Learning activities

The CPD is divided into three units. Unit 1 provides participants with an understanding of key public health concepts; epidemiological theories, principles and tools; and, an understanding of experiential learning and critical reflection. Unit 2 gives participants the resources to optimise learning opportunities in the workplace and involves meetings with a learning mentor and an academic tutor to define and plan a suitable project. In Unit 3, participants implement a project in the workplace or community. A robust learning agreement is in place by the end of Unit 2, outlining the project and accountability issues. This agreement sets out what is to be done and is signed by the participant, the participant's line manager and an academic tutor from LJMU, who monitors the quality and scope of the work.

Career Prospects

The Government's agenda over recent years has emphasised increasing public health capacity in organisations and communities. This short CPD will

go somewhat towards achieving this agenda. As well as increasing an individual's capacity to take a public health initiative forward, the programme can encourage mutual understanding and partnership working in the participant's organisation or community. It may also encourage participants to progress to a Masters degree in Public Health, or a career in public health.

Entry requirements

Applicants will generally work in a health-related profession, or work in a setting that involves responsibility for determinants of health such as the local authority, housing association or a non-governmental organisation.

At Honours level:

Applicants will normally fulfil one or more of the following criteria;

- have a Diploma in Higher Education or equivalent
- have already achieved credits level 2 and possibly level 3

Any applicants who do not match the above criteria may be asked to complete an assignment to determine their capacity to study at Honours level.

At Masters level:

Applicants will normally possess a good Honours degree (minimum grade 2:2) in any discipline. Applicants who do not possess a degree must satisfy the programme team of their ability to study at Masters level, through the presentation of a strong portfolio of written and other work (e.g. papers presented at conferences; publications; report and research proposals).

Course delivery

The course will be held at Liverpool John Moores University starting February each year. During units 1 and 2, (approximately two months) attendance is one day a week. Self-directed learning and project work will continue for the subsequent six months. During this time, there will be regular meetings with an academic tutor and learning mentor in the workplace.

Further details and return of application forms to:

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