

2015 Curriculum for the Master of Science programme in Global Health at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, School of Public Health

This curriculum comes into force on 1 February 2020 and shall apply in relation to students admitted on or after that date.

The curriculum was approved by the Dean in September 2015, March and October 2019.

This subject-specific curriculum, the course or module descriptions in the overall University of Copenhagen course database and the general curriculum provisions together comprise the curriculum leading to the degree of Master of Science in Global Health.

Part 1 Objectives and qualification profile

§ 1 Objectives

The objective of the Master of Science programme in Global Health (leading to the degree of Master of Science in Global Health) (MSc in Global Health) is to facilitate the development of graduates with knowledge, skills and competencies within the cross-disciplinary field of global health. Global health is here defined as an area for study, research and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health and transnational health for all people worldwide.

1.2. Successful completion of the programme gives the right to use the title of Master of Science in Global Health (MSc in Global Health), the Danish title "kandidat i global sundhed", candidatus / candidata scientiarum in Global Health and cand.scient. in Global Health.

1.3. The degree is worth 120 ECTS credits.

1.4. The programme belongs under the Study Board for Public Health Science and Global Health.

1.5. The programme belongs under The Body of External Examiners for Public Health Science and Related Programmes.

§ 2 Admission requirements and qualification profile

A maximum of 40 students can be admitted to the programme. One third of the seats may be reserved for students from countries outside of the EU/EEA.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in a field relevant to Global Health, possess skills within qualitative and quantitative methods, and present proof of their English language skills if English is not their first language.

2.2. Special course requirements

Applicants must prove that the following requirements are part of their passed bachelor's degree:

- courses in quantitative methodology, including statistical methods, equivalent to a minimum of 5 ECTS.
- courses in qualitative methodology equivalent to a minimum of 5 ECTS.

Applicants must document requirements mentioned above by providing detailed course descriptions of the passed courses and exams in quantitative and qualitative methods

2.3. English language skills

Applicants for whom English is not the first language must submit a document certifying English skills equivalent to Danish high school “Level B” or have passed one of the following language tests: International English Language Testing System (IELTS/Academic) or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The minimum acceptable score for IELTS is 6,5, and the minimum acceptable score for TOEFL is 560 for the paper test, or 83 for the internet-based test.

2.4. Motivational Statement and CV

In addition, all applicants must write a motivational statement describing their reasons for applying for admission, including how the programme will build on pre-existing knowledge and skills, and describe other relevant experiences. The motivational statement will be used solely for ranking applicants who are qualified for enrolment in the MSc in Global Health programme. Applications will be assessed by an admissions committee. Selection of the admitted students will be based on an overall evaluation of the application including the grade average of the bachelor degree, the relevance of the CV, any research experience or relevant stays abroad and lastly, the motivational statement.

2.5. To be admitted to the programme applicants must have passed a bachelor’s degree from either a Danish university or a university abroad within one of the following academic areas:

- Public Health Science / Folkesundhedsvidenskab
- Sociology / Sociologi
- Geography and Geoinformatics / Geografi-geoinformatik
- Political Science / Statskundskab
- Anthropology / Antropologi
- Health Informatics / Sundhed og informatik
- Psychology / Psykologi
- Dental Surgery / Odontologi
- Veterinary Medicine / Veterinærmedicin
- Food and Nutrition / Fødevarer og ernæring
- Development Studies / Udviklingsstudier
- Biology / Biologi
- Medicine / Medicin
- BSc in Nursing / Sygeplejerske (professionsbachelor)
- BSc in Global Nutrition and Health / Global ernæring og sundhed (professionsbachelor)

2.6. The Bachelor’s degree concerned must have been obtained within the last three years prior to the start of the first semester of the Master’s programme.

2.7. In exceptional circumstances the admissions committee may waive the requirement stipulated in 2.6 above.

§ 3 Competency profile

A graduate of the Master of Science programme in Global Health has acquired knowledge, skills and competencies pertaining to the broad and cross disciplinary the field of global health through 7 compulsory courses, including a Country Exposure course held in either a low-income or middle income country. Graduates have also acquired qualifications through specialisation during, elective courses, , project work, internship and by writing a MSc thesis. The specialisation is possible within one of the following four study tracks:

- 1) Policy, Financing and Health Care Systems
- 2) Disease Burden, Challenges and Changes
- 3) E-health and ICT in Health
- 4) Disaster Risk Management

3.2. Knowledge

Graduates:

- Possess knowledge on major social, political and environmental determinants of health
- Possess highly specialized knowledge on transitions in health, and the distribution and burdens of disease on individual, community, national and transnational/global levels.
- Possess knowledge on infrastructure, roles and relationship of entities influencing and acting in global health
- Are able to critically reflect upon and discuss central global health-frameworks and policies that define goals in international and global health, e.g. the Sustainable Development Goals
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- Possess knowledge on different models of health care systems, global health care trends and dilemmas
- Possess knowledge on social science and public health-related theories and models relevant to global health
- Are able to identify core scientific problems within global health and discuss them in relation to quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and central approaches to analysis
- Possess knowledge on the procedures of country and situational assessments, stakeholder analysis and impact assessments
- Possess knowledge on central approaches to interventions for global health, including promotion and prevention initiatives, e.g. E-health-based initiatives

3.3. Skills

Graduates are able to:

- Identify and critically discuss global health-related data and research-based evidence
- Critically analyse key factors and forces shaping the health and well-being of populations and societies at various levels, from the planetary health perspective to transnational, community and individual perspectives.
- Compare and analyse different models of health care systems and global health care trends and dilemmas
- Conduct formative and translational research based on qualitative and quantitative research approaches and literature and document reviews. Apply a variety of analytical tools and assessments for situational and stakeholder analysis
- Independently analyse and evaluate health policies, health care systems, and strategies for health promotion and the control and prevention of diseases, transnationally and trans-disciplinarily
- Communicate and discuss evidence-based knowledge, advice and decisions across cultures and on different levels to researchers, policy and decision makers, media, organizations, and the general public.

3.4. Competencies

Graduates are able to:

- Design, carry out and co-ordinate scientifically valid and focused research, and evaluate, validate and disseminate existing data to advance knowledge in a particular problem area or issue of global health.
- Advise on, and formulate effective responses to complex practice and policy issues related to global health.
- Initiate and independently contribute evidence-based planning, communication and realisation of new and innovative initiatives and sustainable strategies to improve health and prevent and control diseases.
- Initiate, sustain and supervise effective cross-disciplinary team work
- Independently organise and assess their own learning process and assume responsibility for continuous professional development
- Promote equity, justice and dignity via their professional practice
- Implement procedures for managing health partnerships with integrity and respect

Part 2 Modules, instruction, maximum duration of study

§ 4 Modules and methods of instruction

The modular structure of the programme is designed to provide students with overall academic qualifications within a prescribed timetable, which is defined in terms of ECTS points. All courses in the programme run as modules rather than semester courses.

4.2 Methods of instruction is based on student preparations for class (reading and preparation of assignments) and includes lectures, group work, e-learning sessions and facilitated discussions

§ 5 Maximum duration of study

5.1. Students must complete the programme no more than three years following commencement.

5.2. Under exceptional circumstances, the Study Board may waive the deadlines in 5.1 above.

Part 3 Study and exam activities

§ 6

The Master of Science in Global Health comprises the following courses and exams:

1 st year	1 st semester	Block 1	Global Health and Diseases; Introduction and Major Challenges	Health Research Methodology
		Block 2	The Anthropology of Global Health	Drivers of Change in Human Health: Coping with Population and Environmental Dynamics
	2 nd semester	Block 3	Country Exposure	

		Block 4	Global Partners, Policies and Health Care Systems	Strategies for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
2 nd year	3 rd semester	Study track 1: Policy, Financing and Health Care Systems	<p>Recommended courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardio-metabolic Diseases in Global Populations <p>Courses offered in the elective course cooperation between the MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Health Informatics, Health Science, and Human Biology</p> <p>Also courses offered by MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Geography, Agricultural Development, Health Informatics, Psychology, Pharmaceutical Science, Human Nutrition and Development Studies in Denmark and abroad.</p> <p>Internship 10 or 15 ECTS Individual Study Element 2,5 ECTS</p>	
		Study track 2: Disease Burden, Challenges and Changes	<p>Recommended courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardio-metabolic Diseases in Global Populations <p>Courses offered in the elective course cooperation between the MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Health Informatics, Health Science, and Human Biology</p> <p>Also courses offered by MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Geography, Agricultural Development, Health Informatics, Psychology, Pharmaceutical Science, Human Nutrition and Development Studies in Denmark and abroad.</p> <p>Internship 10 or 15 ECTS Individual Study Element 2,5 ECTS</p>	

	Study track 3: E-health and ICT in Health	<p>Courses offered in the elective course cooperation between the MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Health Informatics, Health Science, and Human Biology</p> <p>Also courses offered by MScs in Health Informatics, Global Health, Public Health Science, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Geography, Agricultural Development, Psychology, Pharmaceutical Science, Human Nutrition and Development Studies in Denmark and abroad.</p> <p>Internship 10 or 15 ECTS Individual Study Element 2,5 ECTS</p>	
	Study track 4: Disaster Risk Management	<p>Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice (compulsory in this track but can be replaced by an internship with either DG-ECHO or UN-OCHA, cf. 6.9)</p>	<p>Further recommended courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises • Disaster Recovery Planning and Development • Internship 10 or 15 ECTS • Individual Study Element 2,5 ECTS <p>Courses offered in the elective course cooperation between the MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Health Informatics, Health Science, and Human Biology</p>
4 th semester			Thesis

6.2. While completing the seven compulsory course elements during the first year, students must put together an individual study plan for the second year. The third semester of studies includes the possibility for choosing an internship of 10 or 15 ECTS in combination with elective courses at UCPH or other universities in Denmark and abroad. The fourth semester is allocated for writing the thesis. The individual study plan must reflect the student's specialization within in one of four of the following study tracks starting in the second year:

1. Policy, Financing and Health Care Systems
2. Disease Burden, Challenges and Changes
3. E-health and ICT in Health
4. Disaster Risk Management

6.3. The choice of study track must be approved on the basis of an individual study plan by the Study Plan Committee, which is appointed by the study board to consider applications for approval of study plans, pre-approval of credit transfers and final approval of documentation for credit transfers.

When considering applications for approval of study plans the committee takes into consideration the substantiated statement in which the student should argue the choice of study track as well as provide an overview of possible courses and subjects that the student wishes to take courses within. The statement should also include any plans for internship and thesis subject if possible. As a general rule, only study plans which keep within the prescribed period of study, will be approved. Also elective courses offered within the elective course cooperation between the MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Health Informatics, Health Science, and Human Biology should be listed as part of the individual study plans.

6.4.

If there are more than ten students who wish to take the study track in Disaster Risk Management, a Study Plan Committee appointed by the study board considers the applications based on the following criteria:

1. The student has relevant work or internship experience from e.g. a humanitarian organization (paid or voluntary) or from any kind of organization or workplace provided that the student can relate it to the Disaster Risk Management track.
2. The student has experience of vulnerable or disaster stricken regions, either by living, working or staying there for a longer period.
3. The student aims at a career within disaster risk management or closely related jobs.
4. The student states plans for a master's thesis within the disaster risk management area.

If the number of students fulfilling these four criteria exceeds the number of allocated slots in the track (usually ten), the students to be admitted will be selected by drawing lots.

6.5. Track 1: Policy, Financing and Health Care Systems

The track focuses on components such as health politics and policies, health economics and management, ethics and human rights, minorities' and refugees' health, global risk factors and determinants of health. While building on courses from the first and second semester, the courses

and activities as well as thesis topic chosen should be related to allow for progression during the third and fourth semester of studies.

6.6. Track 2: Disease Burden, Challenges and Changes

The track focuses on improvements and new challenges of health, and the prevention and control of diseases, with emphasis on diseases in low- and middle-income countries and societies. Subjects may include nutrition, water and sanitation, vector-borne and other infectious diseases, chronic diseases, climate and environment change, including urbanization, reproductive health including child health, the impact of demographic and epidemiological transition on health and disease, and The courses and activities as well as thesis topic chosen should be related to allow for progression during the third and fourth semester of studies.

6.7. Track 3: E-health and ICT in Health

E-health can be defined as ‘healthcare practice supported by electronic processes and communication’. The track in E-health and ICT (information and communication technology) in health focuses on strategies for their application in health promotion and prevention as well as in communication between various levels of the health system, and between clients and health professionals. Subjects include advance communication technology, including the use of mobile phones (M-Health) and information collection and management, epidemiological surveillance, and use of data bases. The courses and activities as well as thesis topic chosen should be related to allow for progression during the third and fourth semester of studies.

6.8. Track 4: Disaster Risk Management

The track provides the students the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge in the field of disaster risk management and humanitarian action with the aim of providing the students with tools to formulate effective responses to complex practice and policy issues and thereby substantially reduce disaster losses. The courses and activities as well as thesis topic chosen should be related to allow for progression during the third and fourth semester of studies. In the third semester, the course “Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice” is compulsory, but can be replaced by a pre-approved internship with either DG ECHO or UN-OCHA. Furthermore, it is recommended to take the courses “Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises” and “Disaster Recovery Planning and Development” offered in collaboration with the Master of Disaster Management, but these are not compulsory.

§ 7

The programme consists of 90 ECTS credits from compulsory study and exam activities of which the Master’s thesis is worth 30 ECTS credits.

7.2. The programme’s constituent subject elements are:

- All compulsory study and examination activities
- The Master’s thesis

7.3. The programme consists of 30 ECTS credits from elective study and exam activities.

§ 8

The programme includes the following courses and exams:

1st Semester

Block 1

Course unit title: Global Health and Diseases: Introduction and Major Challenges

STADS code: SGLK15001U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Global Health and Diseases: Introduction and Major Challenges

STADS code: SGLK15001E

ECTS: 7.5

Course unit title: Health Research Methodology

STADS code: SGLK18002U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Health Research Methodology

STADS code: SGLK18002E

ECTS: 7.5

Block 2

Course unit title: The Anthropology of Global Health

STADS code: SGLK17006U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: The Anthropology of Global Health

STADS code: SGLK17006E

ECTS: 7.5

Course unit title: Drivers of Change in Human Health: Coping with Population and Environmental

STADS code: SGLK15002U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Drivers of Change in Human Health: Coping with Population and Environmental

STADS code: SGLK15002E

ECTS: 7.5

2nd semester

Block 3

Course unit title: Country Exposure

STADS code: SGLK18001U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Country Exposure

STADS code: SGLK18001E

ECTS: 15

Block 4

Course unit title: Global Partners, Policies and Health Care Systems

STADS code: SGLK15006U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Global Partners, Policies and Health Care Systems

STADS code: SGLK15006E

ECTS: 7.5

Course unit title: Strategies for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
STADS code: SGLK15007U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Strategies for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
STADS code: SGLK15007E
ECTS: 7.5

3rd semester

Block 1 and 2

Elective courses, internship and individual study element, ECTS: 30 in all

Name of course: Internship
STADS code: SGLK13006U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Internship
STADS code: SGLK13006E
ECTS: 10

Name of course: Internship
STADS code: SGLK13007U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Internship
STADS code: SGLK13007E
ECTS: 15

Name of exam: Individual Study Element
STADS code: SGLK17002E
ECTS: 2,5

Elective courses and exams

Course unit title: Cardio-metabolic Diseases in Global Populations
(recommended in study tracks 1 and 2)
STADS code: SGLK19001U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Cardio-metabolic Diseases in Global Populations
(recommended in study tracks 1 and 2)
STADS code: SGLK19001E
ECTS: 7,5

Course unit title: Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice
(compulsory in study track 4)
STADS code: SGLK13022U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice

(compulsory in study track 4)

STADS code: SGLK13022E

ECTS: 7.5

Course unit title: Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises

(recommended in study track 4, but only possible together with Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice)

STADS code: SGLK13023U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises

(recommended in study track 4, but only possible together with Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice)

STADS code: SGLK13023E

ECTS: 7.5

Course unit title: Disaster Recovery Planning and Development

(recommended in study track 4, but only possible together with Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice and Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises)

STADS code: SGLK13024U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Disaster Recovery Planning and Development

(recommended in study track 4, but only possible together with Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice and Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises)

STADS code: SGLK13024E

ECTS: 7.5

Course unit title: Water and Sanitation in Emergencies

STADS code: SGLK13018U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Water and Sanitation in Emergencies

STADS code: SGLK13018E

ECTS: 5

Course unit title: Health in Emergencies and Refugee Health

STADS code: SGLK13019U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Health in Emergencies and Refugee Health

STADS code: SGLK13019E

ECTS: 5

Course unit title: Shelter and Settlements in Disasters

STADS code: SGLK13014U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Shelter and Settlements in Disasters

STADS code: SGLK13014E

ECTS: 5

Together with the MScs in Public Health Science, Health Informatics, Health Science, Human Biology, the MSc in Global Health offers a number of elective courses to all students within the five MSc programmes: <http://sund.ku.dk/uddannelse/vejledning-information/studieordninger/1962179/>

Other elective course options: <https://healthsciences.ku.dk/education/guidance-information/curricula/global-health/>

4th semester

Block 3 and 4

Course unit title: Thesis

STADS code: SGLK13010U

ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Thesis

STADS code: SGLK13010E

ECTS: 30

§ 9 Group exams

Written papers can be undertaken in groups with other students if stipulated in the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk

9.2 Group examinations can be done for groups of no more than four students, unless otherwise stipulated in the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk

9.3 Jointly written papers are permitted provided the contributions made by each member of the group can be identified. A separate and individual grade will be given to each student.

9.4 Oral examination on the basis of jointly written papers should be individual unless otherwise stipulated in the course description at www.kurser.ku.dk. A student may attend the examination of other students in the group only if his or her examination has been held.

§ 10 Instruction and exam languages

The MSc programme is conducted in English.

§ 11 Elective elements

The MSc programme includes a compulsory element of elective courses worth a total of 30 ECTS credits.

11. 2. The Study Board endorses students' access to elective courses at the University of Copenhagen and/or other educational institutions in Denmark and abroad. The elective courses offered at the University of Copenhagen are described in the course database and announced no later than 1 May and 1 November in the preceding semester.

11. 3. In March, the Study Board generally approves the elective course descriptions for the following academic year.

11. 4. The Study Board offers elective courses that are aligned with the objective of the Master programme, see 1.1 above.

11.5 The range of elective courses offered by the Study Board is described in the course database.

§ 12 Master's thesis

During the 2nd year of the programme, students must complete a master's thesis. The thesis must demonstrate the student's ability to identify, investigate and analyse a relevant, de-limited topic within global health sciences in accordance with good scientific practice.

12.2. The Master thesis may be prepared individually or in groups of maximum 3 students.

12.3. The thesis must be completed in accordance with the approved thesis contract and comprise the equivalent of the following (using 12-point Times Roman):

No. of students	No. of normal pages (2400 keystrokes per page)
1	Min. 40 – max. 80
2	Min. 60 – max. 120
3	Min. 75 – max. 150

The thesis must be accompanied by an abstract in English of no more than one A4 page. The abstract must summarize problem formulation, methods used, significant results/findings, a discussion when relevant and a conclusion. The abstract will be included in the overall assessment of the Master's thesis.

12.4. When assessing bachelor projects, master's (candidatus) thesis, master's projects and other major written assignments, emphasis must, in addition to the academic content, also be placed on the students' spelling and writing skills.

12.5. When a thesis is written by a group, there must be a stipulation identifying the contributions made by each member of the group. A separate and individual grade will be given to each student.

12.6. The Master's thesis is worth 30 ECTS credits.

Part 4 Concluding remarks

§ 13 Transitional arrangements

[Please find the transitional arrangements here.](#)

Part 5 Concluding remarks

§ 14 Exemptions from these provisions

In exceptional circumstances, the Study Board may grant exemptions from any curriculum provisions within the sole remit of the Study Board.

§ 14 Date of commencement

This study curriculum takes effect from 1 February 2020.