



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 September 2021 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, March 2020, March 2021, March 2022, March 2023, March 2024 and March 2025.

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 competence 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, Global Health and Health Informatics.

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

§ 2 Admission requirements

There are no bachelor's degrees that give legal right of admission to the MSc in Global Health. A maximum of 40 students are 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 knowledge and skills within qualitative and quantitative methods, and present proof of their English language skills if English is not their first language.

2.2. English language skills

Applicants must submit a document certifying English skills equivalent to Danish secondary school 'English level B' with a weighted average of 3 (Danish grading scale) or 'English level A' with a weighted average of 2 (Danish grading scale) or one of the following language tests: International English Language Testing System (IELTS/Academic) or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

- IELTS-test (British Council) with a minimum score of 6.5
- Paper-based TOEFL-test with a minimum score of 560 points
- Internet-based TOEFL-test with a min score of 83 points
- Passed Cambridge English Certificate: Advanced (CAE) – level C1

2.3. Applicants with a degree from an English taught qualifying upper secondary school diploma, bachelor's degree or master's degree from USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, UK or Ireland are exempted from the language requirement.

2.4. Applications will be assessed by an admissions committee.

2.5. Applicants holding one of the bachelor's degrees listed below from a Danish University or a university abroad, are considered to meet all academic admission requirements and have direct access to apply to the MSc in Global Health:

- 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
- Professional bachelor's degree in Nursing / Sygeplejerske
- Professional bachelor's degree in Global Nutrition and Health / Global ernæring og sundhed

Applicants with a bachelor's degree, professional bachelor's degree or equivalent are qualified for admission if the degree is within the following areas:

- Social sciences
- Health sciences
- Life sciences

Furthermore, the applicant must have obtained at least 5 ECTS in qualitative research methods and 5 ECTS in quantitative research methods.

2.6. The Bachelor's degree concerned must have been obtained within the last five 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 2.5 above.

§ 3 Competence 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 field of global health through 7 compulsory courses, including a Country Exposure course held in one or more specific settings. Graduates have also acquired qualifications by following either a specialization or a generalist track through elective courses, internship and by project work including writing a MSc thesis.

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

3.2. Knowledge

Graduates possess:

- knowledge on major social, political and environmental determinants of health
- highly specialized knowledge on transitions in health, and the distribution and burdens of disease on individual, community, national and transnational/global level.
- knowledge on infrastructure, roles and relationship of entities influencing and acting in global health
- knowledge on different models of health care systems, global health care trends and dilemmas
- knowledge on social science and public health-related theories and models relevant to global health
- knowledge on the procedures of country and situational assessments, stakeholder analysis and impact assessments
- knowledge on central approaches to interventions for global health, including promotion and prevention initiatives, e.g. E-health-based initiatives

Graduates 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
- identify core scientific problems within global health and discuss these in relation to central quantitative and qualitative research methodologies

3.3. Skills

Graduates are able to:

- Identify and critically discuss global health-related data and research-based evidence
- Critically analyze 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 analyze 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 analyze 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 realization 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 organize 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 Compulsory, constituent subject elements and elective elements

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

6.2. The programme's constituent subject elements are:

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

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

§ 7 Study and exam activities

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

1st semester, block 1 and 2: Courses, compulsory elements and ECTS:

Course title and code	Course certificate (exam 1) and code	ECTS	Exam (2) and code	ECTS
<u>Global Health Foundations</u> <u>SGLK25003U</u>			<u>Global Health Foundations</u> <u>SGLK25003E</u>	7,5
<u>Health Research Methodology</u> <u>SGLK20001U</u>	<u>Health Research Methodology</u> <u>SGLK20001E</u>	2,5	<u>Health Research Methodology</u> <u>SGLK20002E</u>	5
<u>The Anthropology of Global Health</u> <u>SGLK20003U</u>			<u>The Anthropology of Global Health</u> <u>SGLK20003E</u>	7,5
<u>Planetary Health Dynamics</u> <u>SGLK24001U</u>			<u>Planetary Health Dynamics</u> <u>SGLK24001E</u>	7,5

2nd semester, block 3 and 4: Courses, compulsory elements and ECTS:

Course title and code	Course certificate (exam 1) and code	ECTS	Exam (2) and code	ECTS
<u>Country Exposure</u> <u>SGLK20004U</u>	<u>Country Exposure</u> <u>SGLK20004E</u>	2,5	<u>Country Exposure</u> <u>SGLK20005E</u>	12,5
<u>Global Partners, Policies and Health Care Systems</u> <u>SGLK15006U</u>			<u>Global Partners, Policies and Health Care Systems</u> <u>SGLK15006E</u>	7,5
<u>Strategies for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention</u> <u>SGLK15007U</u>			<u>Strategies for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention</u> <u>SGLK15007E</u>	7,5

3rd semester: Elective courses, compulsory elements and ECTS:

The 3rd semester consists of a combination of elective courses, internship and individual study element with a combined 30 ECTS. Students can choose to do an internship of either 10 or 15 ECTS. Students can choose to do a maximum of two Individual Study Elements of each 2.5 ECTS.

Beside the elective courses mentioned below, students can choose to do elective courses offered within the elective course cooperation between the MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Health Informatics, Health Science, and Human Biology. [A list of all elective courses are available at the study information site in KUnet.](#)

Course title and code	Course certificate (exam 1) and code	ECTS	Exam (2) and code	ECTS
Introduction to Disaster Risk Management and Climate Adaptation SGLK25004U The course is compulsory in study track 4, but can be replaced by an internship with either DG-ECHO or UN-OCHA, cf. 7.8			Introduction to Disaster Risk Management and Climate Adaptation SGLK25004E	7,5
Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crisis SGLK13023U This course is recommended in study track 4			Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crisis SGLK13023E	7,5
Disaster Recovery Planning and Development SGLK13024U This course is recommended in study track 4			Disaster Recovery Planning and Development SGLK13024E	7,5

Course title and code	Course certificate (exam 1) and code	ECTS	Exam (2) and code	ECTS
<u>Health in Emergencies and Refugee Health</u> <u>SGLK13019U</u>			<u>Health in Emergencies and Refugee Health</u> <u>SGLK13019E</u>	5
<u>Shelter and Settlements in Disasters,</u> <u>SGLK13014U</u>			<u>Shelter and Settlements in Disasters,</u> <u>SGLK13014E</u>	5
<u>Sustainability and Climate Change in Global Health and Health Care Systems - From Global Systems to Community Action</u> <u>SGLK25001U</u>	<u>Sustainability and Climate Change in Global Health and Health Care Systems - From Global Systems to Community Action</u> <u>SGLK25001E</u>	2,5	<u>Sustainability and Climate Change in Global Health and Health Care Systems - From Global Systems to Community Action</u> <u>SGLK25002E</u>	5
<u>Internship</u> <u>SGLK13006U</u>			<u>Internship</u> <u>SGLK13006E</u>	10
<u>Internship</u> <u>SGLK13007U</u>			<u>Internship</u> <u>SGLK13007E</u>	15
<u>Individual Study Element</u>			<u>Individual Study Element</u> <u>SGLK17002E/</u> <u>*SGLK23002E</u>	2,5

*There is a possibility to take 2 x 2,5 ECTS Individual Study element. If the student already has passed 1 x 2,5 ECTS Individual Study element (SGLK17002E) the student has to sign up for SGLK23002E as the second 2,5 ECTS Individual Study element.

4th semester: Courses, compulsory elements and ECTS:

Course title and code	Course certificate (exam 1) and code	ECTS	Exam (2) and code	ECTS
<u>Thesis</u> <u>SGLK13010U</u>			<u>Thesis</u> <u>SGLK13010E</u>	30

7.2. 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 either the student's specialization within one of four study tracks or that the student has chosen not to specialize in a study track (generalist track) 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
5. Generalist track

7.3. 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/or subjects that the student wishes to take courses in. The statement should also include any plans for internship and thesis subject if possible. As a rule, only study plans, which keep within the prescribed period of study, will be approved.

Also, 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.

7.4. 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 related to Disaster Risk Management.
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 (ten), the students will be selected for admission based on a draw.

7.5. 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.

7.6. 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 environmental change including urbanization, reproductive health including child health, the impact of demographic and epidemiological transition on health and disease. 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.

7.7. 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 advanced 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.

7.8. 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.

§ 8 Group exams

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

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

8.3 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.

8.4 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.

§ 9 Instruction and exam language

The MSc programme is conducted in English.

§ 10 Elective elements

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

10.2. The Study Board endorses student 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 in the preceding semester.

10.3. In December, the Study Board generally approves the elective course descriptions for the following academic year.

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

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

§ 11 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 analyze a relevant, de-limited topic within global health sciences in accordance with good scientific practice.

11.2. The Master's thesis may be prepared individually or in groups of maximum 3 students.

11.3. 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 75
2	Min. 75 – max 100
3	Min. 100 – max 125

The thesis must be accompanied by an abstract in English of no more than one A4 page. The abstract must summarize the 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.

11.4. When assessing the Master's thesis, emphasis will be placed on the academic content as well as the spelling and writing skills of the students.

11.5. When a thesis is handed in by a group of students, 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.

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

Part 4 Specific provisions

§ 12 Transitional arrangements

12.1. The course and exam for SGLK15001U/E Global Health and Diseases; Introduction and Major Challenges 7,5 ECTS will be replaced by SGLK25003U/E Global Health Foundations 7,5 ECTS from the study year 2025-2026.

The exam for SGLK15001E Global Health and Diseases; Introduction and Major Challenges is equivalent to the exam in SGLK25003E Global Health Foundations.

The third and last exam attempt for SGLK15001E Global Health and Diseases; Introduction and Major Challenges will be in the fall/winter semester 2025.

12.2. The course and exam for SGLK13022U Disaster Risk Management - From Theory to Practice 7,5 ECTS will be replaced by SGLK25004U Introduction to Disaster Risk Management and Climate Adaptation 7,5 ECTS from the study year 2025-2026.

The exam for SGLK13022E Disaster Risk Management - From Theory to Practice is equivalent to the exam in SGLK25004E Introduction to Disaster Risk Management and Climate Adaptation.

The exam in SGLK13022E Disaster Risk Management - From Theory to Practice will be offered for a third and final time.

Part 5 Concluding remarks

§ 13 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 September 2025.