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

This curriculum comes into force on 1 September 2015 and shall apply in relation to students admitted on or after that date.

The curriculum was approved by the Dean in September 2015.

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 produce candidates who are able to analyse determinants impacting human health and disease, ranging from individuals to society and focusing on the global perspective. Graduates will have a broad insight into global issues affecting health and diseases and possess problem solving skills to address, in depth, questions and issues of global health. Furthermore, the graduates will be able to design, carry out and co-ordinate research projects and evidence-based interventions, and to evaluate the effects of these interventions.

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) and the Danish title kandidat i global sundhed.

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 may 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 prove their English language skills if English is not their mother tongue.

2.2. Method criteria
Applicants must prove that the following requirements are part of their passed bachelor’s degree:

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

2.3. English language skills
Applicants for whom English is not their first language must submit a document certifying English skills equivalent to Danish high school “Level B” or 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 on the paper test, or 83 on the internet-based test.

2.4. Motivational Statement and CV
In addition, all applicants must write a motivational statement depicting reasons for applying for admission, how the programme will build on pre-existing knowledge and skills, and describe other relevant experiences. The motivational statement will solely be used for ranking applicants who are qualified for enrolment at the MSc in Global Health. Applications will be assessed by an admission committee. Selection of the admitted students will be made on the basis of an overall evaluation including bachelor’s degree grade average, CV, research experience, any professionally relevant stays abroad and the motivational statement.

2.5. To be admitted to the programme applicants must have passed a bachelor’s degree from a Danish university.

Directly qualifying bachelor’s degrees from Danish universities

1) Applicants holding one of the following bachelor’s degrees from a Danish university are exempt from documenting that they meet the admission criteria regarding qualitative and quantitative methods (titles in Danish):
   - Folkesundhedsvidenskab
   - Sociologi
   - Geografi
   - Statskundskab
   - Antropologi

2) Applicants holding one of the following bachelor’s degrees from a Danish university are exempt from documenting the admission criteria regarding quantitative methods (titles in Danish):
   - Odontologi
   - Veterinærmedicin
   - Fødevarevidenskab med specialisering i ernæring og sundhed

3) Applicants holding the following bachelor’s degrees from a Danish university are exempt from documenting the admission criteria regarding qualitative methods (titles in Danish):
   - Medicin

2.6. Applicants holding a bachelor’s degree from a university abroad may be admitted if it is the assessment of the admissions committee that the Bachelor programme concerned is the equivalent in scope and content to a Bachelor programme mentioned above.

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

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

§ 3 Competency profile
As a Master of Science in Global Health the candidate has acquired the knowledge, skills and competencies listed below to both work and research in the field of global health. Candidates have
also acquired additional individual qualifications through elective courses, field work, project work, and by writing an MSc thesis related to 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  
MScs in Global Health:  
- Possess knowledge on, and have the ability to prioritise among the major determinants impacting human health and disease; ranging from individuals to society, and focusing on the global perspective. The determinants include stakeholders; policies; economy; environment; demographic and climate change; conflicts; and environmental, cultural and social factors at local, national, regional, international and global levels.
- Possess knowledge on, and be able to discuss, the multiple burden of diseases with an emphasis on low- and middle-income societies (e.g. communicable as well as non-communicable diseases; reproductive and child health; transition in health; primary health care; health economics; health systems; human resources for health; intercultural communication; and strategies and tools for health promotion and disease control).
- Are able to identify complex problems related to global health issues and possess knowledge, based on the best international research, of theories and methods used to address such problems, in addition to being able to critically reflect upon this knowledge on a scientific basis.

3.3. Skills  
MScs in Global Health:  
- Are able to identify and critically analyse key factors and forces shaping the health and well-being of populations and societies at global, international, regional, national, district and community levels, taking into account both global and local perspectives.
- Are able to plan, collect, analyse and assess qualitative and quantitative health-related data and possess advanced skills to select, combine and prioritize the vast health-related data. There will be a focus on using various types of information communication technologies for the analysis, such as global and local databases, and web-based tools.
- Can independently analyse and evaluate health policies, health systems, and strategies for health promotion and the control and prevention of diseases, particularly in low- and middle-income societies.
- Can with regard to validity, reliability, applicability and affordability, be able to critically evaluate, discuss and prioritise among scientific literature and key methodologies in the field of global health.
- Can communicate and discuss evidence-based knowledge, advice and decisions across cultures and on different levels to researchers, policy makers, media, organizations, and the general public.

3.4. Competencies  
MScs in Global Health 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.
• Work effectively with cross-disciplinary problems on an individual basis as well as in teams, and be able to provide evidence-based solutions to situations, which are complex and require new approaches.
• Independently assess and organise their own learning process and assume responsibility for continuous professional development with a view to life-long.

Part 2 Modules, instruction, maximum duration of study

§ 4 Modules, 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 at the programme are subject to a modular structure.

§ 5 Maximum duration of study
5.1. Students must complete the programme no more than three years following commencement.
5.2. In exceptional circumstances the Study Board may waive the deadlines in 5.1 above.

Part 3 Study and exam activities

§ 6
The Master’s programme in Global Health comprises the following courses and exams:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st year</th>
<th>1st semester</th>
<th>Block 1</th>
<th>Global Health and Diseases; Introduction and Major Challenges</th>
<th>Drivers of Change in Human Health: Coping with Population and Environmental Dynamics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Block 2</td>
<td>The Anthropology of Global Health</td>
<td>Health Research Methodology</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd semester</td>
<td>Block 3</td>
<td>Field Work</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Block 4</td>
<td>Global Partners, Policies and Health Care Systems</td>
<td>Strategies for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd year</td>
<td>3rd semester</td>
<td>Study track 1: Policy, Financing and Health Care Systems</td>
<td>Recommended courses:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Ethnicity and cardio-metabolic diseases in a global perspective</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Courses offered in the elective course cooperation between the MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informatics, Health Science, and Human Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Also courses offered by i.e. 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.</td>
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<td>Internship 10 or 15 ECTS</td>
<td>Individual Study Element 2.5 ECTS</td>
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<th>Study track 2: Disease Burden, Challenges and Changes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Recommended courses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Ethnicity and cardio-metabolic diseases in a global perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises (only if registration to Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Disaster Recovery Planning and Development (only if registration to Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice and Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Courses offered in the elective course cooperation between the MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Health Informatics, Health Science, and Human Biology

Also courses offered by i.e. MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Geography, Agricultural Development, Health Informatics, Psychology, Pharmaceutical Science,
| Study track 3: E-health and ICT in Health | Human Nutrition and Development Studies in Denmark and abroad. | Internship 10 or 15 ECTS  
Individual Study Element 2.5 ECTS |
| Study track 4: Disaster Risk Management | Courses offered in the elective course cooperation between the MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Health Informatics, Health Science, and Human Biology | Further recommended courses:  
- Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises  
- Disaster Recovery Planning and Development  
- Internship 10 or 15 ECTS  
- Individual Study Element 2.5 ECTS  
Courses offered in the elective course cooperation between the MScs in Global Health, Public Health Science, Health Informatics, Health Science, and Human Biology |
6.2. After completion of the six course elements and field work during the first year, students must put together an individual study plan for the second year. The third semester of studies allows for choosing to do an internship of 10 or 15 ECTS in combination with elective courses at UCPH or 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 individual study plan and choice of study track must be approved 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 applications for the study track in Disaster Risk Management, the Study Plan Committee considers the applications on the basis of the following criteria as part of the approval procedure for study plans:

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 of time.
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, parasitology 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 disaster risk management related topics such as preparedness and response to humanitarian crises and disaster recovery planning and development. 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 in Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises and in 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 activity of which the Master’s thesis is worth 30 ECTS credits.

7.2. The programme consists of 30 ECTS credits from elective study and exam activity.

§ 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: Drivers of Change in Human Health: Coping with Population and Environmental Dynamics  
STADS code: SGLK15002U  
ECTS: 0  
  
Name of exam: Drivers of Change in Human Health: Coping with Population and Environmental Dynamics  
STADS code: SGLK15002E  
ECTS: 7.5  

**Block 2**  
Course unit title: The Anthropology of Global Health  
STADS code: SGLK15003U  
ECTS: 0  
  
Name of exam: The Anthropology of Global Health  
STADS code: SGLK15003E  
ECTS: 7.5  
  
Course unit title: Health Research Methodology  
STADS code: SGLK15004U  
ECTS: 0  
  
Name of exam: Health Research Methodology  
STADS code: SGLK15004E  
ECTS: 7.5  

**2nd semester**  
**Block 3**  
Course unit title: Field Work  
STADS code: SGLK15005U  
ECTS: 0  
  
Name of exam: Field Work  
STADS code: SGLK15005E  
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 and internship, 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

Elective courses and exams

Course unit title: Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice
(compulsory in study track 4 and recommended in study track 2)
STADS code: SGLK13022U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Disaster Risk Management: From Theory to Practice
(compulsory in study track 4 and recommended in study track 2)
STADS code: SGLK13022E
ECTS: 7.5

Course unit title: Preparedness and Response to Humanitarian Crises
(recommended in study tracks 2 and 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 tracks 2 and 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 tracks 2 and 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 tracks 2 and 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: Ethnicity and cardio-metabolic diseases in a global perspective
(recommended in study tracks 1 and 2)
STADS code: SGLK17001U
ECTS: 0

Name of exam: Ethnicity and cardio-metabolic diseases in a global perspective
(recommended in study tracks 1 and 2)
STADS code: SGLK17001E
ECTS: 10

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

Name of exam: Individual Study Element
STADS code: SGLK17002E
ECTS: 2.5
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/

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 carried out in groups of no more than four students, unless otherwise stipulated in the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk
9.3 A joint written work is 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 An oral examination on the basis of joint written work should be individual if not otherwise stipulated in the course description at www.kurser.ku.dk, and 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 element
The MSc programme includes a compulsory element of elective courses worth a total of 30 ECTS credits.
11. 2. The Study Board endorses that students have 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 in keeping 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, block 3 and 4, of the programme students must complete a master’s thesis. The thesis must demonstrate the student’s ability to formulate, analyse and process issues within a relevant, limited subject in the global health sciences in a qualified way.
12.2. The Master’s thesis may be executed alone or by groups of maximum 3 students.
12.3. The thesis must be completed in accordance with the approved contract and comprise the equivalent of the following in 12 point Times Roman:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of students</th>
<th>No. of normal pages (2400 keystrokes per page)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Min. 40 – max. 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Min. 60 – max. 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Min. 90 – max. 150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The thesis must be furnished with an abstract in English of no more than one A4 page. The abstract must summarize the research question(s), the methods used, important findings, a discussion when relevant, and a conclusion. The abstract will be included in the overall assessment of the Master’s thesis.

12.4. Assessment will be based on the student’s spelling and writing skills as well as the scientific content of the thesis. The scientific content will carry most weight.

12.5. When a thesis is written 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 2018.