2014 Curriculum for the Master programme of International Health at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, School of Human Health and Medicine

This curriculum comes into force on 1 March 2014 and shall apply in relation to students admitted on or after that date.

The curriculum was approved by the Dean on 15 March 2014.

This subject-specific curriculum, the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk, and the general curriculum provisions together comprise the curriculum for the Master programme of International Health.

Part 1 Objectives and qualification profile

§ 1 Objectives
The objective of the Master programme of International Health (Master i International Sundhed) is to provide research-based, postgraduate, cross-disciplinary training in the field of international health with the aim of fostering professionals who can formulate effective responses to complex practice and policy issues and contribute to the improvement of the health status of populations and societies at international, regional, national, district or community level.
1.2. Successful completion of the programme gives the right to use the title of Master of International Health and master i international sundhed.
1.3. The degree is worth 60 ECTS credits.
1.4. The programme falls within the scope of the study board for International Health.
1.5 The programme falls within the scope of The Body of External Examiners for Public Health Science and Related Programmes.

§ 2 Admission requirements
It is a condition for admission that the applicant meets the following minimum requirements:

Educational background
1) a Bachelor’s degree or equivalent qualification in the field of health sciences, social sciences or another relevant field from a recognized higher education institution.

2) Proof of English proficiency

3) Applicants who do not meet the requirements stipulated in subsections 1) - 2) above but who are deemed to have acquired academic competences at a commensurate level may be admitted to the programme based on an individual assessment of their qualifications and experience. Applicants may be required to complete supplementary tests to gain admission.

Professional experience
To apply for the Master of International Health, applicants should have a minimum of 2 years of professional experience following completion of their first degree.
2.2. The admission committee may grant exemptions from the provisions of paragraph 1 when special circumstances apply.

§ 3 Qualification profile
On completion of the programme, the graduate will be able to:

• Identify and critically analyse key factors and forces shaping the health and well-being of populations in low- and middle-income countries, taking into account both global and local perspectives.

• Formulate effective and appropriate responses to complex practice and policy issues:
  - Identify and critically assess relevant theoretical and practical approaches to develop appropriate strategies;
  - Plan, monitor and evaluate appropriate responses using evidence-based practice in international health;
  - Work across disciplines relevant to international health.

• Apply appropriate research methodologies and research tools/ instruments for investigating international health problems.

• Communicate effectively to diverse audiences using a range of media.

• Examine own practice in a critical manner and modify accordingly.

Part 2 Modules, instruction, maximum duration of study

§ 4 Modules, instruction
According to the Master Programme Order §7 the modular structure of the programme is designed to provide students with overall academic qualifications within a prescribed timeframe, which is defined in terms of ECTS points. All courses in the programme are subject to a modular structure.

Part 3 Study and exam activities

§ 5
The Master programme comprises the following courses and exams:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st semester</th>
<th>Health and Disease in Low- and Middle Income Communities (incl. field trip)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health and Disease in Low- and Middle Income Communities – Field trip</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Design</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
§ 6
The programme consists of 55 ECTS credits from compulsory study and exam activity of which the master’s project is worth 20 ECTS credits.

6.2. The programme consists of 5 ECTS credits from elective study and exam activity.

§ 7
The programme includes the following courses and exams:

1st semester
Course title: Health and Disease in Low- and Middle Income Communities
STADS code: SINM12001E
ECTS: 12.5

Name of exam: Health and Disease in Low- and Middle-Income Communities
STADS code: SINM12001E
ECTS: 12.5

Course title: Health and Disease in Low- and Middle Income Communities – Field trip
STADS code: SINM12002E
ECTS: 7.5

Name of exam: Health and Disease in Low- and Middle-Income Communities – Field trip
STADS code: SINM12002E
ECTS: 7.5

Course title: Research Design
STADS code: SINM12003E
ECTS: 5

Name of exam: Research Design
STADS code: SINM12003E
ECTS: 5

2nd semester
Course title: Health Care Systems in Low- and Middle Income Societies
STADS code: SINM12004E  
ECTS: 10

Name of exam: Health Care Systems in Low- and Middle Income Societies  
STADS code: SINM12004E  
ECTS: 10

Course title: Optional courses (see annex 1)

Course title: Thesis  
STADS code: SIN12005E  
ECTS: 20

Name of exam: Thesis  
STADS code: SIN12005E  
ECTS: 20

§ 8 Group examinations
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 carried out in groups of no more than four students, unless otherwise stipulated in the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk.

8.3 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.

8.4 An oral examination on the basis of joint written work should be individual, and 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 languages
English is the language of instruction and examination for the Master of International Health.

§ 10 Elective element
The Master programme includes a compulsory element of elective courses worth a total of 5 ECTS credits.

10.2 The study board must ensure that Master students have access to at least two elective courses, worth 5 ECTS credits. These elective courses are described in the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk and announced no later than 1 May and 1 November in the preceding semester.

10.3 The study board must approve the elective course descriptions no later than a year prior to the start of the course concerned.

10.4 The study board offers elective courses in keeping with the objective of the Master programme, see 1.1 above.

§ 11 Master’s project
Students must complete a Master’s project. The project must demonstrate the student’s ability to formulate, analyse and process issues within a relevant, defined scientific subject in a qualified way.

11.2 The master’s project should be executed alone.

11.3 The project must be completed in accordance with the approved master’s project agreement and comprise the equivalent of max. 30-35 A4 pages in 12 point Times Roman.
The project must be furnished with an abstract in English of no more than one A4 page. The abstract must summarize the research question, the methods used, important findings, a discussion if relevant, and a conclusion. The abstract will be included in the overall assessment of the Master’s project.

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

11.5. The master’s project is worth 20 ECTS credits.

Part 4 Concluding remarks

§ 12 Special provisions only affecting this particular programme

Erasmus Mundus and tropEd students

The Master of International Health is a member of the tropEd network, an international network of institutions for higher education in international health established in 1996, which collaborates closely with institutions in Africa, Asia and Latin America. tropEd provides postgraduate opportunities for education and training contributing to sustainable development. It focuses on improving the management of health services for disadvantaged populations. The innovative approach is based on mobility of people, the exchange of experiences in different disciplines and the establishment of a common standard in education and training. The tropEd Programme in International Health is characterised by a unique synergy of experience and expertise of leading European institutions. tropEd prepares people to work more effectively in a multicultural environment by exposing them to multiple perspectives. tropEd offers a flexible modular structure and the Europe-wide recognition of education. tropEd participates in the Erasmus Mundus programme by offering the European Master of Science Programme in International Health. Erasmus Mundus is a cooperation and mobility programme in the field of higher education that aims to enhance the quality of European higher education and to promote dialogue and understanding between people and cultures through cooperation with Third-Countries. The Erasmus Mundus programme provides scholarships for highly-qualified third-country and European students to follow the European Master of Science Programme in International Health. Students can apply to complete the Master of International Health at the University of Copenhagen in the framework of tropEd or Erasmus Mundus.

12.1 tropEd Master of International Health

12.1.1 Description of the Masters Programme

The Masters Programme in International Health, a flexible, modular programme offered across member institutions is intended for completion within a minimum of one year (full-time) up to a maximum of five years. Students normally carry out their studies as follows:
• registration with the home institution that will provide tutorship throughout the students’ education;
• completion of a tropEd-recognised core course, equivalent to 3 months of full-time study, usually in one institution;
• successful students select optional advanced modules, that may be undertaken at different partner institutions, and collectively are equivalent to 3-6 months of full-time study;
• students carry out a research project submitted as a dissertation, equivalent to a further 3-6 months of full-time study, normally at their home institution;
• the core course should be completed within one year of registration, optional modules within two years, and the research project completed and submitted within two years; in case of a multiple/joint degree programme, three stages must be successfully completed in one year (September to August);
• students obtain a Master’s degree from the home institution or a multiple or joint degree from a consortium of tropEd recognised institutions; to obtain a Master’s degree, all three stages must be successfully completed.

The European Credit and Transfer System (ECTS) facilitates transfer of course credits between institutions at the same academic level. tropEd member institutions need to adopt the ECTS in the courses that are offered in the network. tropEd course evaluators advise the institutions and the General Assembly or Executive Committee on the appropriate credit level for approved courses and modules.

12.1.2 Home Institutions
Home institutions - as defined by tropEd - must meet the following criteria:
1. Offer a core course in line with the criteria given in 1.3. below and accredited by tropEd;
2. Act as an entry point for students into the tropEd Masters Programme;
3. Be able to deliver a Master’s degree according to the criteria defined in this document;
4. Deliver guidance, support and counselling services to students in the tropEd Masters Programme.

12.1.3 Core Training
The core course has three main objectives:
• to provide knowledge and skills based on basic principles and concepts in International Health, irrespective of the subsequent specialisation;
• to provide a common culture and shared philosophy for tropEd students.
The core course duration in weeks is calculated on the basis of full-time study. A student work load of 30 hours formal teaching and private study (student-investment time, SIT) is equivalent to 1.0 ECTS credit points. The core is equivalent to a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 20 ECTS credit points (540 - 600 hours SIT).
Core training offered by different institutions must be sufficiently consistent in objectives and content to guarantee a common understanding and approach to key issues.

12.1.4 Optional Advanced Modules
The list of optional advanced modules offers maximum flexibility with a vocational emphasis suitable for a range of careers in International Health. Participants select modules according to needs, guided by a personal tutor. One-year full-time students follow one of the following pre-defined study tracks: Tropical Medicine and Disease Control; Health Systems, Health Policy and Management; Sexual and Reproductive Health; Child Health; Health Research Methods; Health in Emergencies. Optional advanced modules must total 20-25 ECTS credit points (600-750 hours SIT) of which a minimum of 10 (300 hours SIT) must be earned in member institutions in a country other than that of the home institution. A maximum of 5 ECTS credit points may be obtained from distance-based advanced optional modules.

12.1.5 Research Project
The research project, equivalent to 15-20 ECTS credit points (450-600 hours SIT), may cover a wide range of topics and formats, ranging from experimental design, primary data collection, to policy analysis, and may be field- and/or laboratory-based. Each student has a designated supervisor with relevant experience in the chosen topic.
Guidelines for the supervision, assessment and other project requirements follow the internal regulations of the institution at which the research is carried out and submitted. These will meet tropEd eligibility and quality criteria. Assessment should involve an external examiner not belonging to the institution that awards the degrees. The title, abstract and author of each thesis will be published on the tropEd web site.

**12.1.6 Application and Admission**
Prospective students apply to the tropEd Secretariat or directly to a tropEd home institution that is responsible for selection, assignment of tutorial support and advice on course options. To obtain tropEd recognition of the Masters training participants must:
- register with a tropEd home institution and/or with the tropEd Secretariat;
- be bound by the ordinances and regulations current in the institutions providing training.

**12.1.7 Recognition by tropEd**
To obtain tropEd recognition of a Master’s degree in International Health, a student must achieve:
- a minimum of 60 ECTS credit points (1800 hours SIT) from a combination of taught and research components defined as eligible by tropEd;
- completion of courses in at least two institutions in different countries, with not more than 45 credit points (1350 hours SIT) from the same institution and not more than 50 credit points (1500 hours SIT) from the same country;
- completion of the masters programme within five years from the date of first registration in a tropEd-accredited course or module, as far as local institution regulations permit; when following the part-time programme;
- completion of the masters programme within one year from the date of registration when following the multiple or joint degree full-time programme;
- at least two years of field experience in low- and middle-income countries or the equivalent in relevant professional experience.

**12.1.8 Student Representation**
Elected tropEd student representatives are regularly invited to actively participate in General Assembly Meetings and in all of its ad-hoc task forces.

**12.1.9 Information about tropEd**
Regularly updated information on tropEd is available on the web site at www.troped.org. Enquiries may be directed to the tropEd Secretariat or to any tropEd member institution.

**12.2 Erasmus Mundus European Master of Science in International Health**
**12.2.1 Description of the Masters Programme**
The European Master of Science Programme in International Health is a one year, full-time study programme taught in English except in Mexico (in Spanish). The main objective of the programme is to raise awareness of current global health concerns. Students become qualified to identify and critically analyse key factors shaping the health and well-being of populations in low- and middle-income countries and to formulate effective and appropriate responses to complex health-related issues.

The tropEd EMMC is offered by a Consortium consisting of 7 European Institutions and 3 Third Country Institutions, each contributing with specific expertise in a particular area of International Health:
- Københavns Universitet, Denmark
The following five study tracks are offered for this degree:

1. **DISEASE CONTROL**
2. **HEALTH SYSTEMS, HEALTH POLICY & MANAGEMENT**
3. **SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**
4. **CHILD HEALTH**
5. **HEALTH RESEARCH METHODS**

Each study track begins with a 3 month core course from September to December. Core courses provide a common basis of the main subject areas for all students. Students receive 20 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credit points upon successful completion of their core course. Advanced modules are taken between January and April. Each study track consists of advanced modules equal to 20 ECTS credit points. Students also carry out a research project within their study track and submit it as a thesis, equivalent to 20 ECTS credits.

To be granted a European Master of Science in International Health degree a student must have successfully completed 60 ECTS credits as described above. Upon successful completion of the programme, students are awarded joint or multiple degrees, from each of the main institutes they study at over the academic year, with a diploma supplement which describes their study track and the overall study programme.

### 12.2.2 Completing the Masters Programme at the University of Copenhagen

The Master of International Health participates in Track 2 (Health Systems, Health Policy and Management) in cooperation with Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and offers a total of 40 ECTS credits as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>ECTS credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research design</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care Systems in LMI Communities</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care, Treatment and Advocacy</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 12.2.3. Application, Admission and Scholarships

Students submit their applications for admission and a scholarship to the Consortium through the joint programme website: [http://www.erasmusmundus.troped.org/](http://www.erasmusmundus.troped.org/)

### § 13 Transitional arrangements

### § 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.

§ 15 Date of commencement
This curriculum comes into force on 1 September 2014.