



## MSc in Public Health & Maritime Transport



# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

## 1. Overview

<b>Start date</b>	September 2023
<b>Programme title</b>	Public Health and Maritime Transport
<b>Programme director</b>	Barbara Mouchtouri, Associate Professor of Hygiene and Epidemiology
<b>Awarding body</b>	<a href="#">University of Thessaly (UTH), Greece</a>
<b>Faculty</b>	<a href="#">Faculty of Medicine</a>
<b>Teaching institution</b>	<a href="#">Laboratory of Hygiene and Epidemiology</a>
<b>Academic staff</b>	The MSc will be instructed by academic staff from universities in Greece, Cyprus, Germany, Norway, and Sweden. In addition, guest lecturers from both industry and public health institutions will share their experience and best practices from the field.
<b>Length of programme</b>	<b>Full time:</b> 2 years to max. 4 years <b>Part time:</b> 3.5 years to max. 5.5 years
<b>Award title</b>	MSc in Public Health and Maritime Transport
<b>Level of programme within the European Qualification Framework</b>	Masters (MSc) Level 7
<b>Total credits</b>	ECTS: 120
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combination of distance learning and limited (optional) face-to-face learning</li> <li>• Distance learning only – expected start date: September 2023</li> </ul>
<b>Language of study</b>	The course is instructed and assessed in English.
<b>Programme Description</b>	Upon successful completion, students are awarded an MSc in Public Health and Maritime Transport. The MSc is ideal for those who choose to pursue a career in the health and related sectors, as well as those who currently work or plan to work in the maritime sector. The course is suited to students of both medical and non-medical backgrounds who intend to develop their research and technical professional skills in public health, as well as in public health related aspects of the maritime transport sector.

## 2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

### Educational aims of the programme

The MSc in Public Health and Maritime Transport aims to provide students with the skills needed for a career in public health, epidemiology, occupational health and environmental health, while also focusing on the practical application of these skills in the context of maritime transport.

### Programme learning outcomes

The MSc provides students with three distinct classes of competences as learning outcomes: transferable, subject-specific and research competences.

#### Transferable competencies:

- ability to develop self-directed learning skills to facilitate lifelong learning and continuous professional development
- ability to demonstrate a high level of critical reflection to develop and apply ideas within a research context
- ability to employ a systematic conceptual approach to gathering, analysing and disseminating knowledge
- ethical sensitivity in the acquisition and application of information
- synthesis and presentation skills
- oral and written skills in communicating knowledge to both specialist and non-specialist audiences
- competence in translating research evidence into practice
- competence in using novel information & communication technologies
- excellent command of academic English
- intercultural communication skills

#### Subject-specific competencies:

The MSc aims to train postgraduate students, providing them with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to meet the challenges of public health through research and practice, with an emphasis on challenges associated to maritime transport, including the passenger shipping sector.

Upon completion of their studies, postgraduate students will be able to demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge of the key disciplines of public health – consisting of statistics, epidemiology, occupational health, environmental health, health economics, social research, maritime administration, international health regulation and maritime law – to real public health events, maritime health and cross-border health threats. In addition, students will be able to:

- critically evaluate the basic functions of public health
- demonstrate knowledge and skills in a series of public health and maritime health related subjects
- participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of appropriate policies on public health issues
- demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate and communicate research data
- understand the interaction between environmental health, hygiene and occupational health, considering available human resources
- understand the interaction between the various public health factors, environmental factors, the maritime profession on public health, environmental hygiene and occupational hygiene with an emphasis on shipping, considering available human resources
- demonstrate familiarity with current research findings and research methods in public health, with an emphasis on the maritime transport sector: public health and environmental hygiene, cross-border health threats, preparedness and response to public health events of international concern,

occupational health and human resources, ability to critically evaluate and use scientific literature to ensure public health on board ships

- ability to apply theoretical knowledge to analyse and solve concrete problems in public health issues related to maritime transport: response and management of public health events in maritime transport, participation in the management of international public health events, public health and environmental hygiene, occupational health and human resources
- ability to work as a researcher: public health and environmental hygiene, occupational health and human resources in research laboratories, as well as at public health institutions
- ability to design and implement evidence-based strategies for the prevention and control of health threats in maritime transport sector

### **Research competences (knowledge and understanding):**

- understanding of the research process and how it is used to solve problems in new and unfamiliar environments
- familiarity with current research findings and research methods in maritime health
- ability to critically evaluate and use scientific literature
- ability to demonstrate a high level of critical reflection to develop and apply ideas in a research context
- ability to employ a systematic conceptual approach to gathering, analysing and disseminating knowledge

### **Teaching and learning strategy**

Programme instruction is conducted through a variety of diverse teaching methods including: lectures, practicals, case-studies, exercises and assignments. Students are expected to learn through both directed and self-directed study.

### **Assessment strategy**

Students are assessed through:

- time-limited examinations
- individual module assessments (which may be essays or other written assignments, short written tests, groupwork reports or presentations, or other methods)

Such tasks are designed to assess through the most appropriate method, whether learning objectives have been achieved.

### **Re-sit policy**

If a student fails a module, they can participate in the exams of the next September's examination period.

A student may re-take the examination of a module up to a maximum of 3 (three) times. In the event of three repeated failed attempts, the postgraduate student is considered as not successfully completing the program. At their own request, the student will be examined by a three-member committee of faculty members who have the same or related subject-matter expertise with the examined module; the committee is appointed by the Assembly of the Department. The lecturer in charge of the examination will be excluded from this committee.



## 3. Programme structure and features, modules, credit assignment and award requirements

This programme includes four semesters and is instructed and assessed in English. Students are expected to collect 120 ECTS credits during the four semesters (full time mode of study).

### Semesters 1, 2 and 3

The MSc operates on a modular system and includes 13 modules instructed over three semesters. All modules combined amount to 480 teaching hours. Students will have the opportunity to participate in practical training over the course of one week to put theory into practice (optional).

- 1<sup>st</sup> semester: 5 modules
- 2<sup>nd</sup> semester: 4 modules
- 3<sup>rd</sup> semester: 4 modules

### Semester 4

Upon successful completion of all mandatory modules, during the 4<sup>th</sup> semester students will either complete a **research-based thesis** or partake in an **internship placement** (where they will also have to submit a final report based on this placement).

<p>Research-based thesis</p>	<p>The topic of the research-based thesis is selected during the 4<sup>th</sup> semester by the student, in close cooperation with their supervisor. A three-member committee (one supervisor and two additional members) is assigned to each student by the Assembly of the Department - following the suggestion of the MSc Director - with a research field relevant or related to the student's thesis topic. The supervisor is responsible for following up the postgraduate student's progress. In addition, the supervisor acknowledges the work project, supports research by suggesting specific research sources, assesses the quality of student work, and in cooperation with the other members of the committee, approves the research-based thesis which the candidate will have to defend publicly. The three-member committee will grade the thesis on a scale from 1 to 10, with 5 being the minimum acceptable grade for the thesis to be accepted as satisfactory. If a student receives a grade below 5, the student will be granted a minimum of 3 and maximum of 6 months to make improvements and resubmit.</p>
<p>Internship placement</p>	<p>This internship placement with a relevant organization, institute or company will provide an opportunity for students to bridge theory and practice while simultaneously making a positive contribution to their host setting. This hands-on experience will allow students to develop their skills and capabilities while gaining practical insights into public health issues in the maritime sector. Examples of host organizations for internship placements include port health authorities, ministries of health, transport or maritime or public health institutions, research institutions, international bodies, ship operators, cruise lines and shipping companies. A two-member committee from the MSc teaching staff will be appointed together with a supervisor from the host organization, which will be responsible to follow the student's progress and assess the internship placement report. The internship placement will be graded on a scale from 1 to 10, with 5 being the minimum acceptable grade for the internship to be accepted as satisfactory. If a student receives a grade below 5, the student will be requested to extend the internship for 3 months, or to undertake a research-based thesis.</p>

1 <sup>st</sup> Semester				
	Module Type	Module	Hours	ECTS
1	Mandatory	Principles in epidemiology and social research	48	8
2	Mandatory	Statistics for public health	24	6
3	Mandatory	Principles of occupational health	36	7
4	Mandatory	Introduction to International Trade and Shipping Management	24	5
5	Mandatory	Maritime law and International Health Regulations	24	4
Total teaching hours and ECTS			156	30

2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester				
	Module Type	Module	Hours	ECTS
1	Mandatory	Topics in public health	36	7
2	Mandatory	Crisis management in maritime transport sector	48	8
3	Mandatory	Epidemiology and prevention of infectious diseases in maritime transport sector	60	8
4	Mandatory	Epidemiology and prevention of chronic diseases in maritime transport sector	24	7
Total teaching hours and ECTS			168	30

3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester				
	Module Type	Module	Hours	ECTS
1	Mandatory	Hygiene in maritime transport sector	60	8
2	Mandatory	Environment and Shipping	24	6
3	Mandatory	Health promotion and risk communication	36	8
4	Mandatory	Topics in maritime health	36	8
Total teaching hours and ECTS			156	30

4 <sup>th</sup> Semester - Research Project		
	Module Title	ECTS
1	Research-based thesis / Internship placement and report	30



## 4. Entry requirements and criteria for admission

### First degree entry requirements

Graduates from the following can receive admission to the MSc :

- a) Graduates from all departments of [Recognised Foreign Educational Institutions](#) that are relevant to the wider subject matter of the MSc's content; and
- b) Graduates from all departments of Greek Universities and Technological Educations Institutes that are relevant to the wider subject matter of the MSc's content.

### English language entry requirements

- c) Certificate of proof of very good competency of English language, unless students have completed an academic program (BSc, MA, MSc, MBA) that was instructed and assessed in English.

### Admission Criteria

The Admissions Committee will evaluate the applications and supporting documentation, and will provide an overall rating based on the following criteria:

	Criteria	Rating %
1	Grade of undergraduate degree	20%
2	English language level	10%
3	Publications or announcements	10%
4	Relevant employment experience	20%
5	Letters of recommendation	10%
6	Interview	30%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>