



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC
UNIVERSITY OF THESSALY
SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES
FACULTY OF MEDICINE**

MSc in Public Health.

Streams:

- (1) Public Health and Epidemiology and**
 - (2) Public Health and Maritime Transport**
- (distance learning)

STUDY GUIDE

2025-2027

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1. Overview

Start date	November 2025
Programme title	Public Health. Streams: (1) Public Health and Epidemiology and (2) Public Health and Maritime Transport
Programme director	Barbara Mouchtouri, Associate Professor of Hygiene and Epidemiology
Awarding body	University of Thessaly (UTH), Greece
Faculty	Faculty of Medicine
Teaching institution	Laboratory of Hygiene and Epidemiology
Academic staff	The MSc will be instructed by academic staff from universities in Greece, Cyprus, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Romania, UK, Turkey and USA. In addition, guest lecturers from both industry and public health institutions will share their experience and best practices from the field.
Length of programme	Full time: 2 years Part time: 4 years
Award title	This programme awards a Postgraduate diploma titled: MSc in Public health and Epidemiology Or MSc in Public Health and Maritime Transport
Level of programme within the European Qualification Framework	Masters (MSc) Level 7
Total credits	ECTS: 120
Mode of delivery	Distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The course is instructed and assessed via virtual online methods (synchronous and asynchronous). • No travel to Greece is required
Language of study	The course is instructed and assessed in English.
Programme Description	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.
Website	https://mscpublikealthmaritime.med.uth.gr/
Contact Information	Email: mscphm-admin@uth.gr Telephone: 0030 2410 565055 (Office working hours Monday to Friday: 09:00 – 16:00 EET) Address: Laboratory of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Thessaly, 22 Papakyriazi str, 41222, Larissa, Greece

2. Programme Aims and scope of the master programme

The distance learning MSc in “Public Health” will award a Postgraduate Diploma (MSc) titled MSc in “Public health and Epidemiology” Or an MSc in “Public Health and Maritime Transport”.

The distance learning Postgraduate Program aims to provide high-level education to researchers and professionals for the protection of public health, which are based on the scientific bases of epidemiology, biostatistics, hygiene, health education, environmental health and management of human resources affected by or affecting these fields.

This MSc is ideal for those who choose to pursue a career in the public 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 with both medical and non-medical backgrounds (environment, biology, hygiene, chemistry, engineering, food safety etc.) who intend to develop their research and technical professional skills.

Stream 1 focuses on the utilization of the field of epidemiology for the protection of public health and the prevention of the transnational spread of diseases.

Stream 2 focuses on the protection of public health in shipping on both passenger and commercial ships.

The programme responds to the growing demands for specialists in Europe and around the world in order to promote public health and prevent the transnational spread of diseases, but also in particular to ensure public health and hygiene both on board ships and at their destinations.

The programme is complementary to the undergraduate studies provided by Departments of European Universities and other countries, covering the gap that exists in the education provided at national, European and international level.

3. 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 in a research context
- ability to employ a systematic conceptual approach to gathering, analyzing and disseminating knowledge
- ethical sensitivity in the acquisition and application of information
- synthesis and presentation skills
- oral and written skills in communicating knowledge to specialist and non-specialist audiences

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- competence in translating research evidence into practice
- competence in using new information & communication technologies
- excellent command of academic English
- intercultural communication skills

Subject-specific competencies:

Stream 1: Public Health and Epidemiology

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.

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, health economics, social research, principles of disease prevention, health services management, principles of occupational health – to real public health events and cross-border health threats. In addition, students will be able to:

- critically evaluate the basic functions of public health and disease prevention measures
- apply principles of epidemiology and design, conduct and evaluate epidemiological studies
- demonstrate knowledge and skills in a series of epidemiology and public health related subjects
- participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of appropriate policies on public health issues
- understand the interaction between the various public health factors, environmental factors, globalization and occupational hygiene taking into account the available human resources
- ability to apply theoretical knowledge to analyse and solve concrete problems in Public Health issues: response and management of public health events, participation in the management of international public health events, public health and risk communication, occupational health and human resources
- demonstrate familiarity with current research findings and research methods in public health and epidemiology: public health and environmental hygiene, cross-border public health threats, management of public health events of international concern, occupational health and human resources, ability to critically evaluate and use scientific literature to safeguard public health, effectiveness of treatments and disease prevention measures
- ability to work as a researcher and at private or public sectors working in the fields of public health and environmental hygiene, occupational health and at research laboratories
- ability to design and implement evidence-based strategies for the prevention and control of health threats.

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Stream 2: Public Health and Maritime Transport

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
- 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, taking into account the available human resources
- 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 and at private or public sectors working in the fields of public health and environmental hygiene, occupational health and at research laboratories
- 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):

Stream 1: Public Health and Epidemiology

- understanding of the research process and how it is used to solve problems in new and unfamiliar environments
- demonstrate familiarity with current research findings and research methods in public health, occupational health and epidemiology and prevention of communicable and noncommunicable diseases.
- ability to critically evaluate, use scientific literature and communicate research data
- 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

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Stream 2: Public Health and Maritime Transport

- understanding of the research process and how it is used to solve problems in new and unfamiliar environments
- demonstrate familiarity with current research findings and research methods in public health, occupational health and environmental hygiene with an emphasis in maritime transport sector
- ability to critically evaluate, use scientific literature and communicate research data
- 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

4. Programme structure

This programme consists of four semesters and is taught and assessed in English through distance learning methods (online teaching).

Students are expected to earn 120 ECTS credits over the four semesters (full-time mode of study).

The MSc includes 10 modules, which are taught via distance learning (online live teaching) across three semesters. Postgraduate students are required to participate virtually in all modules. The modules of the MSc are taught in English. Upon completion of the 10 modules, postgraduate students will have the option to either conduct a research project with a master's thesis or an applied research project with a master's thesis. The research project or the applied research project with a master's thesis is completed in the fourth semester of the MSc in English. The detailed curriculum per semester is as follows:

Semesters 1, 2 and 3

The MSc operates on a modular system and includes 10 modules instructed over three semesters. Students will have the opportunity to participate in practical training over the course of one week to put theory into practice (optional).

- 1st semester: 3 modules
- 2nd semester: 3 modules
- 3rd semester: 4 modules

Semester 4

Upon successful completion of all mandatory modules, during the 4th semester students will either complete a **Research project with a master's thesis** or partake in an **applied research project with a master's thesis**.

Study guide 2025-2027**Modules and ECTS per semester**

1st Semester – Stream 1 and 2			
Module Code	Module Type	Module	ECTS
1.1	Mandatory	Principles in epidemiology and social research	12
1.2	Mandatory	Statistics for public health	8
1.3	Mandatory	Management of Health Services	10
		Total ECTS	30

2nd Semester – Stream 1 and 2			
Module Code	Module Type	Module	ECTS
2.1	Mandatory	Environment and health, principles of occupational health	14
2.2	Mandatory	Health promotion and risk communication	8
2.3	Mandatory	Issues in public health	8
		Total ECTS	30

3rd Semester – Stream 1			
Module Code	Module Type	Module	ECTS
3.1.1	Mandatory	Epidemiology and prevention of infectious diseases	10
3.1.2	Mandatory	Epidemiology and prevention of chronic diseases	6
3.1.3	Mandatory	Globalization and Public Health	8
3.1.4	Mandatory	Health economics	6
		Total ECTS	30

3rd Semester – Stream 2			
Module Code	Module Type	Module	ECTS
3.2.1	Mandatory	Hygiene, environment and maritime transport sector	10
3.2.2	Mandatory	Issues in maritime health	8
3.2.3	Mandatory	Introduction to shipping and trade, maritime law and shipping management	6
3.2.4	Mandatory	Public health crisis management in maritime transport sector	6
		Total ECTS	30

4th Semester – Stream 1		
Module Code	Module	ECTS
4.1.1	Research project with a master's thesis	30
4.1.2	Applied research project with a master's thesis	30

4th Semester – Stream 2		
Module Code	Module	ECTS
4.2.1	Research project with a master's thesis	30
4.2.2	Applied research project with a master's thesis	30

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5. Mode of study and course duration

Full time mode of study

The minimum duration of studies for awarding the MSc is set at **2 full academic years (four (4) academic semesters) of full-time study.**

The maximum duration of studies is twice the minimum duration of studies (4 full academic years).

1st semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

2nd semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

3rd semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

4th semester: Research project with a master's thesis or Applied research project with a master's thesis

Example 1 – full time mode of study:

			2 YEARS FULL TIME Study Mode											
			1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.1.1/ 3.2.1	3.1.2 / 3.2.2	3.1.3 / 3.2.3	3.1.4 / 3.2.4	4.1.1/ 4.1.2 4.2.1/ 4.2.2	
YEAR 1	SEMESTER 1	November 2025 - January 2026	X	X	X									
	SEMESTER 2	February 2026 - June 2026				X	X	X						
YEAR 2	SEMESTER 3	November 2026 - February 2027							X	X	X	X		
	SEMESTER 4	March 2027 - June 2027											X	

Part time mode of study

There is the possibility of part-time study for working students or in other exceptional cases. The duration of part-time studies shall not exceed twice the minimum duration of studies (4 full academic years, eight academic semesters).

1st semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

2nd semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

3rd semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

4th semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

5th semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

6th semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

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7th semester: Theoretical training – exercises/assignments

8th semester: Research project with a master's thesis or Applied research project with a master's thesis

Example of part time mode of studies

The below are examples only and students should discuss the study plan with the Programme Director.

Example 2 – part time:

		3 YEARS PART TIME										
		1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.1.1/ 3.2.1	3.1.2/ 3.2.2	3.1.3/ 3.2.3	3.1.4/ 3.2.4	4.1.1/ 4.1.2 4.2.1/ 4.2.2
YEAR 1	SEMESTER 1	X	X									
	SEMESTER 2				X	X						
YEAR 2	SEMESTER 3			X								
	SEMESTER 4						X					
YEAR 3	SEMESTER 5							X	X	X	X	
	SEMESTER 6											X

Example 3 – part time:

		4 YEARS PART TIME										
		1.1	1.2	1.3	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.1.1/ 3.2.1	3.1.2/ 3.2.2	3.1.3/ 3.2.3	3.1.4/ 3.2.4	4.1.1/ 4.1.2 4.2.1/ 4.2.2
YEAR 1	SEMESTER 1	X	X									
	SEMESTER 2				X							
YEAR 2	SEMESTER 3			X								
	SEMESTER 4					X						
YEAR 3	SEMESTER 5							X	X			

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	SEMESTER 6						X					
YEAR 4	SEMESTER 7									X	X	
	SEMESTER 8											X

6. Suspension of studies

The possibility of a temporary suspension of studies, not exceeding two (2) consecutive semesters, may also be provided, following a fully justified recommendation from the Steering Committee. The semesters of suspension are not counted towards the maximum duration of studies.

7. Course attendance policy

Each cycle (duration) of the distance learning MSc leading to a Postgraduate Degree is consisted of four semesters of full-time study, of which the last semester is for the Research project with a master's thesis or Applied research project with a master's thesis.



Attendance of the modules is compulsory.

The upper limit of allowed absences for each module is set at 30% of the scheduled live online lecture hours. Example: This means that for a module with 26-hour live online lectures you are allowed to be absent for the 8 hours.

If students are absent for >30% of the scheduled live online lecture hours:

- **If there is a justification students should submit relevant documentation** (Examples: doctor's note if ill, certificate of attendance if participating in seminars/conferences, a signed letter from their supervisor if it is a work-related reason, for those onboard submit the itinerary from an official source that we can check online)
- **View the video of the lectures missed by the end of the semester and before the start of the exam period.** The recorded lectures will be available in MOODLE. The administration will check in the MOODLE platform that the recorded presentations have been viewed by the students.

The Steering Committee will decide if students will be required to complete an extra assignment. However, if students have not viewed neither the online live nor the recorded lectures for >30% of the scheduled live lecture hours then the Steering Committee may require from you to re-take the module in a next cycle of the MSc.

Even if students are within the limit of allowed absences from the live sessions we strongly advise them to view the video of the recorded lectures to understand better the module taught.

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Each semester it is obligatory to complete a registration form. Violation of the registration deadline is equivalent to loss of the ability to attend the current semester. In this case, for the continuation of studies, a decision of the Assembly of the Medical Faculty is required, following a proposal by the MSc Steering Committee.

It is possible to unenroll a student from the MSc, without the refund of the tuition fees by decision of the Assembly of the Medical Faculty following a relevant proposal of the Steering Committee, in cases of non-compliance with the following obligations:

- Regular attendance of modules at least 70% of the lectures held in each semester.
- Submit within the prescribed deadlines the required assignments for each module.
- Participation in exams.
- Respect and abide by the decisions of the Department bodies as well as academic ethics.

Only in exceptional cases may an extension of studies be granted up to 2 years following a reasoned decision of the Assembly of the Medical Faculty.

8. Assessment strategy

Students are assessed through:

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

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

The evaluation and grading in each module are the exclusive responsibility of the tutor, is done in complete independence from the other modules and is a derivative of the objective assessment of the student's performance in the specific module (assignments, exams, etc.).

The evaluation criteria are clearly defined and are listed in the module specification. Student will receive detailed written instructions for each assignment.

The final grade of each module results from the total performance of students in specific areas (e.g. assignments, exams) according to the instructions provided in the module specifications.

9. Grading scheme

According to the grading regulations a 0-10 grades scale applies in all higher education in Greece.

Minimum passing grade is five (5) out of ten (10).

Students are assessed against a grade classification postulated by the Ministerial Decree 70024/12-7-68, as follows:

8,50 -10 EXCELLENT

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6,50 -8,49 VERY GOOD
5,00-6,49 GOOD

10. Re-sit policy

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 programme. 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 Faculty. The tutor/facilitator in charge of the examination will be excluded from this committee.

11. Completion of studies

A postgraduate student is awarded the Postgraduate Degree from the moment he/she has fully completed his/her obligations.

For the successful completion of the obligations of the postgraduate student leading to the receipt of the Postgraduate Degree, he/she must have received a passing grade (>5) in the ten (10) modules and in his/her master thesis.

In order to take part in the award ceremony, the student must have:

- successfully completed all modules and the master's thesis;
- submitted the Academic Identity Card;
- no pending matters with the UTH library;
- settled all financial obligations.

The award ceremony of the postgraduate students is performed by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, in the presence of the Director of the Postgraduate Program and the Head of the Department.

12. Diploma supplement

The Diploma Supplement is given automatically and free of charge to all graduates.

There is a completed example of a diploma supplement on the UTH website here: <https://www.uth.gr/en/diploma-supplement>

13. Copyright

The copyright of the Master's Thesis or patent rights or commercial exploitation rights of the studies are determined by relevant decisions of the Ethics Committee of the University of Thessaly.

14. Plagiarism

Any kind of plagiarism in the module assignments, publications or the writing of the master's thesis, fabrication of research data and unscientific behavior in general is prohibited. The Ethics Committee is responsible for informing students of the Postgraduate Studies and imposing penalties, where necessary. Detailed guidance on the subject will be issued by the University's Ethics Committee. No assignment and master's thesis are submitted unless previously checked by the electronic plagiarism prevention service of the Central Library of the University of Thessaly. Students will receive detailed instructions about the process.

15. Evaluation – quality control of the programme

The MSc programme in total and each module separately will be systematically evaluated according to the proposed procedures and criteria established by the Internal Quality Assurance Unit of the University of Thessaly and at the same time contribute to its further improvement.

16. Governing bodies of the programme

For the organization and operation of the MSc the governing bodies of the Postgraduate Programs are formed as follows:

- Senate, which is the competent body for any matter of administrative or organizational nature related to postgraduate studies
- Department Assembly
- Director of the MSc
- Steering Committee, which consists of the Director of the Postgraduate Program and four faculty members of the Department, who come from the teaching staff of the Postgraduate Program and are appointed by the Assembly of the Department.
- Postgraduate Student Selection Committee
- Financial Management Committee

17. Tutors

Tutors of the MSc are renowned instructors and researchers in the fields of applied epidemiology, public health, environmental health and hygiene, chronic and infectious diseases, maritime health, health economics, occupational hygiene including maritime occupational health and safety, human resource management and maritime economics. The invited speakers include public health professionals with practical experience in public health issues in maritime transport.

18. Electronic institutional services

UTH Institutional Account

Upon registration, every first-year student automatically obtains his/her personal **Institutional Account** for access to online services, which remains active for the duration of their studies. The Institutional Account is comprised of a username and password.

Email Account

Upon registration, every first-year student automatically obtains a **personal email address**. No further action is required on the part of the students for them to acquire a UTH email account.

Their personal email address is of the form *username @uth.gr*, the username being the same as each student's Institutional Account.

Users can sign in through their Institutional Account.

For webpage access to your mailbox you can use the [Webmail](#) service.

Instructions will be provided to students how to set up their email accounts.

Accessing the UTH's network

In order to access some of the university's online services (e.g. the E-registrar, the Library Databases) from your PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone, it is necessary to:

- if on campus, connect to the university Wi-Fi ([Wi-Fi/Eduroam instructions](#)), or
- if off-campus, use a VPN service ([VPN instructions](#)). Accessing the VPN is possible through the user's Institutional Account.

Microsoft's Office 365 services

The University of Thessaly provides you with access to Microsoft's Office 365 services through the GRNET's Delos Federation. **Students will receive via email further instructions how to set up the service.**

19. Support services

Student advisor and master's thesis supervisor

For each postgraduate student, one faculty member is appointed by the Steering Committee as student advisor and one as a thesis supervisor.

Student advisor: The advisor is responsible for monitoring and controlling the general course of studies of the postgraduate student. The appointment of the student advisor will take place in semester 1.

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Master's thesis supervisor: The supervisor has the scientific responsibility for the preparation of the Master's Thesis and is appointed by the Steering Committee upon application of the candidate, which indicates the proposed title of the master's thesis, the proposed supervisor and the summary of the proposed thesis. The appointment of the master's thesis supervisor will take place in semester 3.

PROSVASI – The Accessibility Center for Students with Disabilities at the University of Thessaly

PROSVASI means access in Greek and acts as the accessibility center of the University of Thessaly. The aim of PROSVASI is to enhance the academic, social and spatial access of students with disabilities at the University of Thessaly. PROSVASI offers multidimensional services, which primarily address the needs of students with disabilities, their volunteers, the academic and the administrative staff from every department of the University of Thessaly.

For more information see here: <https://www.uth.gr/en/life/ypostirixi/prosvasi>

Counselling

The Student Counselling Service of the Laboratory of Psychology and Applications in Education gives students of all UTH departments the opportunity to receive psychological support and help in their personal hardships and concerns, should they wish to do so. They also have the opportunity to get training in management skills and problem solving in order to manage the difficulties they might be facing.

For more information see here: <https://www.uth.gr/en/life/support/counselling>

20. Academic Year Calendar Overview

Year		Fall Semester	Spring Semester
1st year Full Time	Teaching:	1st Semester: November 2025 - January 2026 Lectures-Case Studies- Exercises-Assignments	2nd Semester February 2026 – June 2026 Lectures-Case Studies-Exercises- Assignments
	Exams & Assignment Submission:	February 2026	June 2026
	Breaks:	Christmas break: 23 December 2025 - 6 January 2026	Catholic Easter Break: 3-6 April 2026 Orthodox Easter Break: 10-13 April 2026

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2nd year Full Time	Teaching:	3rd Semester November 2026 - February 2027 Lectures-Case Studies- Exercises-Assignments	4th Semester April 2027 – October 2027 Research project with a master's thesis OR Applied research project with a master's thesis
	Exams & Assignment Submission:	March 2027	