



MSc Public Health and Epidemiology (Stream 1)

Distance learning

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Programme title	Public health and epidemiology
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
Mode of delivery	Distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virtual online methods• No travel to Greece is required
Length of programme	Full time: 2 years Part time: 4 years
Level of programme within the European Qualification Framework	Masters (MSc) Level 7
Total credits	ECTS: 120
Language of study	The course is instructed and assessed in English.
Award title	This programme awards a Postgraduate diploma titled: MSc in Public health and Epidemiology
Programme Description	Upon successful completion, students are awarded an MSc in Public Health and Epidemiology. This MSc is ideal for those who choose to pursue a career in the public health and related sectors. 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.
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2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

Educational aims of the programme

The 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 / affect the above.

Stream 1: “Public Health and Epidemiology” focuses on the utilization of the field of epidemiology for the protection of public health and the prevention of the transnational spread of diseases.

Programme learning outcomes

The MSc provides students with three 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
- 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.

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

Teaching and learning strategy

Programme instruction is conducted through a variety of diverse teaching methods including: lectures, workshops, 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 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 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.

Grading scheme

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

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 / 6.50 -8.49 VERY GOOD / 5.00-6.49 : GOOD**

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 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 (Stream 1 & 2 common modules)
- 2nd semester: 3 modules (Stream 1 & 2 common modules)
- 3rd semester: 4 modules (Stream specific 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 project with a master's thesis**.

Modules and ECTS per semester

1 st Semester			
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

2 nd Semester			
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

3 rd Semester			
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

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



4. Entry requirements and criteria for admission

This MSc is ideal for those who choose to pursue a career in the public health and related sectors. 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.

First degree entry requirements

Graduates from the following can receive admission to the MSc:

- Graduates from all departments of Foreign Educational Institutions that are relevant to the wider subject matter of the MSc's content; and
- Graduates from all departments of Greek Universities and Technological Educations Institutes that are relevant to the wider subject matter of the MSc's content.

A Postgraduate Diploma is not awarded to a student whose first cycle degree from a foreign institution has not been recognized by the Hellenic National Academic Recognition Information Center (DOATAP). According to article 304 of Law 4957/2022, the application with the required supporting documents is submitted to the Secretariat of the Postgraduate Program, which undertakes to examine the applications based on the criteria of Law 4957/2022, without them being accompanied by an act of recognition of DOATAP. If the degree from a foreign University is included in the list of DOATAP, the Secretariat of the Foreign Language Program must request a Certificate of Place of Study, which is issued and sent by the foreign university. Applications in which the Greek territory is certified as the place of study are excluded, unless the part of studies completed in the Greek territory is located in a public university according to Law 3328/2005 (A' 80).

English language requirements

The course is taught and assessed in English. A certificate of proof of competency of English language is required, unless students have completed an academic program (BSc, MA, MSc, MBA) that was instructed and assessed in English. To follow courses offered in English, your competence in the English language should comply with the following description:

You should be able to:

- understand general and academic topics presented in English both orally and in writing
- master a varied vocabulary which enables you to participate in conversations and discussions in English
- produce and articulate your viewpoints in English, both orally and in writing
- give a detailed, coherent oral and written account of a known topic in fluent and generally correct 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%
	Total	100%