



Faculty of Medicine

## VAPHE, Master's Programme in Public Health, 120 credits

*Masterprogram i folkhälsovetenskap, 120 högskolepoäng*

**Second cycle degree programme requiring previous university study / Program  
med akademiska förkunskapskrav och med slutlig examen på avancerad nivå**

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### Decision

The programme syllabus is established by Undergraduate Education Board, Faculty of Medicine 21-11-2018 (U 2015/458) to be valid from 28-11-2018, autumn semester 2019.

### Programme description

The programme consists of courses within the main field of Public Health. It is designed to provide students with breadth, depth and specialisation through a combination of compulsory and elective courses. On completion of the programme, students are awarded a degree of Master of Medical Science in Public Health.

The aim of the programme is to enable students to acquire cutting edge skills and an ability to participate independently in research and development within public health, also in management positions within higher education as well as in business and industry and the public sector. A completed Master's programme can be included in a PhD programme, subject to assessment.

Second cycle courses in a number of relevant fields of research and technology aim to prepare the students for research and development within public health. The programme is taught full-time mainly on campus. The language of instruction is English.

### Goals

On completion of the programme, the student shall have attained the outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance (2006:1053), Annex 2, Qualifications

Ordinance:

### **Knowledge and understanding**

For a degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of public health, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the field of public health.

### **Competence and skills**

For a degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge in fields of public health and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously and creatively as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and to contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing both nationally and internationally to clearly report and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity
- demonstrate the ability to work in teams, also in leading positions, with other categories of staff in the field of public health, and
- demonstrate the ability to communicate and apply knowledge of public health in an accessible manner

### **Judgement and approach**

For a degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the field of public health, informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning

### **Specified learning outcomes for the Master of Medical Science in Public Health at Lund University**

On completion of the programme, the students shall be able to

- immediately fit into a research team specialising in public health or the equivalent and actively contribute to the team's activities
- immediately fit into an international and multicultural professional context within the field of public health

- immediately apply advanced methodology of relevance to research within public health and independently process problems of both a global and local nature within the field and propose theoretical and/or practical solutions to the problems
- independently apply and critically review research methods of relevance to public health research
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of public health research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used
- identify local or global needs of further knowledge and ongoing learning within public health, and
- independently analyse health determinants at the levels of societies, groups and individuals and relate them to health promotion in practice

## Course information

The programme offers gradual specialisation in three principal areas: Health and society (*Global Public Health, Health Economics, Health Policy*), Theory of science and methods of public health science (*Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Qualitative Research Methods, Applied Public Health Research Methods, Independent Project*) and Professional development (*Leadership and Professional Perspectives on Public Health, Health Promotion, Internship*).

**Year 1 – semester 1:** The programme starts with the general perspective provided by the course *Global Public Health* (7,5 credits) aiming to enable students to understand how the main issues, indicators and determinants of health relate to gender and sustainability perspectives in low, middle and highincome countries.

The method courses *Epidemiology* (7,5 credits) and *Biostatistics* (7,5 credits) cover both theoretical and practical applications in order to enable students at an early stage to develop a critical approach to reported research findings.

The semester also gives an opportunity for individual specialisation through an *elective course* of a total of 7.5 credits.

**Year 1 – semester 2:** This semester includes four courses intended to provide students with specialised theoretical and practical knowledge and important tools for applied public health research: *Qualitative Research Methods* (7,5 credits), *Health Policy* (7.5 credits), *Health Economics* (7.5 credits) and *Health Promotion* (7,5 credits).

**Year 2 – semester 3:** The semester starts with an opportunity for individual specialisation through *elective courses* of a total of 15 credits. A work placement (internship) is provided in the form of an elective course. Further elective courses may be included in the programme. In the course *Leadership and Professional Perspectives on Public Health* (7,5 credits), which trains students in how to plan and implement public health policies and projects.

Semester 3 concludes with the course *Applied Public Health Research Methods* (7.5 credits), which provides students with knowledge of specific methodological tools. Students are invited to select a field of specialisation in view of the topic of the independent project, but they will also learn how their choice of methodological specialisation relates to other specialisations.

**Year 2 – semester 4:** The final semester consists of the students' work on their independent projects (30 credits).

### **Independent project (degree project)**

A requirement for the award of a degree of Master (120 credits) is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 30 credits in the main field of study.

The independent project is to be presented in writing in the form of a research report including a popular science summary. The project is to be based on primary data. Furthermore, the project is to be presented orally at a seminar in which each student is individually assessed by a previously appointed examiner. Each student is also to critically review the degree project of a fellow student.

## **Degree**

Degree titles

Degree of Master of Medical Science (120 credits)

Major: Public Health Science

*Medicine masterexamen*

*Huvudområde: Folkhälsovetenskap*

After completing the programme, students are awarded a degree of Master of Medical Science with a Major in Public Health, 120 credits.

## **Requirements and Selection method**

### **Requirements**

To be admitted to the programme, students must meet the general admission requirement of a first cycle degree of at least 180 credits or an equivalent international degree and the specific admission requirement of proficiency in English corresponding to English 6 from Swedish upper-secondary school or the equivalent.

The selection will be based on a total assessment of the students' previous academic qualifications, prior work experience in the public health field and a statement of purpose. If all qualifications are equal, drawing of lots will take place.

Work experience in the field is defined as work that promotes the state of health of a population or a population group. Examples of this are work with the objective of:

- preventing disease and removing threats to human health.
- improving information with the objective of promoting public health.
- improving opportunities to coordinate and undertake measures to deal with health risks.

### **Selection method**

The selection will be based on a total assessment of the students' previous academic qualifications, prior work experience in the public health field and a statement of

purpose.

## **Other information**

*Additional information in appendix*

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## Schematic overview of the Master of Medical Science in Public Health

Valid from autumn semester 2019

Semester 1	Global Public Health (7,5 credits)	Elective course (7,5 credits)
	Epidemiology (7,5 credits)	Biostatistics (7,5 credits)
Semester 2	Qualitative Research Methods (7,5 credits)	Health Policy (7,5 credits)
	Health Economics (7,5 credits)	Health Promotion (7,5 credits)
Semester 3	Elective course (7,5 credits)	Elective course (7,5 credits)
	Leadership and Professional Perspectives on Public Health (7,5 credits)	Applied Public Health Research Methodology (7.5 credits)
Semester 4	Thesis course (30 credits)	