Programme Specification for M.Sc Public Health and Health Promotion 2011/2012

Teaching Institution:  
London South Bank University

Accredited by:  
London South Bank University

Faculty of origin:  
HSC

Highest Award within the Programme:  
M.Sc Public Health and Health Promotion

Other Awards within the Programme:  
PG. Diploma

PG. Certificate

Reference Points:  
Internal:  
LSBU Mission Statement and Strategic Plan  
LSBU Core Skills Policy  
LSBU Academic Regulations  

External:  
Faculty of Public Health Standards for Specialist Practice and draft standards for advanced practitioners (2010)  
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (QAA, 2008)

Rationale & Aims:  
The programme is intended for professionals working in health improvement, health promotion and public health. The programme is taught from a multi-disciplinary approach and provides career opportunities for people in different professional fields including health and social care, policy development and local authorities.

The Standards for specialist practice and draft standards for advanced practitioners in public health underpin
The aims of the programme are:

- To provide a broad based academic education for students working in public health/health promotion.

- To equip students with the knowledge and understanding of public health to enable them to contribute to the public health agenda.

- To enable students to interpret and balance the evidence base for interventions to inform decision making, and to contribute to the development of the evidence base through research and evaluation.

- To encourage students to develop leadership and collaborative working for health.

- To provide a stimulating and responsive learning environment which will enable students to maximise their learning and facilitate their development as self directed and reflective learners.

In line with White Paper ‘Healthy Lives, Healthy People’ (DH 2010) and the consultation document ‘Liberating the NHS: developing the healthcare workforce’ (DH 2010) and the Public Health Skills and Career Framework this programme will provide a career pathway for professionals from a range of settings in public health and health promotion. Changes in the regulation of the public health workforce in England mean that the programme must be flexible enough to meet the practice requirements of different professionals as well as meeting the standards for the specialised workforce.

Programme Outcomes

Postgraduate Diploma/Masters level – students will show “originality in the application of knowledge, and they will understand how the boundaries of knowledge are advanced through research. They will be able to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, and they will show originality in tackling and solving problems. They will have the qualities needed for employment in circumstances requiring sound judgements, personal responsibility and initiative, in complex and unpredictable professional environments” (QAA Higher Education Framework).

A1 Theoretical influences on public health and health promotion drawing from different disciplines

A2 The concept of health from a range of perspectives

A3 The key determinants of health and the relationship between them

A4 The principles of community development, participation and empowerment to facilitate working with and for communities

A5 Principles and methods of partnership working and collaborative approaches to public health and health promotion

A6 Effective interventions for promoting health, influencing health behaviour and creating environments that
bring about change

**A7** The complex inter-dependency between economic, political, social, ideological and cultural factors and the policy context of public health

**A8** The principles of policy making, and how political processes shape policy responses to public health issues

**A9** Public health issues, organisational structures and changes relevant for public health/health promotion

**A10** Different models of leadership according to different settings and circumstances

**A11** Research processes, methodologies and the limitations of existing research strategies

**A12** Evidence based practice including systematic approaches to information appraisal and review

**A13** The methods for describing the health of communities and populations

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**Entry Requirements**

**ACADEMIC**

- Successful applicants will normally hold at least a second class honours degree in a related subject

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) may be given where a student’s prior learning directly relates to the learning outcomes of a module. APL may be given towards a Pg Diploma to a maximum of 60 credits (3 modules) out of a total of 120 credits.

The Faculty of Health and Social Care is committed to recognising the learning of students wherever it takes place. The Faculty welcomes claims from students who wish to use the accreditation of prior (experiential) learning as a means of entry to programmes (where regulations permit), as well as entry with credit against some of the requirements of London South Bank University awards. The established Faculty AP(E)L Policy and Procedure supports the AP(E)L system.

To ensure that professional and academic competencies and outcomes are not compromised, the AP(E)L procedures are both transparent and rigorous in meeting the Quality Assurance requirements of London South Bank University.

**EXPERIENCE**

- Applicants must have experience of health promotion work, public health projects or community based health work.

**MOTIVATION**

- Applicants must be motivated to undertake this course and to develop their critical and reflective skills in public health and health promotion.
Programme Structure

Philosophy of the programme

Central to this programme is the commitment to the process of enabling people and communities to increase control over their health and well being, through practitioners tackling inequalities in health and working to combat social exclusion. Teaching public health from this perspective means that the curriculum is based on a social model of health. It draws upon the multi-disciplinary, multi-professional context of public health and engages with the interface between theory and practice. The programme examines health, illness and disease in a social context, which includes the social construction of health, illness and disease, social patterning of health illness and disease and the effectiveness of interventions. It is informed by a wide range of academic disciplines, some of which are included in this programme: sociology of health and illness, health policy, health psychology, health promotion, demography, epidemiology, statistics, management, research, ethics and philosophy. As an academic programme it seeks to build the evidence base for public health and health promotion, and encourages students to focus on specific areas of interest and to publish and disseminate their work. The vocational focus of the programme aims to produce practitioners who ask questions and know how to set about answering them through critical thinking and reflective practice. The modules offered build upon core skills such as needs assessment and evidence based public health, and also develops excellence in leadership, partnership working and the ability to build community capacity. Students are also encouraged to identify their personal skills requirements and then develop their competence as practitioners in those areas.

The course offers part time or full time study. Each module has a value of 20 M level credit points with the exception of the dissertation which accrues 60 points at level M. To attain these points students will be required to complete 200 and 600 study hours respectively.

There are three exit points, Masters level, Postgraduate Diploma, and Postgraduate certificate.

**At Postgraduate Diploma (level 7)**, the programme will be prescribed with the student completing the following compulsory six modules:

**Module:** Perspectives on Promoting Health and Wellbeing

**Module:** Epidemiology and Research

**Module:** Health Promotion and Health Improvement Practice

**Module:** Political and Social Context of Public Health and Health Promotion

**Module:** Public Health Principles and Practice

**Module:** Management and Leadership of Public Health

To be awarded the MSc the student must have obtained 180 credits at level 7 comprising the successful completion of the prescribed six modules plus a dissertation of 12,000 words.

The Postgraduate Certificate offers a contained award within the course for students who may not wish to acquire the professional qualification of a specialist, but who require some background in public health and health promotion. Students are required to successfully complete three modules.

The programme comprises six modules of study with a credit value of 20 CATS points each. Each module of study equates to 200 hours divided into taught hours, guided learning and self directed study.
The structure of the programme is designed to allow prospective applicants the chance to complete the programme either full time over one calendar year or part time normally over two calendar years although a slower route is possible allowing up to six years from the date of registration on the programme.