POSTGRADUATE

University of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA



Public Health postgraduate programmes
Hōtaka Hauora Tūmatanui ā-Tāura

University of Otago, Christchurch
Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka, Ōtautahi

University of Otago, Dunedin
Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka, Ōtepoti

University of Otago, Wellington
Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka, Pōneke





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Study Public Health
Ākona Hauora Tūmatanui

Public health is a diverse and vital area, encompassing all aspects of our lives. The issues that influence public health are often changing and knowledge is constantly evolving.

The University of Otago's expertise in public health is nationally and internationally recognised. Postgraduate students develop skills relating to:

- health promotion
- how society affects health
- epidemiology
- public policy
- health economics
- health systems
- how the environment affects health
- hauora Māori – Māori health
- research methods.

Regardless of which aspect of public health interests you, it is a field in which you will really make a difference. Together, we can shape the future of Aotearoa, ensuring a healthy environment, people and communities.

Career opportunities

Public health training opens up a number of fulfilling career opportunities, both in New Zealand and overseas.

Our graduates are working in international, national and regional health-related policy. Others have found positions with Manatū Hauora Ministry of Health, in planning and analysis roles, or as part of public health service teams (health promotion, environmental health). Some graduates go on to a career in research and evaluation of health services.

Support for Māori and Pacific students

We're committed to further developing the Māori and Pacific public health workforce and welcome applications from Māori and Pacific students. To discuss the support available at each campus, please contact your local postgraduate co-ordinator.

Harakeke strategy

Our harakeke strategy highlights the strong commitment to promoting hauora Māori – Māori health – across our programme. This includes two dedicated papers – PUBH 712 Foundations of Hauora Māori and PUBH 741 Hauora Māori: Policy, Practice and Research – as well as a strong focus on weaving Māori health throughout our programme.



Dr Robin Quigg

Nō Raukawa, Ngāti Tāmaterā, Waikato

Ahorangi Tūhono, Hauora Māori / Associate Professor Māori Health

"My study/career path has been long and winding. From not completing secondary school to later enrolment at university. I had a career in parks, recreation and resource management before finding Public Health as a home for my research and a place to be Māori.

"At Otago, we have a group of Māori Public Health staff across all three campuses, with a wide range of expertise, skills and connections. This offers research opportunities throughout the country."



Courtney McAlevey

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health

"A trained Health and Physical Education teacher, I returned to New Zealand after five years abroad to explore Health Promotion beyond the classroom. The PGCertPH has boosted my confidence, supported my research goals, and complemented my work as a Teaching Fellow. I've enjoyed it so much, I'm continuing with the Diploma."

10 reasons to study Public Health at Otago

- Gain an internationally recognised qualification from one of New Zealand's leading postgraduate research universities.
- Build on an undergraduate degree or work experience in any discipline, not just public health.
- Study full-time or part-time – whatever suits. Papers are taught in half semester terms, giving you flexibility to arrange study around other commitments.
- A broad range of paper topics enables you to tailor your programme to reflect your interests.
- Choose your campus – Christchurch, Dunedin or Wellington – where you'll be provided with a supportive learning environment.
- Step it up! Our qualification staircase gives the option to start with the Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health, and then add papers to earn a diploma or master's qualification.
- Our qualifications provide personal and professional growth to increase your employment potential.
- Be a part of a global community. Network with, and learn from, people with skills and knowledge in areas that can open up new opportunities.
- Learn from the best. Research-informed teaching from our expert lecturers represents a wide range of disciplines.
- Public health is exciting and challenging, and deals with complex impacts on population health.



Dr Sarah Harrison

PhD in Public Health

Environmental Social Scientist, NIWA

"I recently completed my PhD in Public Health, which focused on how health and wellbeing can be centred in climate change adaptation planning and decision-making in South Dunedin. This project allowed me to develop my skills in community engagement and qualitative modelling methods, which I used to support group learning amongst stakeholders in a real-world setting. I am able to apply these skills in my new role as an environmental social scientist, drawing strongly on public health principles. The support provided by my supervisors was outstanding and helped me in setting goals for my post-study career. Completing my PhD in Public Health has set me up for an exciting future with versatile and in-demand skills."

Qualifications in Public Health
Tohu Hauora Tūmatanui

Each qualification has a number of papers, some of which are compulsory (core). You choose the remainder from among the 19 available at postgraduate level across each of our campuses. All Public Health papers have a value of 15 points. Each qualification leads onto the next, so you can continue your journey in the study of Public Health.

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health (PGCertPH) 60 points

Half-year full-time or equivalent part-time.

Four Public Health papers selected from the schedule of endorsed options.

Must be completed with an endorsement. Options, and compulsory papers, for each are:

Environmental Health
PUBH 733 and PUBH 734

Health Economics
PUBH 735 and PUBH 736

Health Promotion
PUBH 713 and PUBH 743

Health Systems and Services
PUBH 714 and PUBH 742

Māori Health
PUBH 712 and PUBH 741

Public Policy and Health
PUBH 713, PUBH 714 and PUBH 744

Research Methods
PUBH 711, PUBH 723, PUBH 724 and PUBH 725

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (PGDipPH) 120 points

One year full-time or equivalent part-time.

Four core Public Health papers: PUBH 711, PUBH 712, PUBH 713 and PUBH 714

Plus four additional Public Health papers.

Can be completed with one of the following optional endorsements:

Epidemiology
Core papers plus three of PUBH 721, PUBH 725, PUBH 726 and PUBH 732

Health Promotion*
Core papers plus PUBH 743 and PUBH 744

Social Research Methods
Core papers plus PUBH 723, PUBH 724 plus one of PUBH 725, PUBH 736 and PUBH 743

Master of Public Health (MPH) 240 points

Two years full-time or equivalent part-time.

Option one:

Four core Public Health papers: PUBH 711, PUBH 712, PUBH 713 and PUBH 714

Plus one research methods paper.

Plus three additional Public Health papers.

Thesis (120 points).

Option two:

Four core Public Health papers: PUBH 711, PUBH 712, PUBH 713 and PUBH 714

Plus one research methods paper.

Plus seven additional Public Health papers.

Dissertation (60 points).

Students who do not pass their first 120 points with a B average overall or a B+ in a research methods paper will be withdrawn from the programme and may exit with a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (PGDipPH).

* The DPH endorsed in Health Promotion is recognised by the Health Promotion Forum of New Zealand for providing advanced knowledge and understanding of the Ngā Kaiakatanga Hauora mō Aotearoa Health Promotion Competencies for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Runanga Whakapiki Ake i te Hauora o Aotearoa
Health Promotion Forum of New Zealand

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health (PGCertPH)

The Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health (PGCertPH) is ideal for students who wish to obtain a postgraduate qualification in Public Health but are not ready to embark on a diploma or master's degree.

It comprises four papers from the Public Health paper offerings. Students must select an endorsement, which requires a specific combination of papers to be completed. Endorsements can be achieved in the following subject areas: Environmental Health, Health Economics, Health Promotion, Health Systems and Services, Māori Health, Public Policy and Health, Research Methods.

The PGCertPH is normally completed in a half-year of full-time study, or the equivalent in part-time study. Students who have completed a PGCertPH can obtain a Diploma in Public Health by undertaking four further papers.

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (PGDipPH)

The Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (PGDipPH) is a broad-based qualification that is highly sought after by employers. Candidates are usually required to hold a degree or an appropriate professional qualification.

This practical postgraduate qualification enables graduates to identify and understand public health issues and, depending on which optional papers are taken, gain the skills to analyse and use health data, design appropriate health promotion strategies, plan and evaluate public health interventions, work collaboratively with professionals and the community, appreciate resource allocation and cost issues in health, and uphold ethical standards.

The PGDipPH consists of four core papers and four additional Public Health papers. It is usually completed in one academic year of full-time study, or the equivalent in part-time study.

The majority of students complete an unendorsed PGDipPH. However there are three endorsed options for those with specific interest areas in Epidemiology, Health Promotion, or Social Research Methods.



Runze Liu

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (DPH)

"I graduated from Otago in 2022 and worked in the private sector before realising I wanted to make a greater impact – especially for disabled communities. In 2024, I began the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health at Otago's Wellington Campus to pursue that goal.

"Studying in Wellington has been ideal. I'm originally from here, so I'm close to family, and being near the seat of government is particularly important, as public policy is a major focus of public health. Government ministries are accessible and within walking or short transit distance – ideal for public health graduates and those seeking work in the public service.

"The PGDipPH is helping me understand how systems and policy influence people's lives. I hope to research how disabled people can access the conditions needed for good health. Long-term, I plan to pursue further study and an academic path focused on advancing equity for disabled people."

Master of Public Health (MPH)

The Master of Public Health (MPH) is an internationally recognised qualification in its field. It will deepen your understanding of public health and give you research experience. The supervised nature of the degree enables students to work in close association with active researchers. Graduates will develop research skills that may be applied to public health policy, practice or research settings.

The prerequisite for the MPH is an undergraduate degree with an average grade of B or better. All admissions to the programme are subject to the approval of the course director.

An MPH can be completed in two academic years of full-time study, or the equivalent in part-time study. You will complete eight 15-point Public Health papers (120 points) in the first year. Subject to meeting progression criteria, you then have the option of either completing a thesis (120 points) or undertaking a dissertation (60 points) and four additional 15-point Public Health papers.

Candidates who have already completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health or equivalent may credit those papers towards the MPH.

Those interested in MPH study should contact their nearest department for further information.

PhD in Public Health

A PhD provides an unequalled opportunity to carry out in-depth research and analysis of a particular public health issue. The University of Otago aims to create a stimulating and supportive environment for doctoral study under the supervision of leading researchers from many different backgrounds. PhD applicants must demonstrate the ability to progress to an advanced degree, and have a keen interest in research. Interested students are encouraged to view staff profiles on the website. Supervision arrangements can be made across departments and, where necessary, with other tertiary institutions.

Those interested in embarking on a PhD should contact their nearest department for further information. Enrolment in a PhD is not limited to the beginning of semesters and may be accepted at any time of the year.



Anna Coppens

Master of Public Health

"Throughout my undergraduate years at Otago, I volunteered with the Red Cross in Refugee Support. The experience of working alongside a former refugee family to support their transition into life in Dunedin contributed towards my passion for a people-centred career focused on reducing inequities and improving health outcomes. This led to my decision to study towards a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health at the University of Otago, Christchurch.

"The DPH opened my eyes to the influence of the social and built environment on health outcomes and equity. This understanding has helped shape my Master of Public Health, as I am using a strengths-based approach to explore experiences of accessing primary healthcare among people from refugee backgrounds. In the future, I hope to pursue a career in public health research and contribute to improving health outcomes for people from refugee backgrounds both in Aotearoa and overseas. For now, I am proud to be a student in such a future-focused and people-centred discipline."

Qualifications in Health Management
Tohu Whakahaere Hauora

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Management (PGDipHealMgt) 120 points

Four Public Health papers worth a total of 60 points from:

PUBH 712 Foundations of Hauora Māori

PUBH 713 Society, Health and Health Promotion

PUBH 714 Public Policy and Health Systems

PUBH 735 The Economics of Health Policy Decision Making

PUBH 736 Economic Evaluation

PUBH 742 International Health Systems

PUBH 744 Healthy Public Policy

Plus Master of Business Administration papers worth a total of 60 points.

Note: MBA papers are available on campus in Dunedin or via distance learning. Places in the online MBA programme are heavily restricted. Please contact the Postgraduate Public Health Course Director as soon as possible if you are interested in the online MBA papers.

otagomba.ac.nz/online-mba

Master of Health Sciences endorsed in Health Management (MHealScHLMT) 240 points

Prior completion of the PGDipHealMgt plus either a thesis or dissertation option.

Option one:

Thesis (120 points)

Option two:

Dissertation (60 points) plus four Public Health papers (60 points)

Students must complete two of the following approved research methods papers, to the value of 30 points, before embarking on their thesis or dissertation:

PUBH 711 Principles of Epidemiology

PUBH 723 Survey Methods

PUBH 724 Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods

PUBH 725 Applied Biostatistics 1 – Fundamentals

PUBH 726 Applied Biostatistics 2 – Regression Methods

An equivalent research methods paper(s) approved by the Public Health Academic Committee.

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Management (PGDipHealMgt)

The Postgraduate Diploma in Health Management (PGDipHealMgt) draws equally on public health and business administration. Participants study health systems, policy and health economics in the Public Health programme, and recommended papers in Business. Those most likely to benefit from the programme are health professionals moving into managerial roles, managers taking up positions in the health sector, and those in existing health management positions seeking both to advance their skills and enhance their understanding of the sector and their role within it.

Candidates for the PGDipHealMgt are usually required to hold a degree or a professional qualification requiring at least three years of tertiary study and at least two years' work experience in a health-related field, or alternative qualifications or experience acceptable to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Health Sciences).

Master of Health Sciences Endorsed in Health Management (MHealSc HLMT)

The MHealSc HLMT offers an advanced qualification in management, which includes a research component of either a supervised thesis or dissertation. It is suitable for students who wish to pursue a higher level career in health management and provides evidence of in-depth, independent investigation into topics selected by students.

Candidates for the Master of Health Sciences (Health Management) are expected to have achieved a good B average overall for their PGDipHealMgt. Every applicant must have completed an approved research methods papers to the value of 30 points NZQF Level 8 (or average grade if more than one paper is used to complete the 30 points) with a grade of B+ or better. It is strongly recommended that the research methods be relevant to their study design.

PhD in Health Management

Public Health staff at all three campuses have a range of research interests, and doctoral research supervision is available. Interested students are encouraged to visit the website and view staff profiles.

otago.ac.nz/publichealth



Georgia Wilson

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Management

"I decided to study the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Management after starting my role as a Clinical Leader of Physiotherapy. Previously, I had spent five years working in London at various private clinics and hospitals, including COVID ICUs. This exposure to diverse population groups and health conditions sparked my broader interest in health.

"This programme incorporates population health with leadership and management training through the MBA school; it is very applicable to my current role, and all health leadership positions. Postgraduate study for me is more about critically analysing the research and course content – as well as forming my own perspectives to contribute to bigger conversations on population health – and applying it to my already established career. Public health is an avenue to effect broad-scale change at the institutional level to improve health outcomes for our people."

Timetable 2027
Rātaka 2027

Semester 1 (1 March–25 June)

Term 1 (1 March–30 April)

PUBH 712
Foundations of Hauora Māori
Thursday mornings, plus a one-day workshop

PUBH 735*
The Economics of Health Policy Decision Making
Friday mornings

PUBH 743
Health Promotion Planning and Evaluation
Wednesday mornings

PUBH 734
Health Protection
Monday late afternoons; one-day field trip

PUBH 745
Introduction to Pacific Public Health
Tuesday afternoons; one-day workshop in Wellington

Term 2 (3 May–25 June)

PUBH 711
Principles of Epidemiology
Tuesday and Friday mornings

PUBH 733
Environmental Health
Wednesday mornings; one- afternoon field trip

PUBH 741*
Hauora Māori – Policy, Practice and Research
Thursday mornings; one-day workshop

PUBH 725
Applied Biostatistics 1 – Fundamentals
Tuesday late afternoons; Monday and Wednesday afternoon (week 1)

Semester 2 (12 July–12 November)

Term 3 (12 July–3 September)

PUBH 714
Public Policy and Health Systems
Monday afternoons

PUBH 732
Using Epidemiology in Public Health Practice
Tuesday mornings

PUBH 744*
Healthy Public Policy
Wednesday mornings; one-day workshop

PUBH 723
Survey Methods
Thursday mornings

PUBH 726
Applied Biostatistics 2 – Regression Methods
Tuesday late afternoons; Monday and Wednesday afternoon (week 2)

Term 4 (13 September–5 November)

PUBH 713
Society, Health and Health Promotion
Tuesday mornings

PUBH 724
Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods
Wednesday mornings; one-day workshop

PUBH 736*
Economic Evaluation
Friday mornings

PUBH 721
Methods for Epidemiological Research
Weekly web conferences on Thursday mornings

PUBH 742
Global Health and International Health systems
Monday and Thursday mornings (week 1); Monday late afternoons (weeks 2–6)

Core for DPH

On-campus taught

Distance taught

Please refer to individual paper webpages for further details regarding block courses, workshops, and other attendance requirements.

Each paper is worth 15 points.
Students are encouraged to take the core papers for their qualification first.
Part-time students would usually complete one paper at a time.
Full-time students would usually complete two papers at once.
*Not offered in Christchurch in 2027.

Paper descriptions
Whakamārama akoranga

PUBH 711 Principles of Epidemiology
Core paper for DPH/MPH (15 points)
Term 2

An introduction to the principles and practice of epidemiology in public health.

In the first part of the paper, students will learn how they can identify patterns of health or disease in populations to address questions such as: Which groups of people are more likely to suffer poor health? Is health improving over time? Does health vary by place?

Students will learn about epidemiological study designs and methods, and identify which types of important public health questions they can use to investigate. Students will learn how to identify and assess potential error in epidemiological studies and how to measure the potential associations between exposures and disease. By the end of the paper, students will be critically appraising published epidemiological studies and addressing questions such as: Does this study provide valid evidence about the cause of this disease in this population?

PUBH 712 Foundations of Hauora Māori
Core paper for DPH/MPH (15 points)
Term 1

Provides an overview of the fundamental aspects and approaches required to understand hauora Māori. Students will develop an appreciation of the context and determinants of hauora Māori; in particular, the impact and role of historical and political events and their relation to contemporary hauora Māori outcomes will be explored and considered.

PUBH 713 Society, Health and Health Promotion

Core paper for DPH/MPH (15 points)
Term 4

Covers multiple factors that influence human health; how social structure and social change influence health outcomes; how public health and health promotion intervention address poor health outcomes and health inequalities.

In this paper, students will gain an appreciation of the history of public health and health promotion, both internationally and in New Zealand. They will develop knowledge and skill in analysing the determinants of health and health inequalities, including the role of social and political processes. Students will explore strategies for change and gain knowledge and skill in using health promotion concepts and frameworks to promote health.

PUBH 714 Public Policy and Health Systems
Core paper for DPH/MPH (15 points)
Term 3

Analyses the roles and functions of public policy, health policy and health systems in fostering population health. This paper equips students with knowledge of how government is structured, the contribution of public policy and health policy to population health, as well as skills in policy advocacy. It also explores how health systems are structured, funded and assessed with particular reference to New Zealand.

PUBH 721 Methods for Epidemiological Research
Taught by distance (15 points)
Term 4

Prerequisite PUBH 711, and HASC 413, or
STAT 110 or STAT 115 or PUBH 725

An in-depth study of epidemiological ideas and methods used in conceptualisation, design, analysis and interpretation of studies of the distribution and determinants of disease in human populations.

This paper builds on the Principles of Epidemiology (PUBH 711), to provide a deeper understanding of epidemiological ideas and methods for those who intend to carry out epidemiological studies in public health. Students will learn in more depth about epidemiological study design and a range of approaches for dealing with confounding and bias in the design and analysis of studies of risk factor-disease associations. Students will have the opportunity to explore a specific methodological issue in epidemiology. By the end of the paper students will be able to design, implement and analyse an epidemiological study with appropriate oversight (e.g. Master of Public Health thesis) or as part of a research team.

PUBH 723 Survey Methods
Taught by distance (15 points)
Term 3

This research paper will enable students to develop the skills involved in planning a survey, including how to identify appropriate research questions, define concepts and test theory effectively, construct and validate a questionnaire, sample participants and analyse data descriptively. The lecturer will give support to students to choose a research topic which will be developed in the assignments. The paper will give an appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of questionnaire methodologies and prepare students for research at master's level.

PUBH 724 Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods
(15 points)
Term 4

Development of skills to plan and undertake a qualitative study including identifying research questions suitable for qualitative study, recruiting participants, and collecting and analysing data.

Students will gain an understanding of the strengths and theoretical underpinnings of qualitative methodologies used in public health research from different disciplinary perspectives. We will look at a range of qualitative methodologies as well as the usual ways of collecting qualitative data. Students will develop skills for assessing the rigour of qualitative studies as well as ensuring that ethical issues are addressed in the design of their research. The paper takes an experiential approach, with students working on a research topic of their interest. It will provide a good grounding for undertaking qualitative research at master's level.

PUBH 725 Applied Biostatistics 1 – Fundamentals

Taught by distance (15 points)
Term 2

Introduces students to the use of statistical methods in health sciences research. It is highly recommended for all students who want and/or need to analyse quantitative data. Students will learn the theory needed to perform basic descriptive analysis as well as to correctly understand appropriate statistical methods to test quantitative questions.

The paper has a strong applied component and students will learn how to perform analysis with computational software, particularly how to report results for thesis and scientific journals. Topics covered include: descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing and simple linear regression and correlation.

Students will learn to use Stata, a leading statistical software package in health sciences research.

PUBH 726 Applied Biostatistics 2 – Regression Methods
Taught by distance (15 points)
Term 3

Prerequisite HASC 413 or PUBH 725

An introduction to the main regression methods in health sciences research. It is highly recommended for all students who want and/or need to analyse quantitative data. The paper builds on knowledge and skills learned in PUBH 725 and also has a strong applied component.

From a public health point of view, students will learn how to generate and interpret statistical models to adjust for confounders as well as identify the variables that have a statistical effect on the outcome of interest. The models covered include: multiple linear, logistic and Poisson regression. Students will learn to use Stata, a leading statistical software package in health sciences research.

PUBH 732 Using Epidemiology in Public Health Practice
(15 points)
Term 3

This paper will provide an introduction to the ways in which epidemiology can be applied to prevent and control disease in populations. Aspects of disease prevention and control that will be considered include the collection of health-related data and public health surveillance; the use of epidemiological data to assess and compare the health status and health needs of populations; strategies that can be used to prevent disease in populations; important considerations in relation to screening programmes; methods to evaluate the impact of various prevention and control strategies; and prevention and control activities undertaken by Public Health Units. It is strongly recommended that students complete PUBH 711 before undertaking this paper.

PUBH 733 Environment and Health
(15 points)
Term 2

The quality of our physical living environment is fundamental to human survival and quality of life. Human habitats have changed radically over time and the built environment now dominates.
At the same time, humans have been changing global ecosystems in unprecedented ways, with far-reaching implications for public health.

This paper provides an introduction to the links between human habitats, environmental sustainability and human wellbeing. It introduces students to theoretical and methodological knowledge, skills for undertaking integrative research and decision-making, and tools for communicating with a variety of audiences. Links with Māori wellbeing, as well as links with health and social inequalities, are integrated throughout.

PUBH 734 Health Protection
Taught by distance (15 points)
Term 1

Principles of health protection and their application to environmental health practice in New Zealand. Topics studied include an overview of the important environmental hazards and diseases affecting New Zealand and our region, water and air quality, food safety, indoor and work environments, infectious disease control and environmental health emergencies.

There will be a strong emphasis on developing critical skills for health protection, including environmental epidemiology, risk assessment and management, basic toxicology, health protection law, health protection practice to reduce health inequalities, health protection indicators, public health surveillance, outbreak investigation, cluster investigation, emergency management, environmental research methods and effective use of evidence.

PUBH 735 Economics of Health Policy Decision Making
(15 points)
Term 1

Students will be introduced to the concepts and principles underpinning the market for health care, and learn about the policy tools available for regulating the market and incentivising behaviour. Concepts such as competition, economics of scale, marginal and opportunity cost, efficiency and equity will be covered. The reasons why the health care market can fail, including monopolies, problems with health insurance, adverse selection, moral hazard, information asymmetry and externalities will be discussed.

Using real-world examples, students will gain an understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of various policy options including payment incentives/disincentives, co-payments, capitation, taxation, subsidies and regulation. The course will conclude with an overview of different health systems and their comparative performance.

PUBH 736 Economic Evaluation
(15 points)
Term 4

Introduces the concepts and principles that underpin economic evaluation and the techniques of cost-benefit analysis (CBA), cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) and cost-utility analysis (CUA). Methods for analysing costs of healthcare interventions will be presented. Students will learn options for valuing health outcomes, in particular, quality-adjusted life-years (QALYs).

The techniques – for example, discounting and calculation of incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs) – that statutory agencies such as PHARMAC (in New Zealand) and NICE (in the UK) use to make decisions on purchasing new health technologies will be discussed. Different options for prioritisation (including multi-criteria decision analysis), and the Global Burden of Disease and cost-of-illness studies, will also be covered. If you are considering future MPH study, this paper may, in specific cases, be considered a relevant research paper. Please contact your local convener for advice.

PUBH 741 Hauora Māori – Policy, Practice and Research
(15 points)
Term 2

Prerequisite PUBH 712

This paper initially explores and analyses New Zealand health policies including He Korowai Oranga – the Māori health strategy. The responsiveness of the New Zealand health system in relation to Māori is critiqued, and the role of Māori health service delivery, including the implementation of the Whānau Ora strategy, is discussed.

Research that informs and is responsive to Māori health needs is the focus of the second half of the paper. The development of kaupapa Māori research theory and practice is discussed in detail, including kaupapa Māori epidemiology. For students considering future MPH study, this paper may, in specific cases, be considered a relevant research paper. Please contact your local convener for advice.

PUBH 742 Global Health and International Health Systems
Taught by distance (15 points)
Term 4

Examines the global forces and institutions that shape health systems, the challenges faced by developing and developed countries, and the different methods for assessing the performance of health systems.

PUBH 743 Health Promotion Programme Planning and Evaluation
(15 points)
Term 1

Introduces the principles and practice of health promotion programme planning and evaluation. Students will be equipped to understand the planning and evaluation process including the relevant theory, literature, planning models, evaluation approaches and ways to operationalise Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Interactive approaches to teaching and learning are used.

PUBH 744 Healthy Public Policy
(15 points)
Term 3

The goals of this paper are to develop an appreciation of the key role that public policy plays in population health, and to develop skills in understanding, analysing and intervening in the making of healthy public policy. To this end, the paper is designed to critically investigate public policy and policymaking, understand the policy process and the role of evidence within it, and apply policy evaluation.

PUBH 745 Introduction to Pacific Public Health
Taught by distance (15 points)
Term 1

This distance-taught paper introduces students to key aspects of, and approaches to, Pacific public health. Students will gain a critical understanding of the historical and political factors that impact on the health of Pacific people. They will learn about Pacific models of health and frameworks for intervention, and critically appraise the determinants of health of Pacific peoples. Students will apply understanding of Pacific public health values and practices to promote the health of Pacific peoples. The paper focuses on Pacific peoples, including Pacific migrants in countries such as Aotearoa New Zealand.

What's the time commitment for postgraduate study?

While postgraduate study requires commitment in terms of time for personal and professional development, it is a truly stimulating and rewarding path to take. Students should anticipate spending approximately 20 hours per week on each paper, including study time, assignment preparation, and class attendance.

Initial and ongoing guidance is given for students to assess, interpret, analyse, critique and evaluate theoretical and professional practice at an advanced level. This often requires balancing the demands of busy lives with academic endeavour.

A range of learning and teaching methodologies is used to support learning. At the start of each course, conveners and administration staff are available to provide information about the services and resources available for students within the University.

Applying for entry
Te urutono

Entry requirements

As guidance, a general requirement for entry into postgraduate Public Health courses is an undergraduate degree, diploma, or professional qualification, which would normally equate to a B average overall. You must supply an academic transcript to prove that you have the appropriate pre-entry qualifications.

Apply online

The University has a compulsory online application process for programme admission and enrolment called eVision.

1. Apply at otago.ac.nz/publichealth
2. Choose the qualification you wish to apply for.
3. Click the "Apply" button on the right-hand side.

Returning students will be able to log into their eVision portal with their student username and password to apply for further programmes. Students are required to complete enrolment/paper selection for each year they are studying.

All candidates need to:

1. Be admitted to a programme. The approval for this process is via an admissions committee.
2. For each year of study, complete enrolment/selection of papers for that year.
3. For each year of study, complete the declaration online following course approval.
4. Pay fees after accessing the invoice from eVision.

Fees

Fees must be paid by early February for first semester papers, and mid-July for second semester papers.

Tuition fees are prescribed by the University Council, and are generally not finalised until November of the year prior to taking effect. Once set, they can be found on the University's website.

General information:

otago.ac.nz/study/fees

Individual paper costs:

otago.ac.nz/subjects

Alternatively please contact:
Revenue Management Office
University of Otago
Tel 64 3 479 9006
Email **student.finance@otago.ac.nz**

English language proficiency

All graduates from a non-New Zealand university for whom English is not their first language are required to provide evidence of adequate proficiency in both spoken and written English.

This evidence will normally be a satisfactory pass in a standard examination in English language proficiency. Applicants must obtain this before they can be considered for entry to the postgraduate papers for the Diploma in Public Health.

The recommended examination is the academic module of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), for which we require a score of 6.5 or above.

For more information visit:

otago.ac.nz/english-language-requirements

Contact us
Whakapā mai

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Department of Public Health
20 Oxford Street, Christchurch
PO Box 4345, Christchurch 8140
Tel 64 3 364 3602
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PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054
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Department of Public Health
43 Hanson Street, Wellington
PO Box 7343, Wellington 6242
Tel 64 4 832 3017
Email **publichealth.wellington@otago.ac.nz**

otago.ac.nz/publichealth



This kākahu illustrates the significance of te ao Māori for the University of Otago, Wellington. Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Raukawa and Te Āti Awa.

Student support and services

Postgraduate students have access to a variety of services and support, including:

- Graduate Research School
- Career Development Centre
- Student Learning Development
- Māori and Pacific Islands student support
- Postgraduate Students' Association (PSOC).

otago.ac.nz/services

Libraries

Students may use any of the University of Otago libraries on the Christchurch, Dunedin or Wellington campuses.

otago.ac.nz/library

While all information in this booklet is, as far as possible, up to date and accurate at the time of production, the University reserves the right to change courses and course requirements, and to make any other alterations as may be deemed necessary.

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University of Otago
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