**POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (DPH) is designed to meet the educational and training needs of a wide group of professionals, including policy analysts and researchers in government ministries and non-government health organisations, staff in District Health Boards and their public health units, health professionals with an interest in public health, and others with an interest in health issues.

The DPH can be taken full-time over one academic year or, more flexibly, part-time and is taught on-campus at the University of Otago, Wellington. The qualification is open to anyone who has completed a basic undergraduate training in any discipline and who has an interest in public health. Typical educational backgrounds include, amongst others, doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, health promoters and social scientists.

The DPH consists of four 30-point papers, two of which are compulsory papers and the other two selected from six options. The compulsory papers are:

- Epidemiology and Biostatistics (semester 1)
- Society, Health and Public Policy (semester 2)

There is provision for substituting one optional paper with an approved postgraduate paper from elsewhere, which has the same point-weight and level, as well as a significant public health content.

Application to enter the programme should be made on the DPH application form. Entry into the DPH programme must be approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. This process is a preliminary step to University enrolment.

The prospectus and application forms can be viewed on the website: [www.ioh.otago.ac.nz/academic/dph](http://www.ioh.otago.ac.nz/academic/dph)

The Department of Public Health offers nine regular papers for the postgraduate qualifications in public health and health management.

**THEM ARE:**

**PUBH 701: EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS**

An introduction to the principles and methods of epidemiology and biostatistics, together with the critical appraisal of published research and the application of epidemiology to public health and disease prevention.

**PUBH 702: SOCIETY, HEALTH AND PUBLIC POLICY**

An analysis of the social, economic and ethnic factors that largely determine the unequal distribution of health and illness in society, as well as the effects of different institutional patterns on public policy formation.

**PUBH 703: HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

An examination of the conceptual and analytical approaches used within environmental health, including the ecological approach, sustainability, and health impact assessment, as well as the principles of environmental protection and frameworks for assessing and managing environmental risks to health.

**PUBH 704: HEALTH ECONOMICS**

An introduction to the basic economic principles and concepts, and their application to issues in health care funding and provision, including the economic evaluation of new treatments and interventions.

**PUBH 705: HEALTH PROMOTION**

An introduction to the principles and practice of health promotion with a focus on health promotion at community, regional, national, and international levels.

**PUBH 706: HEALTH SYSTEMS**

A review of the organisation, funding, political and legal features of the New Zealand health system, in an international context, as well as strategic and service planning, and management of current health issues.

**PUBH 707: SPECIAL TOPIC**

Some years a Special Topic is offered on a one-off basis. Please watch our website for further Special Topic information.

**PUBH 708: SOCIAL RESEARCH METHODS**

An examination of different social research methodologies available for use in public health research, including survey techniques and other quantitative methods, a range of qualitative methods, and the ethical, policy and strategic issues which relate to public health research.

**PUBH 709: HAUORA – MĀORI HEALTH ISSUES**

An overview of Māori health is considered together with historical commentary, models for analysing and describing health, intervention strategies, and research, ethical and policy issues.

**PUBX 710: PUBLIC HEALTH LAW AND PUBLIC HEALTH ETHICS (DISTANCE TAUGHT)**

This paper will enable students to understand and assess the framework, scope and content of public health law in New Zealand. Students will learn about key concepts in public health ethics and apply them to public health topics.

**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Master of Public Health (MPH) builds on the Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (DPH). A DPH with a good B grade average pass is the normal prerequisite for entry.

The MPH is designed to broaden the education of students who have gained a DPH and to include some research of particular interest to the student. The research topic may be related to the student’s employment.

**THE MPH PROGRAMME CONSISTS OF:**

- either A one-year thesis
- or Two 30-point papers from the Diploma option papers, plus a half-year dissertation. There is provision for the substitution of one optional paper with an approved postgraduate paper from elsewhere which has the same point-weight and level, as well as significant public health content.

Special provision is made for medical graduates undertaking the MPH, enabling them to meet the Faculty of Public Health Medicine training requirements.

Occasionally scholarships are available for Masters thesis students interested in certain topics. Inquiries about scholarships should be made to the postgraduate course director in the Department of Public Health, or to the Postgraduate Office of the University of Otago, Wellington.

Applicants for the MPH programme must contact the course director before sending in their MPH application form. Entry to the MPH programme must be approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. This process is a preliminary step to University enrolment.
POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health (CPH) comprises two papers from among the eight or nine offered by the Department of Public Health. The papers must contribute to a particular area of interest and be equivalent to 30 points. The Certificate can be completed in either one semester of full-time study or two semesters of part-time study.

The Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health is an integral part of the Public Health programme. If students decide to continue their studies after obtaining the Certificate, they may be exempted from two papers in the Diploma of Public Health (DPH) programme, thus completing the DPH by undertaking two further papers (two of the four papers must be compulsory papers for the DPH).

ENDORSEMENTS/PAPER OPTIONS

ENDORSED OPTION PAPERS REQUIRED

Environmental Health: PUBH703 and PUBH701 or one other approved paper
Health Economics: PUBH704 and one other approved paper
Health Promotion: PUBH705 and one other approved paper
Health Services Policy: PUBH702 and one other approved paper
Health Systems and Services: PUBH706 and one other approved paper
Māori Health: PUBH709 and one other approved paper
Research Methods: PUBH701 and PUBH708 or one other approved paper

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFERS:

• Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health (CPH) (introduced in 2005).
• Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (DPH), introduced in 1992 and tailored for people working in the health sector wishing to study either full-time or part-time. It replaced the Postgraduate Diploma in Community Health which had been taught in Wellington since 1981.
• Postgraduate Diploma in Health Management (PGDipHealMgt), introduced in 2000 as a joint venture with the Graduate School of Business and Government Management at Victoria University.
• Master of Public Health (MPH), introduced in 1991. It includes a research component in an area of the student’s specific interest and at least half a year in duration.
• Master of Health Management (MHealSc (Health Management), which builds on the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Management.
• Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), a research degree which can be undertaken either full-time or part-time.