

SECTION 2: PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Master of Public Health (MPH)

The Master of Public Health (MPH), launched by EHESP in 2008, is a two-year programme, composed on 120 ECTS. Aiming to attract students from different parts of the world, it is taught in English and is located in Paris. The MPH has been reaccruited by the Ministry of Higher Education for the period 2014-2018. It is delivered by EHESP faculty together with academics from national and international research universities providing a wide-ranged expertise. By mid-2014, the programme has been completed by over 215 students from more than forty countries.

The MPH aims at offering basic and advanced schemes of study, involving knowledge, skills and techniques that can be applied to various public health issues in diverse contexts (such as health services agencies or health & environmental organisations, in the public or private sector, in developed or developing countries). The MPH is both a professional qualification and a contributor to generic skills in research. It provides traditional MPH core courses and beyond that, options with an innovative approach to developing public health agendas in various contexts including crisis situations.

Course Structure & Content

The MPH programme starts with a core curriculum composed of five basic disciplines, underlining the cross-disciplinary nature of public health issues:

- social & behavioural sciences in public health;
- management and health policies sciences;
- information sciences and biostatistics;
- epidemiology;
- environmental and occupational health sciences (Figure 1, below).

Three cross –disciplinary modules are designed to examine public health issues by integrating different approaches. Complex problems are studied by students from different backgrounds and contexts with lecturers using active group works and participation. Effective crossdisciplinary collaboration, communication and group productivity are thus developed and outputs assessed.

The second year is composed of advanced courses in the core areas of study. Students may choose either the general programme or a concentration in one of these areas. They are given some flexibility to customize the programme in order to suit their future career plan; however, all required modules have to be validated by the concentration coordinator or by the MPH director for the general programme. Direct access to the second year of the program may be given to MDs and Pharm.Ds, DsVM with public health experience and also to students with another Master degree (e.g. in health economics & management or in political sciences).. The second year of the MPH also enrolls a few students through the Erasmus Mundus mobility program called Europubhealth, in partnership with four European Universities in Copenhagen, Granada Krakow, and Sheffield

To complete the MPH, a 4 to 6 month internship is required during the Spring term of the second year, along with a master thesis. The latter is written in the specific public health field of the internship and defended by early July. Students find internship positions in various public health areas, e.g. NGOs, international organisations, such as OECD, WHO, World Bank, national public health organisations, research departments and private companies.

MPH graduates develop their careers in multiple areas: government health departments, research units, universities, public health services, NGOs, international organizations, private sector (pharmaceutical industry, consulting, healthcare organizations). Some graduates engage in international or national PhD programmes.