



UniversityHospital Heidelberg

Institute of
Public Health

Master of Science in International Health

Full & Part Time Study



The Master of Science in International Health

International health focuses on health problems in low and middle income countries.

It includes the promotion of health, prevention and treatment of disease, palliative care and rehabilitation. Studies of health systems, health economics, health policy, and management of health services are central.

International health integrates a number of disciplines e.g.: Anthropology, Biology, Clinical and Nursing Sciences, Demography, Economics, Epidemiology, Management Sciences, Nutrition, Psychology, Public Health, Sociology, Statistics, Travel and Migrant Health & Tropical Medicine.

The MSc IH is intended for health and health-related professionals working in International Health.

Its focus is to provide students with a solid foundation in international public health principles and competency with the tools and methods necessary to initiate programmes that would improve the delivery of health services in an efficient, sustainable and equitable way.

A cursory view of the health delivery systems in many developing countries shows a need for improved health policy, more efficient organisation and management at all levels of the delivery system, and sustainable financing. The MSc IH was developed with these factors in mind.

Graduates are expected to take up policy, planning, management or teaching positions in, for example, international organizations, MOHs, national health programmes, NGOs and universities.

Structure of the MScIH

The Master of Science in International Health consists of three parts:

- Core Course
- Advanced Modules
- Master Thesis

The Master can be taken full time or part time.

Full Time Study

The Master can be taken full time (1 academic year) in form of the Residential Track.

Students remain in Heidelberg for all their courses.

Part Time Study

It can also be taken part time in form of the European Track, in which participants have up to 5 years to finish the programme.

These students are required to take a number of courses outside of Heidelberg and Germany at partner institutions of the tropEd network.

Core Course

The Core Course is taken by all students. It introduces the student to the vast field of International Health and aims at providing the student with a solid foundation.

Learning Objectives Core Course

After the completion of the core course, students should be able to

- Critically collect, analyse and appraise qualitative and quantitative data relevant for the improvement of health and health care in low and middle income societies.
- Identify and analyse interrelated determinants of health and major health problems of populations in a cross-disciplinary perspective in low- and middle income societies.
- Plan sustainable improvements of health systems considering the diverse intercultural settings as well as social and ethical responsibilities.
- Clearly communicate and work professionally in a multi-disciplinary team.

Content Core Course

- 1: Creating a Learning Community
- 2: Introduction to International Health and Health Systems
- 3: Determinants of Health
- 4: Research Foundations in International Health
- 5: Methods of Assessing Health Needs and Outcomes
- 6: Health Policy and Evaluation
- 7: Health Planning and Management



Advanced Modules (Residential Track):

Residential track students are required to complete a total of 7 Advanced Modules, in general organised as two week Short Courses, which offer a more in-depth learning on the following topics:

- 1: Disease Control: Strategies and Policies
- 2: Financing Health Care – Principles of Insurance
- 3: Reproductive Health Services and HIV/AIDS: New Evidence and Strategy
- 4: Consultancy Skills: Evaluation of Health Facilities, Projects and Programmes
- 5: Improving the Quality of Healthcare Services
- 6: Leadership and Change Management
- 7: Special Topic in IH (one out of)
 - Proposal Writing as a Consultancy Skill
 - Public Health and Disasters
 - Climate Change and Health

Advanced Modules (European Track - tropEd):

European track students select a number of advanced modules, which may be taken at various partner institutions and in total are equivalent to at least 20 ECTS (about 4 months of full-time study).

To comply to tropEd rules, from these 20 ECTS

- a maximum of 10 ECTS may be gained at Heidelberg
- a maximum of 5 ECTS may be gained by distance learning
- a minimum of 10 ECTS have to be gained outside of Germany.

This attribute of the programme provides students with extensive exposure to other students and researchers in the field of IH, the possibility to study at renowned institutions worldwide and facilitates future networking. The advanced modules are individually selected by participants based on their interests and needs. The choice is tutored and guided by the MScIH management team.

The thesis is done with Heidelberg.

Master Thesis

A Master Thesis must also be completed for the MSc. in International Health degree. Students are individually tutored by course lecturers who have expertise in the student's area of interest.

Certification

Successful graduates will receive a Master of Science in International Health degree from the University of Heidelberg. European track students who have followed all tropEd regulations will, in addition, be awarded a tropEd recognition of their degree.

Teaching Methods

The courses are composed of teaching units, individual and group practical exercises. The course uses case studies and experience from middle and low-income countries with contributions from participants of the course, to demonstrate the universal applicability of concepts and principles. Moreover, it demonstrates the need and benefit of scientific and experiential exchange among different countries.

Lecturers

Lecturers are drawn from staff within the Department, other universities, as well as from international organisations and NGOs. Teaching activities of the staff are enhanced through their involvement in research, clinical and consulting activities in low and middle-income countries.

tropEd

tropEd is a network of over 30 institutions for higher education in International Health. It offers a flexible modular structure and the European-wide recognition of a Masters Degree in International Health. More information at www.tropEd.de

Application Deadline

April 30 of the same year of the intended enrolment.

Please note, earlier deadlines apply if you register with a scholarship.

You have to choose which track to follow when applying.

Dates

The course starts in October each year.

Course Fees

Residential Track:
Core course + advanced modules + thesis + final exam: EUR 14.095.

European Track:
Core Course + thesis+ final exam: EUR 7.863

Advanced Modules: EUR 1.000 for a two weeks course at Heidelberg. Different fees apply within the network; average total cost advanced modules EUR 6.000

Tuition fee does not include accommodation and other personal living expenses. The University of Heidelberg cannot grant any scholarships. The Institute is, however, ready to assist students in their search for scholarships.

Prerequisites

BSc (usually 4 year BSc) or MSc first degree.

2 years work experience in the sector of public health in middle or low income countries.

Proof of proficiency in English language required. (6.5 IELTS score or a TOEFL computer based version (CBT) score of at least 237 or a paper based version (PBT) score of at least 580.)

Coordinator MScIH

Dr. Rainer Kuelker, MPH
Institute of Public Health
Rainer.Kuelker@uni-heidelberg.de

Further Information & Registration

Claudia Bertram, M.A.
Institute of Public Health
University of Heidelberg,
Im Neuenheimer Feld 324
D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany
Phone +49 - 6221 / 56-4905
Fax +49 - 6221 / 56-4918
E-Mail MSc_IH@uni-heidelberg.de
Web www.ukl-hd.de/athoeg (under "teaching")