A snapshot of the world’s public health schools

Public health education has come of age as the following alphabetical list reveals. These institutions share at least one aspect in common—they all offer a master’s degree in public health (MPH). The Bulletin invited institutions all over the world to send the most recent information available for possible inclusion in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Master’s degree in public health (MPH) programme length</th>
<th>Teacher and student numbers</th>
<th>Developed versus domestic issues</th>
<th>Theory/classroom versus fieldwork</th>
<th>Jobs after MPH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>9–18 months</td>
<td>Around 275 students</td>
<td>Around 30% foreign students</td>
<td>Around 35% of fieldwork</td>
<td>Mostly in preventive medicine, health departments, nongovernmental organizations and academia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>2 years: 1 year in research and 1 year in writing</td>
<td>Around 300 students</td>
<td>US$ 11 400 (AU$ 12 300) for two semesters; residents US$ 17 130 (AU$ 18 450) for three semesters, or US$ 28 500 (AU$ 30 750) for five semesters</td>
<td>Not available</td>
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<td>China</td>
<td>7 years</td>
<td>79 students</td>
<td>Not available</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>160 teachers</td>
<td>Egyptian: 50 credit hours (1 hour = 50 Egyptian pounds or US$ 1)</td>
<td>70% academic, 30% fieldwork</td>
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<td>Ghana</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>Around 35 students</td>
<td>US$ 15 000 for foreign students</td>
<td>75% theoretical; 25% practical</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
<td>2 years (with 5-year limit)</td>
<td>21 full-time staff, 36 invited lecturers</td>
<td>US$ 3000 per year</td>
<td>Not available</td>
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<td>India</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>About 20 students</td>
<td>US$ 225 and US$ 3335 for sponsored and non-sponsored students</td>
<td>Not available</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>6 faculty staff, 9 visiting teachers</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>183 MPH students</td>
<td>Around 10% from Portuguese and 3% from African speaking countries and Latin America</td>
<td>70% academic, 30% fieldwork</td>
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### School | Master’s degree in public health (MPH) | Programme length | Teacher and student numbers | Developed versus developing country issues | Theory/classroom versus fieldwork | Students: domestic versus overseas | Jobs after MPH |
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
**Kazakhstan**  
Kazakhstan School of Public Health  
Founded: 1997  
Programme cost: US$ 1800  
Programme length: 1 year  
Teacher and student numbers: 25 students  
35 full-time academic staff, 35 part-time  
Topics include health management and finance, epidemiology, statistics and health promotion  
30–40% class work; 20–30% independent research; 20–30% fieldwork. Students volunteer at institutions such as hospitals a few days a week during one semester  
All students are residents  
Decided by Kazakhstan Ministry of Health; many find jobs in health departments of various institutions  

**Russian Federation**  
Arkhangelsk International School of Public Health, Northern State Medical University  
Founded: 2006  
Programme length: 2 years full time or 4 years part time  
Teacher and student numbers: 24 students currently enrolled; a further 30 students will be enrolled in 2008  
30 lecturers from Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation and Sweden  
Public health issues relevant to the north European part of the Russian federation and placed in a global context  
About 10% on fieldwork. A thesis for the MPH constitutes 25% of course work  
Students recruited from 7 territories of north-western Russia, including Arkhangelsk; plans to accept 1–2 foreign students in 2008  
Regional and municipal health administration, and centres for disease prevention; research institutions and academia  

**South Africa**  
University of Pretoria, School of Health Systems and Public Health  
Founded: 1998  
Programme length: 2 years full time or 4 years part time  
Teacher and student numbers: 148 MPH students  
22 teachers  
Public health issues relevant to African countries  
Research report constitutes 20% of final grade; 80% of grade based on classroom and exam (40% each)  
30% foreign students from elsewhere in Africa  
Leadership roles in health management, and the health-care system  

**Thailand**  
Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University  
Founded: 1948  
Programme length: 1 year  
Teacher and student numbers: 34 faculty staff (17 associate professors, 8 assistant professors, 9 lecturers)  
57 MPH students  
Topics include community health service development, dental health, health promotion, health system reform  
Students work in a health-care setting during the year, i.e. conducting a supervised study in a hospital  
Current class: 34 foreign students, 23 residents  
Not available  

**United Kingdom**  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine  
Founded: 1899  
Programme length: 4 semesters (about 2 years)  
Teacher and student numbers: 70 teachers  
123 students  
Courses combine developing- and developed-country issues  
About 75% academic; 25% fieldwork  
60% from the United Kingdom or other European Union countries; 40% foreign students from all over the world  
Leadership positions in public or nongovernmental and international agencies, academia, or as health practitioners  

**United States of America**  
University of Iowa College of Public Health  
Founded: 1999  
Programme length: 4 semesters (about 2 years)  
Teacher and student numbers: 70 teachers  
123 students  
Courses combine developing- and developed-country issues  
About 75% academic; 25% fieldwork  
13% foreign students from Argentina, Bermuda, Germany, Ghana, India, Sudan; 87% are residents  
Health departments, hospitals, universities, federal agencies, international and nongovernmental organizations