

Degree profile: (17-05-16)

Degree description

Master í Fólkaheilsu (MSc)

Master of Science in Public Health

TYPE OF DEGREE & LENGTH	Master's in health sciences (Single degree) (120 ECTS).
INSTITUTION(S)	The University of the Faroe Islands, the Faculty of Natural and Health Sciences, Department of Nursing, Tórshavn, the Faroe Islands.
ACCREDITING INSTITUTION	The Ministry of Culture
DEGREE PERIOD	From 2016
LEVEL	Master's, '2nd cycle' according to the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (EHEA); level 7 according to the European Qualification Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF - LLL).

A	PURPOSE
	The aim of the Master of Science in Public Health is to equip professionals in the primary and secondary health sectors as well as in the public sector in the Faroe Islands with competences to analyse and develop their professional fields. In this programme, students will acquire knowledge and competence to work independently on an interdisciplinary foundation (both professionally and scientifically) with distinct and complex challenges in the health sectors, both public and private, from a health perspective.

B	CHARACTERISTICS
1	<p>DISCIPLINE(S) / SUBJECT AREA(S)</p> <p>Public Health deals with health and diseases from a societal perspective, focusing both on the needs of individual persons who are in need of help or support to regain or retain good health, and on marginalised social groups. Being interdisciplinary, public health studies make use of several different academic disciplines, bringing the interaction between them into focus.</p> <p>The primary subjects are: national and international research in health; social studies and health; rehabilitation and health; health education, prevention and health promotion; scientific theories and methods in science are an integrated part of all subjects offered. (15:15:15:15:40).</p>
2	<p>GENERAL / SPECIALIST FOCUS</p> <p>General focus on interdisciplinary and research-oriented processes as well as critical decision-making.</p> <p>Specialist focus on research in health from various perspectives, such as the human, social and natural sciences, focusing on e.g., research in health care, patientology, psychiatry and gerontology.</p>
3	<p>ORIENTATION</p> <p>Academic, praxis oriented.</p> <p>The Master of Science in Public Health is research based, interdisciplinary and to a degree praxis oriented, i.e., it focuses on the interplay between the use of scientific theory, method, and research-oriented projects.</p>
4	<p>DISTINCTIVE FEATURES</p> <p>A distinctive feature of the Master of Science in Public Health is that students, on the basis of a shared academic foundation—interdisciplinary health sciences—can design their own professional profile in their choice of electives.</p> <p>An interdisciplinary approach means that the degree focuses on gaining insight into theoretical and methodological issues in several traditions within health, human and social sciences. Another distinctive feature is the degree's focus on the Faroe Islands as a 'small-scale society.'</p> <p>Most courses are taught in Faroese, but both teaching and examination may at times be in English or another Nordic language.</p> <p>The degree may be taken full-time or part-time.</p>

C		
EMPLOYABILITY AND FURTHER EDUCATION		
1	EMPLOYABILITY	The degree qualifies graduates for jobs in the primary and secondary sector, which require analytical and disciplinary competences at the master's level, such as leadership positions that focus on the development and coordination of health initiatives both within the primary and secondary health sector, on professional development, and on the development of the health service as an educational institution.
2	FURTHER EDUCATION	Upon completion of the degree, students are qualified to study at the Ph.D. level ('Third Cycle Programmes').

D		
EDUCATION STYLE		
1	LEARNING & TEACHING APPROACHES	Emphasis is placed on active/interactive learning that combines lectures and classroom discussions, group work, presentations, and research projects, conducted either individually or in groups.
2	ASSESSMENT METHODS	Papers with or without an oral defence, written exams, oral exams. The final dissertation is defended orally. Internal and external examiners are used in equal measure.

E		
PROGRAMME COMPETENCES		
1	Generic	<p>Academic skills: To work at a high academic level, i.e., to independently pose questions and problems, discuss, analyse and interpret issues within one's own discipline; to evaluate and use scientific theories and methods employed in the discipline to acquire new knowledge and come to validly argued conclusions.</p> <p>Critical and self-critical abilities: To determine and articulate a research question, to discuss the question using valid scientific knowledge/data and methods, and come to independent and critical conclusions, as well as take leadership in relevant areas of professional practice.</p> <p>Language skills: To communicate concisely both orally and in writing; the ability to understand and use scientific language at the masters' level.</p> <p>Communication skills: To be able to communicate appropriately in a given context (informally, formally and scientifically), including the ability to mediate new knowledge both orally and in writing for both larger and smaller audiences.</p> <p>Teamwork: To make a decisive difference as a member of a group or diverse team, to use skills to solve problems when researching various hypothetical scenarios.</p> <p>Ability to work independently: To coordinate complex tasks, synthesise the results of various research projects and analyses, and organise one's work well in light of the scope of a subject and time limits.</p>
2	SUBJECT SPECIFIC	<p>Public Health Studies: To discuss public health science as an interdisciplinary field of study, which requires insight into issues in health and health problems from an individual, societal and professional perspective.</p> <p>Analytic skills: To analyse and evaluate issues in public health, and to develop approaches to further develop one's own professional field.</p> <p>Independent decision-making: To use research skills and scientific knowledge/data in an effective and ethical way; the ability to design, develop and evaluate development plans and research projects using relevant methods and valid scientific argumentation.</p> <p>Leadership and cooperation: To use specialist knowledge in health sciences to cooperate with individuals, in teams and with other professions in relation to health and initiatives in the health sector.</p> <p>The ability to evaluate and develop: To evaluate and set up safe and high-quality treatment and care; to prepare, initiate and evaluate health policies, initiatives and systems; to prepare, initiate and evaluate health-promoting initiatives.</p>

F	COMPLETE LIST OF PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES
	<p>Upon completing their degree, graduates are able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain public health as an interdisciplinary field of study. • analyse the relationship between social issues and health. • analyse key issues and challenges in health science both in a national and an international context. • evaluate the results of scientific research in health, including public health, health promotion, and prevention. • use theories and methods in their own academic discipline. • use and evaluate scientific methods in health research. • discuss issues from a variety of perspectives, analyse and present key knowledge within their own discipline and subjects. • analyse current trends that may cause health problems for individuals, groups and society as a whole. • mediate and discuss research and research-based knowledge in health sciences, and be able to evaluate this knowledge critically. • find information on a topic in public health sciences, word a research question and conduct research in order to gather data that can answer the research question, and set out one's conclusions in a dissertation of a high academic standard.