What is public health?
Public health is about trying to prevent people in a population or community from getting sick or injured. It is different to clinical health which is about health workers treating individual people who get sick or injured, one patient at a time. Effective public health improves the quality of life in communities so fewer people get sick or are injured, and are less likely to need to see doctors and use medication.

Public health actions can take many forms, for example: educating people about healthy behaviours; implementing vaccination programs to prevent the spread of disease; producing policy documents to guide government health priorities and programs; tracking and monitoring the spread of disease in the population; and conducting research to identify why some people are more likely to have poorer health compared to others.

What is international public health?
International public health involves taking a global perspective where public health issues and responses are considered in relation to the changing patterns of disease and injury of populations within and across countries. It extends the focus of public health to not only high-income countries such as Australia and the United States but also low- and middle-income countries such as those in the Asia-Pacific region and Africa.

Degree overview
The Bachelor of International Public Health (BIPH) is a new program under the PLuS Alliance embodying its core principle – to develop solutions to global challenges with social impact. The program is designed as a direct pathway into a career in public health, and to build and strengthen the international public health workforce.

Aligned with U.S. accreditation standards and consistent with recommendations of the Council of Academic Public Health Institutions in Australia (CAPHIA), the degree prepares students for new approaches to emerging global and public health issues.
issues, including infectious diseases, chronic diseases, health problems caused by climate change, and global health systems.

Who can do this degree?

This program is ideal for people who are interested in working in the health sector, but do not wish to pursue a career as a clinician who sees individual patients and clients.

The BIPH is open to domestic and international students, either school leavers or mature age entrants.

Mode of delivery

The BIPH program can be undertaken full-time or part-time. All courses are delivered online which gives you the flexibility to work while you study. The program uses an interactive classroom experience where students are part of a dynamic international community. Having students enrolled from different countries increases your exposure to different perspectives and viewpoints that help to broaden your thinking and consolidate your skills in interacting successfully with the global community — vital skills that are needed in the globalised 21st Century.

Career pathways

Graduates of this degree can work in a number of different areas, both domestically and internationally, including health promotion, environmental health, disease surveillance, policy development, and research.

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Potential careers include: public health officer, health promotion/education officer, health information manager, community health officer, policy officer/analyst, program or project administrator, public health advocate, epidemiologist, health communications specialist, amongst many others.

Potential employers include: government agencies (such as health departments), research centres, international non-government organisations and development agencies, as well as the private sector.

Areas of study

The BIPH takes an international focus and courses have an emphasis on increasing understanding and improving the health of populations worldwide. Students will explore a diverse range of case studies spanning international contexts and population health issues and priorities.

To support a coherent degree experience, it draws on a range of crosscutting themes such as advocacy, community dynamics, critical thinking, cultural competence, independent work, research methods, systems thinking, and teamwork and leadership.

A highlight of the program is the BIPH Capstone which enables students to consolidate and integrate their knowledge and skills by immersing themselves in a real-life project within the field of public health research, policy or practice. During the final year students will have the opportunity to do an internship in a public health organisation or institution within a local or international setting.

Course Offerings

YEAR 1
- Introduction to Public Health
- International Indigenous Health
- General Biology
- Human Anatomy and Physiology
- Introduction to Global Health
- Two General Education courses

YEAR 2
- Epidemiology
- Biostatistics
- Health Promotion
- Communicable Disease
- Principles of Prevention & Surveillance
- Public Health Policy & Programs
- Health Leadership
- Chronic Disease Prevention & Control

YEAR 3
- Ethics in Public Health
- Public Health Capstone
- Comparative Health Systems
- Environmental & Occupational Health
- Applied Public Health Practice
- Four Elective courses

Further Information

Please see the website for the latest information on Course Selection, Course Descriptions, How to Apply, Key Dates and Fees.

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