About this degree
The School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW Australia offers a specialisation stream in International Health within the Master of Public Health (MPH).

Public health professionals have a vital role to play in advancing international, or global, health. The critical health and development issues facing the world’s populations require urgent and co-ordinated action. Public health plays a central part in investigating health conditions, developing and evaluating responses and advocating for change. Globally, many populations are still struggling with a high burden of disease and weak under-funded health systems, leading to vast health inequalities between and within countries. On a backdrop of global economic crisis, concerns with climate change, global expansion of the tobacco and fast food industries, recognition that communicable diseases know no boundaries, global health issues are major priorities. Whilst high level political interest has led to important initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which include targets related to controlling HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and improving child survival and maternal health, solutions remain complex and illusive.

This stream aims to ensure that participants are familiar with the global context for health and development from a public health perspective. As well as understanding distribution of health and disease, and public health interventions available to tackle them, they will also critically evaluate the social, political and economic contexts that shape the global health. Students will learn about the data, the actors, the contexts and the processes through which global health policies are formulated and promoted, and the impact of global economic policies on health. Students will learn to critique international aid and to consider the realities of national policy makers in resource constrained settings.

Who should do this stream?
This program is aimed at any students interested in learning public health from a global perspective and developing a broader understanding of international health and development issues. Students from developing countries may find the stream particularly relevant as they will be provided with skills and knowledge that should assist them in addressing key health issues in their home countries. However it is equally suited to students from more developed settings, enabling them to contribute effectively to international health and development.

Mode of delivery
This program can be taken either full-time or part-time. Courses are offered internally on campus with face-to-face teaching, or externally by distance mode using a combination of intensive workshops and online teaching. Workshops are held on campus in February, July and November.

Stream convenor
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