The University of New South Wales Master of Infectious Diseases Intelligence (MIDI) program is an innovative degree focused on public health aspects of infectious diseases intelligence, response, prevention and mitigation. The program is relevant for anyone wanting to work in government, non-government, community and health service settings in Australia and internationally.

A multi-disciplinary, public health approach is needed to understand the requirements for infectious diseases control at a population level. Infectious diseases intelligence refers to the understanding of epidemic patterns, critical analysis and application of this knowledge to disease control. The MIDI will foster sophisticated understanding and application across a complex body of multidisciplinary knowledge including infectious diseases challenges, undertaking surveillance strategies and advanced outbreak investigations, and implementing infection prevention and control programs.

A wide range of core courses and electives enable our students to pursue their studies into specific infectious disease areas (such as Infection Prevention and Control in the Healthcare setting, Immunisation Policy and Practice, Bioterrorism and Health Intelligence, Infectious Diseases Intelligence or Communicable Disease Control in Emergencies and Disasters), to focus on particular skill areas (such as Epidemiology and Statistics, Predictive Modelling or Economic Evaluation), or to further their knowledge of research methodologies (both quantitative and qualitative).

For those with an interest in disasters and emergency management, the MIDI can be tailored toward this interest with a range of electives from Arizona State University (sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/future-students/plus-alliance).

Graduates are equipped with the specialised skills and concepts needed for professional practice in the prevention, identification, assessment, and control of infectious diseases. The program fosters judgment-ready practitioners who can contribute to improving population health and to work across a range of contexts including ministries and departments of health, government and non-government and voluntary organisations, military and first responder organisations, primary care and community healthcare services in both public and private sectors.

Using up-to-date teaching and learning approaches, the MIDI program draws on internationally recognised staff from the School and experts from the field (including health department, laboratory and hospital based staff) to deliver the courses.

Program objectives

The objectives of the MIDI program is to advance the disciplinary knowledge and skills of students in infectious diseases prevention and control in a range of settings including in communities, risk groups, emergencies, as well as risk assessment, surveillance, advanced epidemiologic concepts applied to infectious diseases control.

Program structure

The program comprises the following components, for a total of 48 units of credit:

- Core courses – 5 courses comprising 30 units of credit
- Elective courses – 3 courses comprising 18 units of credit
Course selection | UOC
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PHCM9788 Infectious Diseases Intelligence | 6
PHCM9782 Current Challenges in Infectious Diseases | 6
PHCM9050 Immunisation Policy and Practice | 6
PHCM9789 Bioterrorism and Health | 6
PHCM9498 Epidemiology and Statistics OR PHCM9781 Evidence-Informed Decision-Making | 6
Three electives (6 UOC each) | 18

We also offer fully online electives in disaster response and emergency management from Arizona State University. More details can be found at: sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/future-students/plus-alliance

Flexible delivery

The School provides a great deal of flexibility for students to tailor their study options according to their needs. The MIDI program can be undertaken either full-time or part-time. Courses are offered internally on campus with face-to-face teaching or externally by distance mode using online teaching technologies. All courses offered by the School are available fully online which means the degree can be completed from anywhere in the world.

Dual Degrees

There is the opportunity to complete two Masters degrees by combining the Master of Infectious Diseases Intelligence with either a Master of Public Health, a Master of International Public Health or a Master of Health Management. The dual program can be completed full time over 18 months.

Internships and Research Projects

Students are able to complete an Internship or a Research Project as part of their degree. Internships are available in Australian or International organisations and provide the opportunity to gain real-world experience while undertaking a degree. Students also have the opportunity to complete a research project with an academic supervisor in the School.

Infectious Diseases programs

- Masters of Infectious Diseases Intelligence
- Graduate Diploma
- Graduate Certificate
- Dual Degree in Infectious Diseases Intelligence combined with one of the following degrees:
  - Master of Public Health
  - Master of International Public Health
  - Master of Health Management

Articulation

The Graduate Diploma and the Graduate Certificate articulate with the Master of Infectious Diseases Intelligence. For information on the certificate or diploma programs, please see sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/infectious-diseases-program.

“I decided to undertake the Master of Infectious Diseases Intelligence at UNSW to further my understanding of infectious diseases epidemiology following completion of the Master of Public Health. The faculty, extensive international involvement, and the unique MIDI courses offered by the School made my choice of UNSW an easy decision. The calibre and experience of the academic staff at UNSW played a large role, as rarely can you find such a combination of practical field-based experience and extensive academic experience in the same program. My long-term goal is to enter infectious diseases epidemiology research, so I consider the MIDI a stepping stone to advance both my career and studies in epidemiology.”

MIDI Student

Further information

Contact us to learn more about the Infectious Diseases Intelligence Programs at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine:

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MIDI: sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/infectious-diseases-program

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