

# **Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health**

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## **1 Faculty's Commitment**

Building upon more than 60 years of experience in research, training and practice in epidemiology and public health, the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health (SSHSPH) was established in October 2011 as Singapore's first and only full-fledged national public health tertiary education institution. The School is also a member of the National University Health System (NUHS).

The School is designed around domains which build upon strengths of the School and recognise opportunities in: Epidemiology; Biostatistics & Modelling; and Health Systems & Behavioural Sciences; with programmatic focus in the areas of Cardiovascular-Metabolic Disease, Major Cancers, Eye Disease, and Infectious Disease.

The School aims to continually foster healthier communities in Singapore and the region, and impact public health programmes and policies through its robust educational programmes and translational cross-disciplinary research work on cohort studies and life course epidemiology, infectious disease research, health technology assessments, health promotion, workplace safety and health, health systems evaluation and health services research. An interdisciplinary approach, augmented by rigorous training, applicable research and regional partnerships, places SSHSPH at the forefront of public health knowledge discovery and practice in Asia.

Today, SSHSPH continues to offer the MPH degree to student cohorts from multiple disciplines. In August 2012, the Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programmes were launched to build upon SSHSPH's strong research base. For undergraduate teaching, SSHSPH faculty teach in the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine curriculum, exposing medical students to the complexity and value of community and public health through student-driven Community Health Projects (CHP). The launch of the Minor in Public Health in AY2013/2014 provided the opportunity for all other NUS undergraduate students to be exposed to public health issues and its determinants combined with approaches and methods targeted at prevention or alleviation.

## 2 Key Contact Information

For up-to-date information, please visit the School's website at: <http://www.sph.nus.edu.sg/>

TITLE & NAME	DESIGNATION/ RESPONSIBILITY	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
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Prof Rob Martinus VAN DAM	Vice Dean (Academic Affairs) Domain Leader (Epidemiology)	6516 4980	ephrmvd
Assoc Prof LUO Nan	Programme Director, Graduate Research Programmes	6516 4966	ephln
Assoc Prof FONG Ngan Phoon	Programme Director, Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology	6516 6698	ephfnp
Assoc Prof KOH Choon Huat, Gerald	Domain Leader (Health Systems & Behaviourial Sciences) Posting Director, Community Health Project (CHP)	6516 4979	ephkohch
Dr Judy SNG Gek Khim	Director, Undergraduate Medical Curriculum	6516 8580	ephjsgk
Dr LIM Boon Tar, Raymond	Director, Student Life	6601 5425	ephlbtr

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Dr Mary CHONG Foong Fong	Deputy Director, Student Life	6516 4969	ephmcff

### Administrative Coordinators

TITLE & NAME	DESIGNATION/ RESPONSIBILITY	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
			(XXXX@NULLNUS.EDU.SG)
Mrs Diane LAI	Manager Education Office	6516 6914	ephbpcd
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### **3 Undergraduate Education**

#### 3.1 Programmes Offered

### **3.1 Programmes Offered**

SSHSPH offers a Minor in Public Health for all undergraduate students. The school is also actively involved in undergraduate medical training in the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

3.1.1 [Minor in Public Health](#)

3.1.2 [Curriculum for Medical Undergraduates](#)

### **3.1.1 Minor in Public Health**

The Minor in Public Health is offered to all NUS undergraduates who want to develop the knowledge, skills and approaches needed to understand and address today's public health challenges in Singapore, Asia and the world.

The Minor is designed to empower students to improve the health of not only individuals but that of entire communities, and prepare students for a career in an organisation engaged in Public Health work.

#### **Curriculum Requirements:**

24 modular credits (MCs) of the modules detailed below are required for the Minor in Public Health:

##### Essential Modules (12 MCs)

1. GEK1900/ GEH1049 Public Health in Action
2. Any of following modules or their equivalent, subject to approval by programme director:
  - i. BN2102 Bioengineering Data Analysis
  - ii. DSC2008 Business Analytics - Data and Decisions
  - iii. EC2303 Foundations for Econometrics
  - iv. PL2131 Research and Statistical Methods I
  - v. PR1142 Pharmaceutical Statistics
  - vi. PR2103 Pharmacostatistics
  - vii. SC3209 Data Analysis in Social Research
  - viii. ST1131 Introduction to Statistics
  - ix. ST1232 Statistics for Life Sciences
  - x. ST2334 Probability and Statistics
3. SPH2101 Public Health and Epidemiology

##### Elective Modules (12 MCs)

- at least 8 MCs of level-3000 modules
- at least 4 MCs from "Determinants"
- at least 4 MCs from "Approaches and Methods"

##### Modules From "Determinants" Group

- SPH2102 Lifestyle, Behaviour and Public Health
- SPH2104 Public Health Nutrition
- SPH2201 Health of the Poor in Asia<sup>1</sup>
- SPH3103 Public Health Economics
- SPH3104 Infectious disease epidemiology and public health
- ENV2103 Environment and Public Health
- SC2211 Medical Sociology

##### Modules From "Approaches and Methods" Group

- SPH2103 Systems and Policies to improve Health
- SPH2105 Introduction to Global Health
- SPH2106 Health in the Later Years
- SPH2201 Health of the Poor in Asia<sup>1</sup>
- SPH3101 Biostatistics for Public Health
- SPH3102 Public Health Communication
- SPH3103 Public Health Economics
- SPH3109 Designing Public Health Programmes
- SPH3201 Public Health Practice<sup>2</sup>
- PR3144 Principles of Research Methods

<sup>1</sup>SPH2201 Health of the Poor in Asia is offered under FASStrack Asia: The Summer School. This module features a week's field trip to the country of study and will take place during Special Term.

<sup>2</sup>SPH3201 Public Health Practice provides students with hands-on exposure by way of attachments at selected public health agencies, allowing students to explore career opportunities in public health and develop related essential skills. This module will take place during Special Term.

Note:

Please check if the modules have pre-requisites or preclusions prior to registration. For more module information, please refer [here](#).

### **3.1.2 Curriculum for Medical Undergraduates**

The school anchors two longitudinal tracks in the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine medical undergraduate curriculum: 1) Medicine & Society 2) Information Literacy, Critical Thinking and Evidence Based Medicine. The broad objectives of these tracks are to promote health and prevent disease at both the individual and community level and to critically appraise and apply scientific medical evidence.

Undergraduate medical students from Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine will apply coursework from these two tracks in a culminating Community Health Project (CHP), where groups of students will design and carry out research projects in the community under the supervision of SSHSPH faculty.

For more information, please refer [here](#)

## **4 Graduate Education**

- 4.1 [Research Programmes](#)
- 4.2 [Coursework Programmes](#)

## **4.1 Research Programmes**

The Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health graduate research programmes are research-intensive programmes that emphasise both the mastery of research skills and acquisition of core knowledge in the student's area of interest. Students may choose to receive advanced training in one of three domains of Public Health research: Biostatistics & Modelling, Epidemiology, and Health Systems and Behavioural Sciences.

4.1.1 [Degrees Offered](#)

4.1.2 [Degree Requirements](#)

#### **4.1.1 Degrees Offered**

The following degrees are offered:

- Master of Science (MSc)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

## 4.1.2 Degree Requirements

### Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfil the following minimum admission requirements:

(1) Academic Qualifications:

PROGRAMME	MINIMUM ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS
Master of Science (MSc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bachelor's Degree with good Honours (at least 2nd Upper Class) or its equivalent in a relevant discipline OR</li><li>• MBBS or its equivalent OR</li><li>• Bachelor of Dental Surgery or its equivalent</li></ul>
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good Master's Degree in a relevant discipline OR</li><li>• Bachelor's Degree with good Honours (at least 2nd Upper Class) or its equivalent in a relevant discipline OR</li><li>• MBBS or its equivalent OR</li><li>• Bachelor of Dental Surgery or its equivalent</li></ul>

(2) Standardised Tests (required for both MSc and PhD applicants)

a) English Language Requirements for International Applicants\*

*\*Excludes applicants whose undergraduate or graduate degrees are from NUS, NTU, SIT, SMU, SUSS or SUTD or from English-medium institutions in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States*

International applicants must submit test scores for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and meet the following minimum scores:

- 587 on the TOEFL paper-based test,
- 240 on the TOEFL computer-based test
- 94 on the TOEFL internet-based test
- 7.0 on the IELTS test

Test scores for the TOEFL and IELTS are valid for 2 years. TOEFL and IELTS scores that are no longer valid will not be accepted.

For more information about the TOEFL or IELTS, please visit [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl) (for TOEFL) and [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org) (for IELTS).

b) GRE® General Test

Applicants (except NUS, NTU, SMU & SUTD graduates from relevant disciplines) must submit test scores for the GRE® General Test. For applicants who took the GRE on or after 1 August 2011, a minimum total GRE score of 320 for both Verbal and Quantitative under the new scoring system and a minimum of 3.5 for Analytical Writing are recommended.

Please note that GRE scores are valid for 5 years from the test date. GRE scores that are no longer valid will not be accepted.

For more information on the GRE® General Test, please visit [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre)

## **Curriculum structure and requirements:**

### Overview of the programme structure:

<b>Year 1 to 2</b>	From Year 1, both MSc and PhD students will embark on their research projects, complete core modules and choose from a range of elective modules that cater to individual research interests. In Year 2, MSc students will start writing their thesis, while PhD students will complete a PhD Qualifying Examination (PQE) which assesses their ability to complete PhD requirements based on their academic progress and the quality of their research. MSc students who wish to transfer to the PhD programme need to complete the PhD coursework requirements, and pass the PQE within 2 years.
<b>Year 3 to 5</b>	PhD students will execute the rest of their research plans and submit and defend their thesis.

### Coursework Requirements:

MSc students are required to complete 24 MCs of coursework, while PhD students are required to complete 28 MCs of coursework.

Coursework Requirements for students who enrol in AY2018/2019:

	<b>Master of Science (MSc)</b>	<b>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)</b>
<b>CORE MODULES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SPH5002 Public Health Research Methods (8 MCs)</li><li>SPH6770 Graduate Research Seminar in Public Health (4 MCs)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SPH5002 Public Health Research Methods (8 MCs)</li><li>SPH6770 Graduate Research Seminar in Public Health (4 MCs)</li></ul>

<b>ELECTIVE MODULES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Elective Modules (12 MCs)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 8 MCs of electives must be modules offered by SSHSPH (this excludes Independent Study Modules [ISM])</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Elective Modules (16 MCs)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 8 MCs of electives must be modules offered by SSHSPH (this excludes Independent Study Modules [ISM])</li> <li>- At least 8 MCs of electives must be level-6000 modules</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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For more information on the coursework requirements, please see [here](#).

#### Credit Transfer and Exemption:

Students who have completed relevant modules with comparable content and level of sophistication, and done so within 5 years before date of admission to the MSc/PhD programmes may be allowed to receive exemption, credit or grade transfer according to prevailing NUS regulations. This is subject to approval by the student's supervisor and the School's Programme Management Committee. Students who wish to apply for credit transfer and/or exemption should submit their application within the first month of their candidature.

#### English Language Requirement:

New students who are required to sit for the Diagnostic English Test (DET) may need to enrol for Graduate English Courses depending on the results of the DET. Please see [here](#) for more information.

#### PhD Qualifying Examination (PQE)

All PhD students have to pass the PhD Qualifying Examination (PQE) within 24 months from the date of admission to be confirmed as PhD candidates. The PQE comprises both a written and an oral component. Students may take up to 2 attempts to complete each component of the PQE. If students are unable to complete their PQE within 24 months of their candidature or if they fail to pass the PQE after 2 attempts, they will be asked to transfer to the MSc programme where eligible. Please see [here](#) for more information.

#### Thesis Examination

The thesis must demonstrate scholarship and the student's ability to perform original, independent research, and represent the student's work and significant contribution to the knowledge in the specific domain of research. The thesis should contain a substantial body of work that has been published or is publishable in international peer-reviewed journals.

The Master's thesis should not exceed 60,000 words while the Doctoral thesis should not exceed 80,000 words. Students have to submit their theses by the maximum period of candidature. Please see [here](#) for more information.

## **Residency Requirements and Candidature:**

The University's minimum residency and maximum candidature requirements for graduate research programmes shall apply to both MSc and PhD students.

TYPE OF PROGRAMME	MINIMUM RESIDENCY	MAXIMUM CANDIDATURE
MSc	6 months	36 months*
PhD	18 months	60 months*

\*The maximum candidature for research programmes is the same for both full-time and part-time students.

The residency requirement is per the [existing guidelines](#) and residency requires payment of fees, satisfying all curricular requirements of the programme of study and satisfying other departmental requirements such as teaching assistance.

## **Continuation and Graduation Requirements:**

### Continuation Requirements:

The University's prevailing continuation requirements will apply to the MSc and PhD students.

### Graduation Requirements (for students who enrol in AY2018/2019):

MSc:

- Completed coursework requirements with minimum CAP of 3.0
- Pass in the MSc thesis (word limit of 60,000)
- Satisfactory grade (at least Grade C+) in all the required Graduate English Courses for students who do not qualify for waiver of English Language requirement

PhD

- Completed coursework requirements with minimum CAP of 3.5
- Pass in PhD Qualifying Examination
- Pass in PhD thesis (word limit of 80,000) and Oral Examination.
- Satisfactory grade (at least grade C+) in all the Graduate English Courses, for students who do not qualify for waiver of English Language requirement

## **Leave of Absence**

The University's prevailing policies on Leave of Absence shall apply to the MSc and PhD students

## **4.2 Coursework Programmes**

4.2.1 [Degrees Offered](#)

4.2.2 [Degree Requirements](#)

#### **4.2.1 Degrees Offered**

The following degrees are offered:

- Master of Public Health (MPH)
- Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology (GDAE)

## **4.2.2 Degree Requirements**

4.2.2.1 [Master of Public Health \(MPH\)](#)

4.2.2.2 [Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology](#)

#### **4.2.2.1 Master of Public Health (MPH)**

The Master of Public Health (MPH) programme underwent a programmatic review to design a new curriculum that provides greater integration and alignment of academic components. The revised programme seeks to equip public health professionals to use systems and evidence-based approaches to identify and solve public health problems to improve the health of communities.

Leveraging on the NUS system and our close links with the National University Hospital (NUH), Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS Business School, as well as the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences and Engineering, our School ensures that research and teaching provided is both progressive and comprehensive.

Our MPH graduates are equipped to address both traditional and emerging public health issues, and have gone on to assume leadership and administrative positions in diverse public health disciplines in local and international settings.

#### **Admission requirements**

##### Medically Qualified Applicants

- MBBS or equivalent;
- One year of general clinical experience (excluding housemanship\*); AND
- One year of experience in public health, health administration, occupational and environmental health or have entered clinical specialty training, OR
- Enrolled in the preventive medicine residency programme

\* Applicable to Singapore-trained doctors only

##### Non-Medically Qualified Applicants

- A good Honours degree or equivalent; and
- Two years of experience in public health, health promotion, health administration, occupational and environmental health experience or clinical research.

##### English Proficiency for International Applicants

Test scores for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) must be submitted for all international applicants except those whose undergraduate or graduate degrees are from NUS, NTU, SIT, SMU, SUSS and SUTD or from English-medium institutions in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The following minimum scores for the respective tests are required:

- 580 on the TOEFL paper-based test
- 237 on the TOEFL computer-based test

- 85 on the TOEFL internet-based test
- 6.0 on the IELTS test

Note:

Scores for the TOEFL and IELTS are valid for 2 years from the test date.

## **Curriculum structure and requirements**

All students are required to complete 48 modular credits (MCs) of prescribed modules.

Students are required to complete 24 MCs of core modules, including a Practicum project. The remaining credits are fulfilled by elective modules.

### **CORE MODULES (24MC)**

- SPH5001 Foundations of Public Health (0MC)
- SPH5002 Public Health Research Methods (8MC)
- SPH5003 Health Behaviour and Communication (4MC)
- SPH5004 Introduction to Health Policy and Policy Analysis (4MC)
- SPH5005 Practicum (8MC)

### **ELECTIVE MODULES (24MC)**

<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>SPECIALISATION</b>
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[Default] [Optional]

- Epidemiology and Quantitative Methods
- Global Health
- Health Policy and Services
- Occupational Health

## **Residency requirements and candidature**

The MPH programme is offered on both full-time and part-time basis.

Students can complete the degree with a minimum of 12 months of full-time study or 24 months of part-time study. The maximum candidature periods are 2 years for full-time study and 4 years for part-time study respectively.

## **Continuation and graduation requirements**

A student pursuing a Master's degree by coursework must achieve a minimum CAP of 3.00 to be eligible for graduation.

To continue in a Master's programme, a student may not have:

- CAP below 3.00 (but  $\geq$  2.50) for three consecutive semesters; or
- CAP below 2.50 for two consecutive semesters.

## **Assessment modes / Examination rules**

Students' performance will be assessed through a combination of examinations and continuous assessments. The Board of Examiners will govern all assessments.

Assessment can be based on tutorials, laboratories, projects, reports, as well as mid-term and final examinations.

For more information on the Master of Public Health programme, please refer [here](#)

## 4.2.2.2 Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology

The professional development of trained epidemiologists competent in the practical application of epidemiologic methods to a wide-range of contemporary public health issues is increasingly important within the context of global pandemics, local outbreaks and rising rates of chronic diseases.

*Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology will provide for the training of members of the healthcare team who have key roles in the planning, implementation or evaluation of disease control programs and who require a good foundation in epidemiology for this work.*

### Admission requirements

- A bachelor's degree or equivalent; and
- At least 1 year of relevant experience in public health/ disease control or epidemiology

#### English Proficiency for International Applicants

Test scores for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) must be submitted for all international applicants except those whose undergraduate or graduate degrees are from NUS, NTU, SIT, SMU, SUSS and SUTD or from English-medium institutions in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The following minimum scores for the respective tests are required:

- 580 on the TOEFL paper-based test
- 237 on the TOEFL computer-based test
- 85 on the TOEFL internet-based test
- 6.0 on the IELTS test

Note:

Scores for the TOEFL and IELTS are valid for 2 years from the test date.

### Curriculum structure and requirements

All students are required to complete 24 modular credits (MCs) of prescribed modules.

Students are required to complete 12 MCs of core modules, with the remaining credits are fulfilled by prescribed elective modules.

<b>FIRST SEMESTER - 1 CORE MODULE</b>	
<b>SPH5002 Public Health Research Methods</b>	<b>Core Module (8 MCs)</b>

## SECOND SEMESTER - 1 CORE MODULE + 1 ELECTIVE MODULE

<b>SPH 5103 Collection, Management &amp; Analysis of Quantitative Data</b>	<b>Core Module (8 MCs)</b>
<b>SPH5201 Control of Communicable Diseases</b>	<b>Elective Module</b>
<b>SPH5202 Control of Non-Communicable Diseases</b>	<b>Elective Module</b>
<b>SPH5407 Programme Evaluation</b>	<b>Elective Module</b>
<b>SPH5890 Independent Study Module*</b>	<b>Elective Module</b>

## THIRD SEMESTER - 2 ELECTIVE MODULES

<b>SPH 5204 Nutrition and Health - Fundamentals and Applications</b>	<b>Elective Module</b>
<b>SPH 5306 Environmental Health</b>	<b>Elective Module</b>
<b>SPH 5406 Contemporary Global Health Issues</b>	<b>Elective Module</b>
<b>SPH 5408 Public Health and Ageing</b>	<b>Elective Module</b>
<b>SPH 5890 Independent Study Module*</b>	<b>Elective Module</b>

Note: All modules are worth 4 modular credits (MCs) each, unless otherwise stated.

\* *Subject to approval.*

## Residency requirements and candidature

The Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology (GDAE) is offered on a part-time basis only. Students are expected to complete the programme within 36 months.

## Continuation and graduation requirements

The minimum CAP for fulfilment of award of Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology is at least 2.25 or higher.

## Assessment modes / Examination rules

Students' performance will be assessed through a combination of examinations and continuous assessments. The Board of Examiners will govern all assessments.

Assessment can be based on tutorials, laboratories, projects, reports as well as mid-term and final examinations.

For more information on the Graduate Diploma in Applied Epidemiology, please refer [here](#)

