



Guidance for applicants (What we are looking for?)

Master of Public Health [International]

This guidance has been prepared to assist applicants in preparing an application for the Master of Public Health (MPH) [International] course. While it is not prescriptive, it includes information on what admissions tutors look for when reviewing MPH applications.

A) Your CV / Resume – Work experience

The CV or resume should clearly indicate that you have met the minimum work experience requirements for entry into the course. All applicants must have a minimum of one year working experience in a health service or health system in a low— or middle-income country (LMICs) (i.e., a developing country). The list of LMICS can be found on [The World Bank](#) website. However, we accept applications from some high-income countries that are classified as developing countries on the [Human Development Index](#) or the applicant has worked in LMICS or plans to do so.

You must meet the minimum work experience requirement at the time of submitting the CV for the application.

Acceptable work experience is generally:

- Paid professional positions
- Structured voluntary work that is supported and verified through a reference letter that confirms that it was full-time and details your work responsibilities
- While part-time employment is insufficient to satisfy the work experience requirement, it may contribute to it,
- National Service is acceptable if it is related to public health.

Appropriate professions and work include:

- Public Health workers/researchers
- Clinical professions (Doctors, Nurses, Midwives, Dentists)
- Academics in educational and research institutions (with a focus on public health or health management)
- Managers/Officers of health programmes in Governmental or non-governmental organisations
- Health Policy makers/advocates (with a health or social science background)
- Health Educators
- Environmental Health/Water/Sanitation Officers

- Other allied health professionals with experience in public health which may include nutritionists, veterinarians, occupational health practitioners, health economists, sociologists, anthropologists, social workers, etc.

Work experience in the following areas is generally not counted:

- Work that is undertaken in a high-income country unless it focuses on working in international public health/refugees/migrants
- Entirely lab-based roles
- Solely clinical experience unless the supporting statement clarifies how it is linked to public health
- Teaching at a level below higher education (e.g. school, college)
- Work in Alternative Medicine or Traditional Medicine
- Internship roles of any kind – for medical degrees this includes house officer (or equivalent) roles

At a minimum, your CVs should include:

- Months and dates for each role
- The position, company and country where the work experience took place
- A brief description of the tasks conducted during that role to demonstrate the experience gained working in a health service, program, intervention or health system.

The CV should be uploaded as a separate document.

We usually reject applications that do not include the CV as a separate document, do not demonstrate the minimum work experience required, or are low quality (e.g., several distracting proofreading errors).

B) Your Reference Letters

A reference letter should be uploaded as a separate document with the rest of the application. Simply listing the names and emails of referees is insufficient.

Your reference letter should include **information about your professional experience**, be on **the letterhead of an organization**, and be either signed (electronic signatures are acceptable) or stamped by the referee.

C) Your Supporting Statement

Your supporting statement should include personal reflections answering the four questions below.

1. Why do you want to study this course?
2. What is it about this course that is particularly suited to your needs?
3. What knowledge or skills do you expect to acquire from this course?
4. What are your expectations from this course in relation to your future career?

You should then **upload it in a separate file** instead of inputting the statement into the text box

A strong supporting statement will include:

- ✓ Integrate personal reflections with information about previous work and academic experiences
- ✓ Demonstrate how the course will contribute to future career goals
Provide evidence that you have engaged with and understood the course's learning objectives, or some of the modules in the course. This information is available on Coursefinder and The Nuffield Centre's website
- ✓ The statement may indicate a desire to return to your home country to work in the public health system or to seek employment at national, regional, and international organizations.

The following are some common reasons for rejections based on supporting statements:

- A personal statement that addresses some but not all four essential questions will be rejected.
- Rejections are also due to a lack of connection between your statement and your work experience. Please note that your statement should reflect how your work experience qualifies you to study this course, as well as what else you need to learn in the course.
- You will be rejected if you don't really explain why you're interested in the MPH course specifically. Generally, it is not helpful to state general goals such as "I would like to live in Leeds, or I am interested in studying in the UK, etc."
- You will be rejected if the personal statement specifies that you need to attend the course just to remain in the UK.

Low-quality supporting statements that contain several distracting proofreading errors (such as mentioning the wrong university or course) will be rejected.