



SCHOOL OF
POPULATION
AND
GLOBAL
HEALTH

Master of Epidemiology



THE MASTER OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Ever wondered how we know that smoking is a major cause of premature death in Australia and that encouraging smokers to quit can improve their length and quality of life? Or how we know which drug is the best to treat a particular patient's illness? Or how we know what influences the spread of influenza in the population and what are the most effective means to prevent spread?

These are examples of epidemiology in action. Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health and illness in populations and it underpins interventions to improve the health of the population.

The Master of Epidemiology (MEpi) provides a solid foundation in epidemiological, analytical and critical appraisal skills used in clinical and epidemiological practice and health research, including:

- How to measure and monitor how frequently disease occurs in the population and which population subgroups have high or low frequency of disease
- The different types of epidemiological studies, how they are used, their relative strengths and weaknesses and what design best suits a particular research question
- The common statistical techniques used to analyse data collected in epidemiological studies
- How to critically appraise the epidemiological literature so that you can apply the findings of research to public health and health care practice.

WHY STUDY AT THE MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF POPULATION AND GLOBAL HEALTH?

The Melbourne School of Population and Global Health is at the forefront of the prevention of disease and injury and the promotion of health and wellbeing. It provides world-class teaching and research expertise that is grounded in community development.

Our research evaluates and informs local and national health strategy. We are a vibrant, multidisciplinary school with strengths in epidemiology and biostatistics, health social sciences, global health, women's health and Indigenous health.

Our School is part of the University's Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, which is located in one of the world's most highly concentrated biomedical and public health precincts. The Faculty has extensive links with hospitals, leading research institutes, the public and private sectors and is internationally renowned for global leadership in health research, policy and practice. The University of Melbourne is Australia's top-ranked university. The University graduates more PhD students and attracts more nationally competitive funding than any other Australian university.

www.pgh.unimelb.edu.au



“Completing the Master of Epidemiology has not only furthered my research capabilities, but has proved invaluable in my day to day work as a clinician. My areas of specialty practice, anaesthesia and intensive care medicine, are increasingly evidence based fields. The MEpi has equipped me with a wide range of skills to apply best practice medicine to the care of individual patients.”

– Dr Jai Darvall
Master of Epidemiology Graduate

Is the Master of Epidemiology for me?

Epidemiologists come from many academic disciplines, including biological and medical sciences, mathematics, statistics, physical sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities and law to name a few. To make a good epidemiologist, you need to have a curious and critical mind and to be comfortable working with numbers.

The Master of Epidemiology is ideal for people who already have a clinical, health, public health or statistics background. It suits those needing to augment their research and practical skills, or graduates moving into new areas of epidemiological research or practice. It trains students to investigate and describe the causes and spread of disease, and to develop the means for prevention or control.

How long is the course?

This course is available on a part-time basis only, and at the maximum rate of two subjects per semester requires two years to complete (100 credit points).

Career Opportunities

A shortage in graduates with sound Epidemiology theory and skills has been identified by the Australian Government and other employer groups, and internationally. Our epidemiology graduates consistently achieve good employment outcomes (epidemiologist in government department, health researcher, field project managers etc).

Possible career outcomes include:

- Conducting research in medical and health research institutes
- Designing and evaluating preventive and other health service programs for government and other service providers.

The Master of Epidemiology also provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to undertake a PhD or other higher degree research program. It is also an excellent opportunity for clinical researchers to develop the skills necessary to undertake their own research.

Fees and Scholarships

Full fee-paying only. To calculate fees go to: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/fees

For information on scholarships go to: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/scholarships

Further information about the course can be found at: www.pgh.unimelb.edu.au/future/coursework/epidemiology#Epi

The Master of Epidemiology is not registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) and is not available to international students who require a student visa to study in Australia.

However, international students may be able to undertake this course if they hold or are eligible to apply for other visas that permit study. Please visit the Australian Department of Immigration (DIAC) or the University's International Student Services for further information.

Selection Criteria

To apply for the Master of Epidemiology, applicants must have:

- An honours degree in a relevant discipline with at least H2B (70 per cent) average, or equivalent; or
- Postgraduate diploma in Epidemiology with at least H2B (70 per cent) average, or equivalent; or
- An undergraduate degree in a relevant health care discipline (e.g. medicine, dentistry, physiotherapy) and documented evidence of either at least one year of research experience or at least two years of relevant professional experience.

The Selection Committee may conduct interviews or tests or call for referee reports or employer references to elucidate any of the matters listed above.

How do I apply?

Go to: www.pgh.unimelb.edu.au/future/howto

More information

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