



Programme Specification

Queen Margaret University
EDINBURGH

1	Awarding Institution	Queen Margaret University
2	Teaching Institution	Queen Margaret University
3	Professional body accreditation	
4	Final Award	MSc Social Development and Health
	Subsidiary exit awards	PG cert (Applied Social Development); PG diploma (Social Development)
5	Programme Title	Social Development and Health
6	UCAS code (or other coding system if relevant)	
7	SCQF Level	11
8	Mode of delivery and duration	12 or 13 months FTE, Edinburgh based
9	Date of validation/review	May 2015

10. Aims of the programme

Upon graduating from this programme, a Masters graduate will be able to work effectively at a senior level to promote and advocate for the inclusion of the most poor and vulnerable sectors of society in development initiatives with a focus on gender equality, fragile states, diversity and exclusion.

11. Benchmark statements/professional and statutory body requirements covered by the programme

N/A

12. Learning Outcomes of the Programme

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate a clear conceptual understanding of the key factors and forces shaping the health and well-being of disadvantaged populations in low, middle income and transitional countries;
- Demonstrate competence in specialist areas of social development (including development policy analysis, frameworks for social analysis and sustainable livelihoods) and in an evidence-based critique of policy and practice;

Intellectual skills

- Take account of both global and local perspectives relevant to the social and organisational context of social development;
- Critically analyse and respond effectively and appropriately to complex policy and practice issues in international health and social development in diverse settings;
- Formulate, synthesise and construct effective and appropriate responses to complex policy and practice issues in social development in diverse settings;

Practical skills

- Confidently engage in cross-disciplinary work at local, national and global levels;
- Demonstrate effective planning and management responses to challenges faced by social development projects and initiatives within resource-poor settings;

Transferable skills

- Demonstrate competence in utilising relevant and appropriate tools and frameworks for promoting social development;
- Confidently engage in cross-disciplinary work partnerships at local, national and global levels.

13. Teaching and learning methods and strategies

The programme will involve class-based and web-based learning. There will be formal lectures, seminars with individual student presentations and invited speakers, group work and guided reading. Students are encouraged to relate theory to practice and to work on real case studies, from their own countries, a country they have worked in, or a country of their choice. A significant proportion of their study is self-directed.

14. Assessment strategies

Assessment strategies are outlined for each module in the module descriptors, which are comprised of the following: written assignments; group presentations; critical appraisal of a research article; group project proposal; research proposal; and written dissertation. Standard QMU regulations in relation to the combination of module marks for overall award categories will be applied.

15. Programme structures and features, curriculum units (modules), credits and award requirements (including any periods of placement)

Semester 2		Year 1, Semester 2	
OPTIONAL CORE Project, Design and Management; (15 credits)(if chosen this core)	15	CORE Gender, Health and Development	15
CORE Gender, Health and Development	15	Elective 1	15
CORE Qualitative Research Methods OR RDPW DL	15		
Elective 1	15		
Elective 2	15		
	<i>Exit PG Diploma Social Development and Health</i>		
Semester 3			
Dissertation	60		
	<i>Exit MSc Social Development & Health</i>		

Full time students	SCOTCAT credits	Part time students (example of progress)	SCOTCAT credits
Semester 1		Year 1, Semester 1	
Induction	0	Induction	0
CORE: Global Health & Social Policy	15	CORE : Global Health & Social Policy	15
CORE: Researching Global Health and Development	15	CORE: Social Development Policy and Practice	15
CORE: Social Development Policy and Practice	15		
CORE: <i>either</i> Global Public Health; (15 credits) <i>or</i> Health Systems; (15 credits) <i>(or</i> Project, Design and Management; (15 credits) in Semester 2	15		

16. Criteria for admission

The standard minimum levels of entry for the MSc in Social Development, and Health are one of the following:

- An honours degree in a related subject area
- A professional qualification in a related area recognised for professional body membership and equivalent in academic terms to an honours degree

- A qualification in a related area from a professional institution and not less than 3 years professional experience at a level approved by the Admissions committee.

17. Support for students and their learning

- 1) All students will be supported by a personal academic tutor and a dissertation supervisor who may be different
- 2) All students receive a student handbook
- 3) Student representatives are selected for both September and January starting students; staff-student consultative committees are held once per semester and representatives attend course committee meetings
- 4) A series of academic practice sessions have been established to support students' acquisition of academic writing and critical thinking skills. The sessions start during the induction week and carry on over the first 4 weeks of semester 1; a module descriptor outlines the range of issues covered
- 5) 3 academic practice sessions are held in Semester 2 for students commencing study in January
- 6) Introductory session to IT are offered to students requiring support in the first 3 weeks of Semester 1 and where need to January entrants
- 7) Introduction to library procedures and database searching in Semester 1 (for September students) and semester 2 (for January students); more advanced search procedures offered during dissertation preparation in Semester 2.
- 8) The Centre for Academic Practice runs relevant workshops for postgraduate students throughout the academic year (Eg. SPSS, reference manager)
- 9) Students have access to student learning services, library and IT support
- 10) Students have access to careers, counselling and disability advice services.

18. Quality Assurance arrangements

This programme is governed by QMU's quality assurance procedures. See the QMU website for more detail: <http://www.qmu.ac.uk/quality/>