

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024-25: PGDip in Global Health Research



Course facts

Mode of study	Part Time Online Only
Expected length	14 months

About the course

This online Postgraduate Diploma in Global Health Research (GHR) fulfils a unique training need by providing an academically rigorous and pragmatic approach that will equip students with real-world skills for designing and implementing impactful global health research across many varied topics and population settings.

The course aims to enhance knowledge and raise standards of professionals working in health research in a global context so they can lead successful and high-quality research studies.

Students will discover best practices in global health research studies, the mechanisms, the methods and processes required to implement good quality, safe and ethical research, typically in low resource settings. Through practical case studies and applied tasks, you will gain sufficient experience to implement what you learn in order to resolve difficult challenges and become the next generation of leaders in your field of study.

The PGDip GHR is an online four-term course that teaches the key steps required to carry out good research in the context of global health. As a student, you will learn to formulate viable research questions, you will consider target populations within your area of interest, create study plans addressing sample size and understand the variables that might affect your results. You will learn how to avoid errors in design and implementation, the most common reasons for getting wrong answers to research questions and where possible, you will be encouraged to implement your study.

The department's goal is to embed effective health research into the work of healthcare workers and allied professions. Whatever research one is planning, whether it is a randomised controlled trial, or an observational study, knowing what kind of information the study should collect is important, and so researchers may need to use epidemiology data, adapt to different social norms or utilise diagnostics to create valid, evidence based, outcomes. Whatever your research question, the PGDip GHR will guide you from conception to execution and completion of a final report. Our graduates will conduct their research aware of the larger context within which research takes place, they will plan and implement their projects accordingly and communicate their reasoning and findings as effectively as possible, increasing the probability of successful research and turning that research into practice.

The PGDip GHR will provide you with many transferable skills, not least higher-level critical-thinking and analytical skills to enable you to develop professionally as an independent learner during and after the course. At the end of the course, the aim is for graduates to be intellectually curious, improve global health, gather and analyse data, lead research projects, make good decisions and continue on a journey of life-long learning, like all Oxford graduates.

The course will support the attainment of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably the following goals with regard to SDG 3, 'Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing at all ages':

- 3.B 'Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries';
- 3.C 'Substantially increase...development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries' and
- 3.D 'Strengthen the capacity of all countries, particularly developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks'.

This PGDip GHR is different from other courses for two key reasons:

- Firstly, it refers entirely to health issues specific to diseases of poverty in low-resource countries.
- Secondly, this is an operational and applied course that covers the steps needed to set up studies across all types of health research

Course structure

The PGDip GHR is conducted online and at no point are students required to attend in-person sessions in Oxford.

The course consists of four terms, with eight teaching weeks per term.

- Term one, Research Design, will be taught during Michaelmas term
- Term two, Data Management and Analysis, will be taught during Hilary term
- Term three, Quality Systems, will be taught during Trinity term

- Term four, Research Implementation, will be taught the following Michaelmas term.

Core Modules

- What is Health Research?
- Outcome Measures & Protocol Design
- Ethics
- Community Engagement
- Study Populations
- Study Interventions
- Data Capture
- Data Management & Analysis
- Quality Assurance
- Safety and Pharmacovigilance
- Laboratories & Diagnostics
- Governance and Oversight
- Operations, including Project and Financial Management
- Leadership & Communication Skills
- Reporting
- Converting Research into Practice

These subjects were identified as the key subjects required in global health research by a large-scale Knowledge Gap Analysis and E-Delphi study and workshops, involving over 7,000 participants from 153 countries across the globe.

Participants included academics, trialists and researchers, as well as representatives from stakeholder organisations such as the European Commission, the World Health Organisation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP).

These data have driven the creation of this unique and much-needed course that focusses on the contextual necessities and operational realities of setting up ALL types of health research study in low-resource settings.

Balance of teaching

You are expected to engage daily from Monday to Friday with the interactive elements of the lesson week and you should help contribute to the evolution of class discussions.

Each week consists of an introduction, pre-recorded interactive lectures, structured discussion forums to help put theory into practice and a live lecture.

A typical lesson consists of an introduction, pre-recorded interactive lecture, discussion forum with tasks or questions to help put theory into practice. There is a live class using online video conferencing software, and asynchronous tutorials based on reflective practice. Additional resources include an online reading list. Students will quickly know what to expect and will only need to learn to navigate a lesson once, as all lessons will follow a similar pattern.

The PGDip GHR is structured to be as flexible as possible for busy adults who have work and family commitments. Therefore, a lot of the activities can be completed to suit your schedule, and whilst most forums and tutorials are asynchronous, there will be a weekly live class using video conferencing software. This class will be recorded.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Nuffield Department of Medicine and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Nuffield Department of Medicine.

For this course, the terms 'supervision' and 'supervisor' refer to an academic tutor that you will normally be assigned for the duration of the course.

Assessment

There will be four assessments in total, one per term. Each assessment carries equal weight and is worth 25% of your overall grade for the course. All assessments must be passed to ensure progression through the course. Some assessments will be on a team basis and some will be individual.

Assessment details will be published in the week preceding the first week of each term. This is also when teams will be formed. You will work on the assessment from then until submission in week nine of term. During week three, each team will submit a formative assessment on which you will receive feedback that is directly applicable to your team assessment. On a weekly basis, each individual shall complete a reflective diary, on which you will receive one-to-one feedback, which will help you prepare the individual section of your assessment.

The Global Health Network Professional Development Scheme

All students are required to join, free of charge, The Global Health Network Professional Development Scheme which is run in partnership with WHO. Membership of the scheme will enable you to measure your core research skills and competencies as you progress through the course and beyond into your subsequent career if you choose to remain a member.

The Professional Development Scheme's competency framework covers five key areas:

1. Professional Skills
2. Scientific Thinking
3. Ethics, Quality & Risk Management
4. Research Operations
5. Study & Site Management

You will complete the framework at the start and end of the course to measure the impact of your studies. This will also give you an understanding of your strengths in key research skills, which will in turn boost your confidence and give you very specific talking points in interviews or with current employers.

Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after you commence your course. These might include significant changes made necessary by any pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Costs

Whole course fee

The fees for this course are charged as a whole course fee at the beginning of the course and cover the 14 month duration of the course.

Course Fees for entry in 2024/25

Fee status	Course fees
Home	£14,155
Overseas	£14,155

Information about course fees

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Graduate students who have reached the end of their standard period of fee liability may be required to pay a termly University and/or a college continuation charge.

The University continuation charge, per term for entry in 2024-25 is £628, please be aware that this will increase annually. For part-time students, the termly charge will be half of the termly rate payable by full-time students.

If a college continuation charge applies (not applicable for non-matriculated courses) it is likely to be in the region of £100 to £600. Please contact your college for more details, including information about whether your college's continuation charge is applied at a different rate for part-time study.

Additional cost information

In addition to fees and living costs, students will require their own laptop and internet access. As this is an online course, it is advisable for all applicants to have reliable internet access. Many of our students will have reliable internet access in the workplace, but the course is designed to be accessible even in low bandwidth settings. We limit the number of synchronous elements in the course, to ensure maximum flexibility. All elements of the course will be downloadable so that students can work offline if necessary. They can then log in at various points each week to upload work and keep abreast of discussions, using Canvas and Zoom to help ensure students can stay connected and engaged.

Living costs

In addition to your course fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

If you are studying part-time your living costs may vary depending on your personal circumstances but you must still ensure that you will have sufficient funding to meet these costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2024-25 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

Likely living costs for one month

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£495
Accommodation	£745	£925
Personal items	£190	£320
Social activities	£40	£95
Study costs	£35	£85
Other	£20	£35
Total	£1,345	£1,955

Likely living costs for nine months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£2,835	£4,445
Accommodation	£6,705	£8,325
Personal items	£1,710	£2,880
Social activities	£360	£855
Study costs	£315	£765
Other	£180	£315
Total	£12,105	£17,595

Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£3,780	£5,940
Accommodation	£8,940	£11,100
Personal items	£2,280	£3,840
Social activities	£480	£1,140
Study costs	£420	£1,020
Other	£240	£420
Total	£16,140	£23,460

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2024-25, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 5% or more each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of this document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email (graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).