Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023-24:
PGDip in Global Health Research

About the course

This online Postgraduate Diploma in Global Health Research 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 postgraduate diploma is an online four-term programme 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 postgraduate diploma 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 Postgraduate Diploma in Global Health Research will provide you with many transferable skills, not least higher-level critical-thinking and analytical skills to enable you to develop professionally as independent learners during and after your programme of study. At the end of the programme, we want our 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 postgraduate diploma 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 programme 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 programme 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 programme 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 postgraduate diploma 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.

Changes to courses

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 registration. These may include significant changes made necessary by a pandemic (including Covid-19), 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).

Expected length of course

	Part Time Online Only
Expected length	14 months

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.

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£12,880
Overseas	£12,880

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.

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, Zoom and VoiceThread to help ensure students can stay connected and engaged.