

Programme Specification

Award and title: Master of Research Global Public Health

<i>School:</i>	London
<i>Subject area:</i>	Global Health, Public Health and Social Research Methods
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2026-27
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September, February
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	London
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methods in Global Public Health
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Full time (1 year) Part-time (2 years)
<i>Language of study:</i>	English

Introduction and special features

The MRes Global Public Health is a research-intensive programme designed to equip you with the advanced skills, comprehensive training, and practical experience necessary to undertake a substantial independent research project. This programme is ideal for individuals aspiring to develop specialist expertise in global public health, enabling graduates to pursue impactful careers in the National Health Service (NHS), local councils, or international health organisations. The programme consists of a focused taught component (one-third) and an extensive research project (two-thirds), ensuring a balanced yet in-depth learning experience.

This programme is tailored for individuals with a background in Public Health, Global Health Management/Science, Demography, Social Sciences, or related disciplines. It is particularly suited for international prospective students or established professionals seeking to enhance their knowledge of global public health research methods while continuing to work in health-related sectors or starting a new career after the programme.

The programme includes two 30-credit taught modules, which provide an in-depth understanding of research methodologies and the theoretical frameworks underpinning high-quality global public health research. These modules will enable you to critically evaluate and apply contemporary research across various settings, with a focus on addressing complex global health challenges. Key topics include research theories and philosophies, ethical research practices, and practical tools for navigating the research process.

The MRes programme also entails a 120-credit research project that aligns with pressing global public health challenges, which will also enable you to work collaboratively with the university's research community; you will have the opportunity to engage with our prestigious research institutes such as the Institute for Health and Care Improvement (IHCI), the Institute for Social Justice (ISJ), or other research groups addressing critical issues like health inequalities, social determinants of health, and policy development both within the United Kingdom and globally. This project allows you to apply your knowledge in a real-world context, fostering skills in independent inquiry and practical problem-solving.

A significant focus of the programme is also equipping you to design and conduct ethically sound research. This includes training in navigating ethical approval processes, engaging meaningfully with diverse stakeholders, including vulnerable populations, third-sector organisations, and community groups, and

ensuring your research adheres to the highest standards of academic integrity. These skills will ensure you are well-prepared to conduct impactful research that addresses global health priorities.

Throughout the programme, you will be guided by a dedicated research supervisor with expertise in your chosen area of study and relevant methodological approaches. By the end of the programme, you will have developed highly specialised skills in global public health research, positioning you for roles in health research, lecturing, or leadership positions. Whether working within the NHS, local councils, or international health organisations, you will be equipped to contribute meaningfully to health planning, policy-making, and implementation, addressing critical public health challenges worldwide.

The MRes in Global Public Health is not just a pathway to academic excellence but a stepping stone to becoming a leader in global health. This programme ensures that you graduate with the expertise, confidence, and credentials to make a lasting impact in addressing the world's most pressing health challenges.

Admissions criteria

You must meet the university's general entry criteria for [postgraduate study](#). In addition, you must have:

A 2:2 in Global Health, Public Health and Social Research Methods or a closely related discipline.

Applicants whose first degree is not in Global Health, Public Health and Social Research Methods will be accepted on a case-by-case basis to ensure that they have covered sufficient levels of Global Health, Public Health and Social Research Methods during their first degree.

Applicants whose first language is not English should have IELTS at grade 6.5 or above (including a minimum of 6.5 in the writing component) or another acceptable English Language qualification.

Programme aim(s)

- A1. Equip students with advanced research knowledge, specialised skills, and practical experience in Global Public Health to prepare them for a research career, enhance their personal and professional development, and address complex public health challenges.
- A2. Foster essential research literacy and the capacity to critically interpret, evaluate, and apply evidence in global public health contexts, enabling students to become effective researchers and/or practitioners in fields such as health policy, epidemiology, and health system strengthening.
- A3. Provide an immersive research experience that emphasises rigorous methodologies and the potential for real-world impact, ensuring students can contribute to innovative solutions for critical global public health issues, both within the UK and internationally.
- A4. Develop the ability to engage with diverse stakeholders, including public health organisations, policymakers, and communities, to address health inequalities and promote evidence-based decision-making in global health practice.
- A5. Prepare students for doctoral studies or leadership roles in global public health by equipping them with transferable skills, such as effective communication, advanced data analysis, and research project management, to enhance their impact in academic, governmental, or international health organisations.

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 Display in-depth, extended, and specialist knowledge and understanding of a range of contemporary research methods, concepts, information, and techniques in relation to your field of study.
- 7.2 Critically appraise and discuss current issues, research, and evidence in your field of study so as to identify strengths and weaknesses, rigour, quality, bias, and areas of novel research.
- 7.3 Plan, manage, and complete novel, independent research by deploying appropriate designs and methods, considering research ethics, applying principles of research governance, and adhering to regulatory standards.
- 7.4 Communicate original research findings through proficient structuring, writing, and presenting complex ideas, analyses, and results while meeting contemporary standards for open, transparent, and high-quality research.
- 7.5 Demonstrate the academic skills appropriate to level 7, including the development of standards of oral and written presentation to sustain arguments and the presentation of original questions to peers in professional and academic domains as part of an international community of reflective practitioners.

Programme structure

Full-time						
Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
LDR7001M	7	1	Advanced Research Methods and Data Sources	30	C	NC
LDR7002M	7	1	Advanced Data Analyses and Policy Frameworks	30	C	NC
LDR7003R	7	2&3	Thesis in Global Public Health	120	C	NC

Part-time: Year 1						
Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
LDR7001M	7	1	Advanced Research Methods and Data Sources	30	C	NC
LDR7002M	7	1	Advanced Data Analyses and Policy Frameworks	30	C	NC

Part-time: Year 2						
Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					Compulsory (C) or optional (O)	non-compensable (NC) or compensable (X)
LSR7003R	7	2&3	Thesis in Global Public Health	120	C	NC

Please note that 30-credit modules must be passed at the relevant level in order to progress to the Thesis module.

Learning, teaching and assessment

The MRes in Global Public Health programme employs a blended learning approach, combining online activities, on-campus study days, and personalised supervisory meetings. This format is designed to provide a dynamic research environment informed by cutting-edge global public health practice and scholarship from academic staff at the London campus and associated research institutes at York St John University.

The programme adopts a learner-centred philosophy, emphasising inclusivity, equity, and the development of advanced research capabilities tailored to the global public health context. It fosters an interactive and collaborative learning environment where students engage with peers, share knowledge, and build professional networks, creating a strong sense of research community.

Teaching methods are centred on active, experiential learning that connects theory to real-world public health challenges. Students are supported in progressively taking ownership of their learning journey, moving towards greater autonomy and responsibility in their research activities. Personalised supervisory meetings offer tailored guidance, ensuring each student's individual research goals are met while building their confidence and independence.

Assessments are structured to evaluate both theoretical understanding and practical application, ensuring students are well-prepared for the complexities of global public health research. Critiques of published research and systematic reviews provide opportunities to develop analytical skills, while the production of a thesis allows students to apply their knowledge to original research. The thesis is assessed via a 20,000 word thesis.

Feedback is integral to the programme and is provided through multiple modes to enhance student development. The emphasis on formative feedback throughout ensures that students refine their skills and knowledge, aligning their work with the highest academic and professional standards.

This comprehensive approach ensures that graduates of the programme are equipped with the advanced research expertise, critical thinking skills, and practical experience needed to address pressing global public health challenges and make significant contributions to the field.

Progression and graduation requirements

The university's [regulations](#) for taught postgraduate and research degree awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensable.

Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University Mission, Culture and Values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)

- [QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

Date written/revised: August 2025
Programme originally approved: