

BSc (Hons) Public Health / Public Health Practitioner Degree Apprenticeship

Information for Applicants 2024/25

On behalf of The University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol, we would like to thank you for your interest in UWE Bristol's Public Health Practitioner Degree Apprenticeship (PHPDA).

This document is designed to support applicants and their workplace supervisors by providing the key information regarding the degree apprenticeship and the application process. However, if you require more information about the programme, or wish to discuss individual suitability please email the co-Programme Leads, Brodie Walker and Dr Oliver Clackson Bonnington via their shared inbox ph.apprenticeship@uwe.ac.uk.

Please also see the UWE website <https://courses.uwe.ac.uk/ST0631/public-health-practitioner#entry>

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What is the Public Health Practitioner Degree Apprenticeship (PHPDA)?

The Public Health Practitioner Degree Apprenticeship (PHPDA) is a specialised educational program designed for employers who are interested in offering apprenticeships in the field of public health. This apprenticeship provides a unique opportunity for individuals to gain the knowledge, skills, and practical experience necessary to become proficient public health practitioners while working within an organisation.

Throughout the apprenticeship, apprentices will receive comprehensive training in various aspects of public health from UWE. They will learn about important theories and approaches that underpin public health practice and decision-making, including ways to navigate complex systems and the need to work across agencies, both with and without statutory authority.

The PHPDA programme is a three-year, full-time degree apprenticeship that aims to produce graduates who can work effectively as part of a national Public Health Practitioner (PHP) workforce. It has a broad multidisciplinary curriculum designed to develop the skills, knowledge and behaviours necessary to carry out the duties set out in the [Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education Public Health Practitioner Standard](#).

Who funds the PHPDA?

The funding for the apprenticeships is sourced from the employer's Apprenticeship Levy Account. Therefore, to secure and sustain the funding, compliance to the quality standards set by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), Ofsted and the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) must be met.

Who are Public Health Practitioners and what do they do?

- Public Health Practitioners (PHPs) work as part of a national workforce that strives to help people and communities maximise their potential for a healthy, happy and productive life, and to live healthier for longer.
- Focus on health at the community or population level.
- Assess and manage risk of disease and ill-health, and the prevention of premature deaths.
- Monitor and promote health and wellbeing to ensure fairer health outcomes between different communities and groups (addressing health inequalities).
- Put in place protection measures to protect the public from environmental hazards and risks.
- Evaluate sources of evidence, interpret it and design and plan health interventions.

- Work independently and collaboratively; work in a wide range of settings; will usually be part of a team of public health professionals.
- Act autonomously within the scope of their role.¹

What roles would be suitable for a PHP apprentice?

Typical job titles include¹:

- Public Health Practitioner
- Health Protection Practitioner
- Health Improvement Practitioner
- Public Health Intelligence Officer
- Public Health Data Analyst
- Healthy Lifestyles Co-ordinator
- Tobacco Control Lead
- Workplace Health Advisor
- Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Lead
- Immunisation Programme Co-ordinator
- Accident Prevention Officer
- Community Development Worker
- Community Engagement Officer
- Public Health Project Manager
- Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator

Note: This list is not meant to be exhaustive and other roles include those in areas aligned with the wider determinants of health, such as housing, transport and education. If you are unsure if your current role is suitable to apply for the PHPDA please contact the programme leads via ph.apprenticeship@uwe.ac.uk

Who supports a PHP apprentice?

During the program, the apprentice will benefit from a tripartite support structure, which involves regular meetings held at least every 12-weeks. The tripartite structure includes: 1) the apprentice, 2) the employer (with the workplace supervisor as the primary contact,

¹ Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. 2019. *Public Health Practitioner (Degree)*

though other workplace members may also offer support), and 3) UWE Bristol. UWE Bristol's support is overseen by two individuals: the UWE Tutor and the apprenticeship coordinator, who both attend the tripartite meetings. These meetings provide a safe space to address queries or concerns, review progress, and ensure a positive learning experience. Additionally, the apprentice is encouraged to maintain ongoing dialogue, between tripartite meetings, with both their workplace supervisor and UWE tutor regarding their progress and objectives.

What is a workplace supervisor?

Workplace supervisors are professionals who facilitate the achievement of student learning outcomes in the practice setting. They are responsible for ensuring the apprentice has opportunities to experience the full breadth of public health practice during the apprenticeship. They work closely with the apprentice, the UWE Apprenticeship Co-ordinator and the UWE Tutor as part of the tripartite relationship. At the end of the apprenticeship Workplace supervisors will need to be satisfied their apprentice has achieved occupational competence, whereby the apprentice is working at the level set out in the occupational standard. Workplace supervisors decide whether the apprentice is ready to pass through the Gateway and commence their End Point Assessment.

Entry criteria

1. 112 UCAS tariff points.
2. GCSE: Grade C/4 or above in English and Mathematics or equivalent (we accept Functional Skills Level 2 in Maths and English).
3. Applicants will be sponsored by their employer and cannot apply without employer support.
4. Applicants must also meet the ESFA eligibility requirements. These are to:
 - be aged 16 years or over
 - be an EEA citizen (with Right to Work in the UK) and not be in any other kind of full-time education (including being enrolled on any other apprenticeship programme)
 - be employed (for at least the full planned duration of your apprenticeship) in a role that is linked to the appropriate industry for the apprenticeship training
 - receive at least legal minimum wage for apprentices (wages vary depending on experience, employer and level or type of apprenticeship)
 - commit to at least six hours per week of apprenticeship training during your normal working hours
 - have support from your employer, including a mentor/line manager. Your employer is also responsible for funding your apprenticeship.

More information about eligibility for apprenticeship funding is available on the GOV.UK website.

Applicants who do not fit the typical entry requirements will be considered on an individual basis. In this situation evidence of recent study at a suitable, recognised Level 3 qualification or equivalent alongside a profile of relevant experience. Applicants with a previous degree will be considered on an individual basis. Candidates may have an informal interview as part of the application process.

Key dates

Application deadline: 30th June 2024*

Inductions: Week commencing 2nd September 2024 (to be confirmed)

Induction is compulsory and should be attended by all applicants. There will be two weeks of inductions, delivered on the normal teaching day, and the first module will begin the following week.

Key contacts

For course-specific enquiries, please contact the Programme Leaders, Dr Oliver Clackson Bonnington and Brodie Walker (ph.apprenticeship@uwe.ac.uk)

For all other enquiries, please email our Apprenticeship Hub apprenticeships@uwe.ac.uk or call +44 (0)117 32 84888.

How to apply

To apply, please contact our Apprenticeship Hub apprenticeships@uwe.ac.uk or call +44 (0)117 32 84888.

Structure of the PHPDA

The programme team at UWE are responsible for the off-the-job training component of the apprenticeship. Off-the-job learning is delivered through a 'UWE day' each week. Learning gained on the UWE day should then be applied to practice during the rest of their working week, known as the on-the-job component. Off-the-Job training should form at least 20% of the apprentice's contracted employment hours, e.g. apprentices who work a 37.5 hour week would be expected to complete at least 7.5 hours of off-the-job training per week.

Taught programme structure.

The taught content at UWE Bristol will be one day per week, Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays in the first, second and third year, respectively. The programme is **delivered exclusively online**, which creates a diverse apprentice community from across England.

The programme takes a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach to the study of public health, with the curriculum drawing upon the social, human, biomedical, environmental and political sciences. There is a focus throughout the programme on the wider determinants of health, issues of equity and social justice, a critical approach to evidence and data, and applying learning to public health practice. Please see the [programme specification](#) for a breakdown of modules, content and programme learning outcomes.

Each academic year is made up of four taught modules, these consist of 6-taught days and 3 build portfolio/applied to practice weeks, during these weeks there is no formal taught content but the apprentices time is still protected for off-the-job hours. There is no taught content in July and August, please see the draft 2024/25 timetable below.

End Point Assessment

Every degree apprenticeship programme has a form of End Point Assessment (EPA). The EPA of the PHPDA also counts as the last 30-credits, therefore this module must be successfully passed for an apprentice to achieve both the BSc degree and become a public health practitioner. Full details of the EPA assessment plan can be found [here](#).

Draft timetable for 2024/25 academic year

Subject to change

Week commencing	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
	Monday		Tuesday		Friday	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
02/09/2024	Induction day 1		Induction day 1		Induction day 1	
09/09/2024	Critical Academic Skills for level 4		Critical Academic Skills for level 5		Critical Academic Skills for level 6	
16/09/2024	UZVYEQ-30-1 Introduction to Public Health		UZVYER-30-2 Advanced Evidence Based Population Health		UZVYEW-30-3 Public Health Leadership and Management	
23/09/2024						
30/09/2024						
07/10/2024						
14/10/2024	Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work		Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work		Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work	
21/10/2024	UZVYEQ-30-1 Introduction to Public Health		UZVYER-30-2 Advanced Evidence Based Population Health		UZVYEW-30-3 Public Health Leadership and Management	
28/10/2024						
04/11/2024						
11/11/2024	UZVYEN-30-1 Introduction to Evidence-Based Population Health		UZVYLS-30-2 Working across Systems and Agencies		UZVYEV-30-3 Commissioning for Population Health	
18/11/2024						
25/11/2024						
02/12/2024						
09/12/2024	Christmas/Winter Vacation					
16/12/2024						
23/12/2024						
30/12/2024						
06/01/2025	Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work		Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work		Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work	
13/01/2025	UZVYEN-30-1 Introduction to Evidence-Based Population Health		UZVYLS-30-2 Working across Systems and Agencies		UZVYEV-30-3 Commissioning for Population Health	
20/01/2025						
27/01/2025						
03/02/2025	UZVYEP-30-1 Introduction to Health Protection		UZVYLQ-30-2 Health Improvement Interventions & Services		UZVYEX-30-3 Public Health Policy	
10/02/2025						
17/02/2025						
24/02/2025						
03/03/2025	Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work		Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work		Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work	
10/03/2025	Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work		Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work		Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work	

17/03/2025				
24/03/2025				
31/03/2025	Easter/Spring Vacation			
07/04/2025	Easter/Spring Vacation			
14/04/2025	UZVYEP-20-1 Health Protection	UZVYLQ-30-2 Health Improvement Interventions & Services	UZVYEX-30-3 Public Health Policy	
21/04/2025				
28/04/2025	UZVYLP-30-1 Introduction to Health Promotion	UZVYLR-30-2 Practice Based Project	UZVYEY-30-3 End Point Assessment	
05/05/2025				
12/05/2025				
19/05/2025				
26/05/2025	Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work	Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work		
02/06/2025				
09/06/2025				
16/06/2025	UZVYLP-30-1 Introduction to Health Promotion	UZVYLR-30-2 Practice Based Project		
23/06/2025				
30/06/2025	Build Portfolio/Applied to practice work			
07/07/2025				
14/07/2025				
21/07/2025				
28/07/2025				
04/08/2025				
11/08/2025	Summer Vacation			
18/08/2025				
25/08/2025				
01/09/2025				
08/09/2025				EPA Window Closed
15/09/2025				
22/09/2025				
29/09/2025				
06/10/2025				
13/10/2025				
20/10/2025				
27/10/2025			Award Board	
			Graduate in November	