

Graduate Certificate of Public Health (GC_PUBH)

1. About the Graduate Certificate of Public Health

The Graduate Certificate of Public Health will equip health professionals from a broad range of backgrounds to work in the field of public health. Students will gain an understanding of the social, behavioural and cultural determinants of disease and will develop skills and promotion of health programs to improve the health of populations. The GC_PH has a global perspective on public and environmental health, with a particular focus on public health issues in the Asian region. Through case-study analysis, and an international focus on health issues, this course prepares students to be an interdisciplinary, collaborative thinker and problem solver in the public health arena

Key program learning outcomes

- Interpret ethical practice of public health, and the principles of access and equity
- Evaluate intervention strategies to detect, prevent and control diseases among human populations are applied
- Demonstrate local and global contexts of public health
- Outline how the major social, behavioural and cultural variables and issues affect the health of populations
- Develop a population-based perspective to public health interventions and the evaluation of their efficacy
- Identify and describe environmental risk factors that affect the health and safety of a given community or population
- Explore collaborative methods to achieve organisational and community goals

Graduate employment opportunities

Students will be prepared for a career in areas such as environmental health management, community health and health promotion. Career opportunities within government health departments, in public health teams, in community health and academia. Opportunities can also be found in non-governmental health agencies and international aid agencies.

Course Overview

Course Title	Graduate Certificate of Public Health (GC_PUBH)		
Study Options – Domestic Australian students	Online delivery Full-time and part-time options available.	Study Options – International students	International students on a student visa must not enrol into any more than a third or 33% of online subjects over their course and must study at least one subject that is face to face in each trimester. International students on a student visa are required to study full time, i.e. the student must complete a minimum of 1.0 EFTSL of study per year.
Start Dates	February, June, September For specific dates visit the website .	Course Length	Full-time: 6 months Part-time: 1 year
Payment Options - Domestic Australian students	Upfront payment This means tuition fees will be invoiced each semester and payment is required on or before the due date. FEE-HELP FEE-HELP is Australian Government's loan scheme for higher education degree courses. It can assist you in paying for all, or part of, your course fees. Repayments commence via the tax system once your income rises above a minimum threshold. Just like with any other debt, a FEE-HELP debt is a real debt that impacts your credit rating.	Payment Options – International students	Upfront payment This means tuition fees will be invoiced each semester and payment is required on or before the due date.
Course study requirements	It is expected that each subject, whether studied online or on-campus, will involve a combined total of 120 hours of structured and self-directed learning, which equates to approximately 10 hours a week for subjects over 12-week trimesters	Assessment	Assessments vary and include: critical analysis and essay writing, literature reviews, needs assessment, project development and evaluation, in-class debates, participation in online discussion forums, short questions, and research projects.
Locations	Dynamic online delivery.	Delivered by	Torrens University Australia

Provider	Torrens University Australia Ltd is registered as a self-accrediting Australian university by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).	CRICOS Course Code	097405K
Provider obligations	Torrens University is responsible for all aspects of the student experience, including the quality of course delivery, in compliance with the Higher Education Standards 2015	Accrediting body	Torrens University Australia Limited ABN 99 154 937 005, CRICOS Provider Code: 097405K. RTO No. 41343
Course Fees	For details, refer to the website .	Any other fees	For details, refer to the website .

2. Essential requirements for admission

The general admission criteria that apply to Torrens University Australia courses can be located by visiting the Torrens University Australia website - <https://www.torrens.edu.au/general-admission-information-for-torrens-university-australia-ltd>

3. Admission Criteria

Title of course of study	Graduate Certificate of Public Health
Academic Entry Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A completed qualification at AQF level 7 (bachelor degree) or above from an Australian University or an equivalent overseas higher education qualification and at least three year's work experience.
Applicants with work and life experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants without formal qualifications at AQF7 or above may be considered for entry to the Graduate Certificate of Public Health on the basis of a combination of formal (below AQF7) or non-formal qualifications and seven years of relevant experience in a health professional role. <p>Applications will be assessed on a case by case basis. Successful completion of the Graduate Certificate will allow automatic entry to the Graduate Diploma or Master of Public Health with 100% credit.</p>
English Language Proficiency	International Students

(applicable to international students, and in addition to academic or special entry requirements noted above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equivalent IELTS 6.5 (Academic) with no skills band less than 6.0.
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Other admission options

Special Entry	<p>Applicants in any category whose study, work or life experiences have been impacted by disability, illness or family disruption will be given special consideration for admission.</p> <p>Each application will be considered on its merit, based on the evidence supplied by the applicant attesting to the circumstances of the applicant.</p> <p>Applicants for special entry may need to complete written or numerical tasks to assist with assessing eligibility for admission.</p>
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4. How to apply

Via direct application to the institution

- <https://apply.torrens.edu.au/>

5. Advanced standing/academic credit/recognition of prior learning (RPL)

You may be entitled to credit for prior learning, whether formal or informal. Formal learning can include previous study in higher education, vocational education, or adult and community education. Informal learning can include on the job learning or various kinds of work and life experience. Credit can reduce the amount of study needed to complete a degree.

Applicants admitted based on prior higher education study may be eligible for Advanced Standing in the form of credit and/or recognition of prior learning (RPL) under the Torrens University Australia [Credit Policy - \(https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms\)](https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms).

- Students with completed subjects may be eligible for specified credit and/or elective exemptions
- Students who have completed a qualification at AQF level 5 (diploma) or above may be eligible for block credit (where a block credit agreement exists)
- Students with a mix of formal study and informal and/or non-formal learning may be eligible for recognition of prior learning in addition to any credit approved.

Credit will not be applied automatically. Applicants must apply for credit and/or RPL as early as possible prior to each study period, with applications not accepted after week 2.

For further information about credit and recognition of prior learning please see <http://www.torrens.edu.au/apply-online/course-credits>

6. Where to get further information

- Torrens University Australia (TUA) Website
 - <https://www.torrens.edu.au/>
- Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) Website
 - <https://www.qilt.edu.au/>

7. Additional Information

Course Structure

Title of the course of study:		Graduate Certificate of Public Health			
Structure of the course of study:		The Graduate Certificate in Public Health comprises 1 core subject and 3 specialisations (10 credit points each) for a total of 40 credit points. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core subjects: 1 • Specialisations: 3 • Electives: Nil The course can be completed with full time study in two trimesters or in 3 or 4 trimesters on a part time basis.			
Subject Code	Subject Title	Core or elective (in this course)	Pre-requisite or Co-requisite	Credit Points	
Level: 400					
1	PUBH6000	Social, Behavioural and Cultural Factors in Public Health	Core	Nil	10
2	Specialisation	<i>Choose 1 specialisation subject from the table below</i>	Specialisation		10
3	Specialisation	<i>Choose 1 specialisation subject from the table below</i>	Specialisation		10
4	Specialisation	<i>Choose 1 specialisation subject from the table below</i>	Specialisation		10
Total Credit Points/EFTSL					40

Specialisation subjects. Select 3 in total from the list below.					
Level: 400					
1	PUBH6003	Health Systems and Economics	Specialisation	Nil	10
2	PUBH6002	Global and Environmental Health Issues	Specialisation	Nil	10
3	PUBH6005	Epidemiology	Specialisation	Nil	10

4	DHI401	Digital Health and Informatics	Specialisation	PUBH6000 (co-requisite or pre-requisite)	10
Level: 500					
5	PUBH6206	Health Promotion and Community Health	Specialisation	PUBH6000 (co-requisite or pre-requisite)	10

The course structure can be viewed or downloaded at the Student Hub Courses webpage.

<https://studenthub.torrens.edu.au/Hub/health>

Course Rules

To graduate with this qualification, a student must satisfactorily complete the required subjects totaling 40 credit points.

Subjects

Subject Descriptions
<p>PUBH6000 Social, Behavioural and Cultural Factors in Public Health - Core</p> <p>Begin your journey into the public health industry with an introduction to the principles of public health and fundamentals of public health practice. You will consider the way major social determinants of health affect a population's health outcomes, while examining the role of public health stakeholders in addressing health inequality and inequity.</p> <p>Learn about the theoretical and conceptual health intervention frameworks and apply these to different populations, including Indigenous and disadvantaged populations. The integration of digital health into public health practice will also be covered.</p>
<p>PUBH6002 Global and Environmental Health Issues - Specialisation</p> <p>Continue to build industry-relevant skills by examining the impact environmental factors have on the health and safety of local and global communities. Topics include the elements that comprise an environment; the causal links between chemical, physical and biological hazards and their impact on health; and the factors that influence environmentally compromised health outcomes. You will explore current solutions and develop new ways to address environmental threats, such as waste management, water pollution, air pollution and global warming. The influence of globalisation and foreign relations on the social, economic and political determinants of health will also be discussed. Lastly, there will be a focus on environmental disaster prevention, management and recovery, and the health impacts of climate change that you, as public health practitioners of the future, will have to take into consideration</p>
<p>PUBH6003 Health Systems and Economics - Specialisation</p> <p>Explore fundamental topics relating to health systems and health economics as you delve further into the public health industry. Learn about various theoretical and conceptual frameworks of health systems, as well as financial and resourcing requirements – both of which are vital for the justification of planning and delivery of effective public health programs. You will be introduced to different strategies to facilitate successful</p>

navigation within health care systems in Australia and other countries around the world. Important issues, including the development of policies, the role of the government, public health funding and expenditure, and public health programs and services, will be closely examined to provide you with an overall picture of how health systems are organised on a local, national and global scale.

PUBH6005 Epidemiology - Specialisation

Gain significant insight into the public health industry by understanding the role of epidemiology in prevention and screening, and disease surveillance response. The key concepts of incidence, prevalence and causation in relation to this will be explored. You will learn how to interpret key sources of data and use basic epidemiological measures to draw appropriate inferences. Develop skills to help you identify the strengths, limitations and appropriate uses of various research designs and methodologies in health research. Then extend these skills by critiquing different study designs with respect to research question/hypothesis. Finally, bring together the knowledge and skills you have acquired by elaborating on the role and potential application of epidemiology in public health research, policy and advocacy.

PUBH6206 Health Promotion and Community Health - Specialisation

Building upon your knowledge of public health principles, the next focus will be on health promotion principles and the theories and concepts of community health. You will now learn how to apply health promotion principles, theoretical frameworks and strategies into health promotion intervention for diverse communities. A practical assessment of the health status of various communities will illustrate the value of health promotion interventions that integrates community capacity building and community empowerment. The concept of health emergency preparedness and response will also be explored in relation to health emergency planning in crisis situations. To conclude your journey into the public health industry, you will have opportunities to connect with the industry via workshops, case studies and detailed lectures.

DHI401 Digital Health and Informatics - Specialisation

Digital health (or e-health) competency is an essential part of employability in the health and well-being sector in the current world, and one that is mandatory for Australian health professionals.

Develop your knowledge in this area by exploring the current and emerging information communication technologies (ICTs) in use within the Australian health sector, including national e-health records, tele-health, tele-medicine, m-health, mobile apps, wearable technologies, internet of things (IoT), AI and others. The strategic use of technologies and methods to protect the privacy and security of citizens (for example, permission blockchain), along with respective legal frameworks (policies and law), will also be examined.

Learn how to identify basic applications of “health informatics” in the public health context, focusing on health surveillance methods in prevalence (for example, disease surveillance, mapping, contact tracing). The relevance of specific data sets and how these are synthesised using ICT tools and techniques will also be considered. Current methods will be evaluated, with an applied focus on how social media and technology tools (for example, GIS) are being used in public health surveillance.

Lastly, you will consider how digital technology applies to your chosen profession (doctor, nurse, paramedic, allied health). You will also reflect on how technology augments public and population health skills and how health care ethics need to be coordinated across different health care professions.

Locations

The Graduate Certificate of Public Health can be studied fully online or at the below Torrens University Campuses:

- South Australia (Adelaide)
- Queensland (Brisbane)
- Victoria (Melbourne)

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Information provided in this document is current at the time of publishing (March 2021)

- New South Wales (Sydney)

Campus Facilities and Services

All campuses are designed to provide students with professional spaces in which to learn and work. They have been planned with student study needs in mind with well-equipped accessible learning spaces as well as student breakout areas for group work and spending time with friends.

- ✓ The Customer Service Hub – our friendly and experienced staff can give help and advice about courses, your enrolment and campus life, including all services and activities on campus
- ✓ Counsellors are available for students to consult with on a range of personal issues
- ✓ Student wireless access throughout the Campus
- ✓ Student break-out and relaxed study spaces for group work
- ✓ Student lounge areas – most with microwaves, fridge and kitchenette facilities
- ✓ The Learning Hub, home to the Learning Support Team, encompasses Learning Skills Advisors, Learning Technology Advisors, and Library & Learning Skills Officers. It provides an integrated, holistic support program for students throughout the study lifecycle within a library/collaborative study environment.
- ✓ Support and workshops with highly qualified staff in the areas of Academic skills, Library skills, and technology skills, both on campus and online
- ✓ Physical and digital resources relevant to studies, such as books, journals, multimedia, databases
- ✓ Self-check kiosks for library loans and print and copy facilities

A positive student experience

Torrens University Australia values the importance of a positive student experience, and therefore has robust processes to resolve student complaints. The Student Complaints Policy, and associated procedures, can be accessed from the [website \(https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms\)](https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms).

Paying for your qualification

We offer two payment options for this course:

- **Upfront payment**

If you want to complete your qualification debt-free you can choose to pay as you go. This means tuition fees will be invoiced each semester and payment is required on or before the due date using EFTPOS, credit card or direct transfer.

- **FEE-HELP**

FEE-HELP is Australian Government's loan scheme for higher education degree courses. It can assist you in paying for all, or part of, your course fees. Repayments commence via the tax system once your income rises above a minimum threshold (\$45, 881 in 2019-20). Just like with any other debt, a FEE-HELP debt is a real debt that impacts your credit rating.

Further information about FEE-HELP, including eligibility, is available at:

- [FEE-HELP website:](https://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/helppayingmyfees/fee-help/pages/fee-help-)
<https://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/helppayingmyfees/fee-help/pages/fee-help->
- [FEE-HELP booklets:](#)

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<http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/helpfulresources/pages/publications>

Austudy and Abstudy

Students enrolled in this course may be eligible for government assistance, such as [Austudy](#) or [Abstudy](#).