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| Module code  | HSPP | NQF level      | 4       |
| Credit value | 15   | Study duration | 9 weeks |

# Health, Society and Public Policy

## Module description

This module introduces students to the interactions between, social aspects, policy and health. It starts by exploring the factors that determine individual, group and population-level health outcomes and how these can lead to health inequalities. The module will then move onto consider inequalities in access to healthcare within and between countries. The second half of the module introduces healthcare policy, considering the process of policy development, the importance of policy to healthcare and the broader international context of policy related to health.

## This module aims to:

- Introduce students to the social and political influences on health and healthcare
- Introduce students to the process of policy development and the key drivers for health policy
- Develop analytical skills providing students with the relevant skills for understanding the challenges of policy development and its implementation regarding healthcare

## Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- appreciate the interrelatedness of the social determinants of health
- demonstrate an understanding of trends and extent of inequalities in health and access to healthcare
- show an appreciation of the impact of policy on the social determinants of health
- discuss the strengths and weaknesses/challenge associated with healthcare policy development or implementation
- demonstrate an ability to apply policy analysis to a topic, from the viewpoint of a stakeholder

## Syllabus

- Social determinants of health
- The impact of social factors and social change across the life course
- Inequalities in healthcare access and equity in health
- Dimensions of health and social care systems- political, economic, legal, public-health, and organisational
- An introduction to healthcare policy- why are policies important?
- Process of policy development
- Key drivers of health policy
- The international context of health policy and governance
- Challenges of policy development and implementation

## Learning and teaching methods

The learning and teaching methods for the module follow the online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole. The module will be delivered by reading materials available on the learning platform supported by pre-recorded lecturecasts, synchronous question and answer (Q&A) sessions, directed independent study, formative and summative activities and assessments. Across the programme students will undertake a variety of assessment which are aimed to evidence their learning against the learning outcomes and develop a broad range of skills. Students will be encouraged to identify and share relevant resources and are expected to extend and enhance the knowledge and understanding they acquire by regularly consulting on-line library materials relating to the course. Tutor support will be available to students via online office hours, prearranged telephone and/or Skype calls and email communication.

| Description of unit of assessment | Length/Duration | Submission date | Weighting |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Assessment 1 - e.g. essay         | 2,500 words     | Unit 5          | 60%       |
| Assessment 2 - e.g. group debate  | 3 weeks         | Unit 9          | 40%       |