



**HARVARD**  
**T.H. CHAN**  
**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Department of Global Health  
and Population

**GUIDE TO THE  
DEGREE PROGRAMS**

**FOR STUDENTS ENTERING  
SEPTEMBER 2017**

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***THE DEPARTMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THESE REQUIREMENTS***

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The [Department of Global Health and Population](#) seeks to improve global health through education, research, and service from a population-based perspective.

### I. ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

The Department of Global Health and Population (GHP) was established in 1962 and is one of nine academic departments at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. We are proud to be the first department of population sciences in any school of public health with a focus on global health from the very beginning. Over the past half-century, faculty members, students, and researchers in the department have helped shape the field, and launched some of the major ideas in global public health and population sciences.

GHP currently offers the following degree programs:

- Master of Science (2 Year)
- Master of Public Health – Global Health (45 credit and 65 credit programs)
- PhD in Population Health Sciences – Global Health, offered under the aegis of the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS).

Our faculty have extensive experience and special competence in social and economic development, health policy, and demography. Substantive areas of focus include design and financing of health care systems; women's and children's health; global nutritional epidemiology and practice; prevention and control of infectious and chronic diseases; environmental change and health; program evaluation; health and human rights; and humanitarian crisis and disaster response.

Our students come to the department with various backgrounds and with a wide range of career goals. All have an interest in the health of disadvantaged populations worldwide. More detailed information is available on the department website: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ghp/>.

In addition to the customary research and educational activities, the department contributes to several special programs in global health, which are outlined below.

#### *Affiliated Centers*

**François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University** is an interdisciplinary center that conducts rigorous investigation of the most serious threats to health and wellbeing globally. Founded in 1992 through a gift from the Association François-Xavier Bagnoud, the Harvard FXB Center aims to build a conceptual and empirical basis for realizing rights inherent in protection of children and empowerment of adolescents and youth trapped throughout the world in grave poverty and deprivation, harsh oppression, major disaster, and war. Through the lens of health and human rights, the Center's faculty conduct research; teach and supervise students and engage faculty throughout the University; periodically convene leading academics, policy makers, and practitioners to address pressing research or policy issues; and work generally to develop and promote evidence-based policy that has positive impact on the rights and wellbeing of children, adolescents, and their families globally. More information is

available at <https://fxb.harvard.edu/>.

**The Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies (HCPDS)** was founded in 1964 by the Harvard School of Public Health (now the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health) to spearhead interdisciplinary research focused primarily on population change, socioeconomic development, and public health. The Center supports an analytic and research platform that enables practitioners to work and report on large scale, population-based studies with rich depth and demographic data. It connects numerous research centers across campus and around the world, thus creating a "community" that fosters collaboration and integration of intellectual capital. It trains students at all levels to become leaders in population health by close mentorship and by way of the latest technologies in the selection, design, development, management, and dissemination of data. Finally, the Center organizes and supports numerous conferences, symposia, and seminars as a way to disseminate research and partner with other educational institutions and community organizations. More information is available at <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/population-development/>.

**Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI)** is an interdisciplinary university-wide center dedicated to promoting evidence-based approaches to humanitarian assistance. HHI's mission is to advance the science and practice of humanitarian response worldwide through research and education. HHI has a broad network of faculty collaborators, affiliated experts, fellows and students with an interest in research, policy analysis, education and training in the humanitarian arena. In 2012, HHI launched the [Humanitarian Academy at Harvard](#) as one of the first systematic educational centers for students and humanitarian professionals offered by a major university. More information on HHI and the Academy can be found at <http://hhi.harvard.edu/>.

### *Global Health Partnerships*

**Africa Health Partnership (AHP)** has been established at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health to contribute to improving health through collaborative research, capacity building, knowledge sharing and translation. AHP strengthens Harvard's numerous and diverse engagements across sub-Saharan Africa in a wide range of important scientific and policy areas. As a collaborative, coordinating umbrella, AHP facilitates and strengthens engagements between African partners and Harvard Chan faculty, researchers and students working in the region. More information is available: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/africa-health-partnership/>.

The primary objectives of the **China Health Partnership** are to 1) Translate scientific knowledge to effective policy formulation and implementation that address China's current and emerging health challenges in ways that also provide global lessons; 2) Provide a platform for students and faculty (especially junior faculty) from The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and wider Harvard University community to conduct health research in China; 3) Nurture a new generation of Chinese researchers to conduct high quality and innovative research to address China's health challenges and 4) Facilitate collaborative research between various departments/centres of Harvard Chan and Chinese researchers where academic leads exist on both sides. It is built upon a collaborative network of universities and government think tanks in China for research and education. More information is available: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/china-health-partnership/>.

**India Health Partnership (IHP)** is a groundbreaking initiative building on 60 years of collaboration with institutional partners in India, and leverages our shared legacy of research, policy, and advocacy to improve the health of the people of India. The Partnership brings together all Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health initiatives focused on India within an innovative and enduring enterprise that facilitates collaborations between Harvard and Indian institutions, faculty, and students, and engages others across Harvard and India in efforts to advance public health. The Partnership is at the vanguard of models for global partnerships to improve the public health of communities around the world. More information is available: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ihp/>.

## Research Programs

**International Health Systems Program (IHSP)** is a multidisciplinary team of faculty, scholars, and experts working to improve health care systems in developing countries and to improve health and living standards for the poor and disadvantaged. IHSP brings together economics, clinical and public health science, politics, ethics and management to increase knowledge of how health systems work; through research; share this knowledge through teaching, training, technical dissemination and publications; and apply this knowledge by providing technical assistance improving the health status of those most in need. More information is available: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/international-health-systems-program/>.

**Lancet Global Health Commission on High Quality Health Systems** in the SDG Era (HQSS Commission) is a group of 30 academics, policymakers, and health system stakeholders from 18 countries. The HQSS Commission will review current knowledge, produce new empirical work, and offer policy recommendations in a report to be published in late 2018 and associated publications. The focus of the HQSS Commission is health system quality in low and middle income countries. The work is centered on people: improving their quality of care and the value they derive from the health system. More information is available: <https://www.hqsscommission.org/>.

**Prevention Policy Modeling Lab** models the health impact, costs and cost-effectiveness of infectious disease treatment and prevention programs in the United States. We work closely with collaborators in the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to inform U.S. health policy and guide public health decision-making at national, state and local levels. The models we build incorporate evidence-based prevention strategies, emphasize cross-cutting initiatives and produce results that can be operationalized within healthcare and other sectors. More information is available: <https://prevention-policy-modeling-lab.sph.harvard.edu/>.

**The Program on the Global Demography of Aging at Harvard University (PGDA)** is funded by the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health to carry out research on themes related to global aging and health, with an emphasis on issues in the developing world. The program has five themes: measurement of the global pattern of disease, mortality, and morbidity in aging populations; socio-economic determinants of population health and aging; impact of health care on outcomes for the elderly; migration and aging; and aging and HIV/AIDS. The PGDA supports seminars and workshops and has a working paper series. It also provides resources to assist research in aging by funding pilot projects and post-doctoral fellowships. More information is available: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/pgda/>.

**The Program on Human Rights in Development (PHRD)** is concerned with the realization of human rights in the context of poverty reduction and development strategies, with projects spanning various countries around the world. Through teaching, research and publications, PHRD seeks to deepen understanding of the economic, legal, political, and ethical issues involved in integrating human rights into policies and programs of development. More information is available: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/phrd/>.

The International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) is implementing an **intervention program on the post-partum intrauterine contraceptive device (PPIUD)** services through its nationally-affiliated Associations of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians in six countries—Sri Lanka, Kenya, India, Tanzania, Nepal and Bangladesh. The Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health is studying the impact and performance of the FIGO PPIUD intervention in three of the six countries, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Tanzania. The study will encompass both the impact of the intervention on the uptake and subsequent continued use of PPIUD, the extent to which the intervention leads to the institutionalization of postpartum IUD services in the hospitals, and to what extent the service diffuses to other hospitals or providers. More information is available: <https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/ppiud>.

**The Takemi Program in International Health** offers midcareer fellowships for professionals and scholars from around the world for research and advanced interdisciplinary training on critical issues of global health, especially those related to Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). Takemi Fellows are typically mid- to senior-level and have significant postdoctoral work experience. They spend the year working on their own research topic. The program addresses problems of mobilizing, allocating, and managing scarce resources to improve health, and of designing strategies for disease control and health policy development. The program has limited internal funding to provide partial support for a few Takemi Fellows and so most applicants should identify their own source of support when applying for the fellowship. More information is available: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/takemi/>.

**Women and Health Initiative (W&HI)** recognizes that, due to persistent social and gender inequality around the world, girls and women experience increased risk of ill-health and injustice within the health sector, both as consumers and providers of health care. The W&HI, founded in 2010, seeks to advance a unique agenda, examining women's health throughout the life course and as drivers of change in the health system. By drawing on resources and expertise from across the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the broader Harvard community, the W&HI fosters interdisciplinary perspectives and innovative solutions to the challenges women face in the public health arena. A central tenet of the Women and Health approach is that female-driven solutions rooted in gender equality and women's empowerment will strengthen health systems to better address women's needs. Through this effort, the W&HI aims to support women's efforts to fulfill their potential as providers, decision-makers and leaders in health systems and, consequently, committing and preparing them to advance a comprehensive women's health agenda. More information is available: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/women-and-health-initiative/>.

### *Concentrations*

**Humanitarian Studies, Ethics and Human Rights (HuSEHR)** offers Harvard Chan graduate students an organized and intensive program of study that focuses on the normative underpinnings and practice of humanitarian response. The curriculum covers a broad range of areas including civilian protection, international humanitarian law, human rights, disaster response, coordinated aid, crisis dynamics, sector-based assistance, health and human security of internally displaced people, geopolitical context, monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning, situation analysis, ethics and standards. Upon successful completion of the concentration, students will be prepared to assume research, leadership and managerial roles within the humanitarian and human rights global community. HuSEHR is offered through the [Humanitarian Academy at Harvard](#), HHI's educational arm. Interested students can apply through <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/husehr> and questions can be directed to [plasmati@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:plasmati@hsph.harvard.edu).

The Center of Excellence in **Maternal and Child Health/Children, Youth and Families** works in conjunction with five academic departments, including the departments of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Nutrition, Epidemiology, Global Health and Population, and Health Policy and Management as well as students in the MPH program. Coursework is developed within the concentration to afford students exposure both to expertise in MCH/CYF and to more specialized knowledge relating to the areas of interest within their chosen department/program. U.S. citizens and green card holders are eligible for federally funded tuition support. Those interested in obtaining this funding will be asked to submit a separate application to the faculty in MCH/CYF. More information is available: <http://hsph.harvard.edu/mch-cyf-concentration/>. For more specific information, contact Trish Lavoie ([tlavoie@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:tlavoie@hsph.harvard.edu)) or Caroline Huntington ([chunting@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:chunting@hsph.harvard.edu)).

**Nutrition and Global Health** builds upon a strong base of ongoing research, teaching, collaborative work, and training in nutrition and global health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The concentration has four participating departments—Nutrition, Global Health and Population, Epidemiology,

and Social and Behavioral Sciences—together with the involvement of the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. An interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research is taken to explore the effects of nutrition on human and economic development; nutrition in humanitarian crisis situations; and the dynamic interplay between epidemiologic, nutritional, and demographic transitions around the globe. The concentration is dedicated to research that stresses integrative problem solving and evaluation approaches to global health challenges, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries. For more information about the concentration please visit:

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/nutrition-and-global-health/concentration/>.

**Women, Gender, and Health (WGH)** is geared toward students who desire careers in research, teaching, and programs related to women, gender, and health. Addressing issues of women, gender, and health (WGH) requires the study of the health of women and girls – and men and boys – throughout the life course; gender, gender equality, and biology must be understood as important and interacting determinants of well-being and disease. Areas of study also include gender and gender inequality in relation to individuals' treatment by and participation in health and medical care systems; the physical, economic, and social conditions in which individuals live; and their ability to promote the health of their families, their communities, and themselves. Inherent in these studies is the protection of human rights as fundamental to health and the recognition of diversity and inequality among women – and men – in relation to race/ethnicity, nationality, class, sexuality, and age. As the concentration does not offer a degree, prospective students must apply to a degree program in one of the participating departments. Students must fulfill the requirements of the home department, which issues the degree, and the requirements of the concentration, which include core courses in women, gender, and health; gender analysis; and women's health. More information is available: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/women-gender-and-health/>.

For information on other interdisciplinary concentration offerings at the School, visit:

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/admissions/degree-programs/interdisciplinary-concentrations/>.

# MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAM

## Mission Statement

*The mission of this degree program is to prepare the next generation of researchers for global health and population around the world in order to advance global health research and reduce the burden of disease, especially in the world's most vulnerable populations.*

## Goals and Objectives

SM graduates contribute to the improvement of global health and the resolution of population problems. Graduates have the analytical and technical skills to address health and population problems from a range of disciplinary perspectives. They build a set of advanced competencies covering conceptual approaches, theory and applications, problem solving and analysis, as well as a wide range of quantitative and qualitative methods. Graduates pursue careers in policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation of public health programs, and academic and programmatic research. They will engage with global health research at national and international government agencies, NGOs, the private sector and academic institutions.

The overall objectives of the two-year Master of Science degree program are:

- I. to provide training in public health sciences to individuals whose prior training and experience prepares them to play a leadership role in generating new knowledge through public health research;
- II. to award the SM degree to individuals who have acquired a particular depth of knowledge in public health sciences and who have demonstrated the competencies set out below;
- III. to lead students to achieve these capacities in a setting that demands that they query, learn, interpret, and communicate in active interchange with their peers, with faculty, and with other researchers outside the school.

## Competencies

Graduates acquire a solid and up-to-date understanding of the major issues in population and global health; the research tools to examine evidence related to program effectiveness, priority setting, and decision making; and insights into the practical aspects of undertaking research and evaluating population health interventions around the world, including a perspective on the economic, social, political, cultural, and ethical considerations that bear on these issues. Upon satisfactory completion of the SM degree, graduates will be able to:

- Identify and apply appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods to the analysis of international, national, regional, or local contemporary problems of public health;
- Synthesize and integrate specialized knowledge and research skills in one or more areas of global health and population (e.g. demography, economics, epidemiology, gender analysis,



- human rights, law, politics, policy, and statistics), based on advanced course work and independent research study;
- Demonstrate competence in research ethics.

## Educational Approach

The distinctiveness of the SM degree in global health and population is the strong focus on research engagement with contemporary public health issues achieved through coursework and connections with the faculty, all of whom actively engage in global health and population research. This training combines an academic education in key disciplinary areas with problem solving, research experience and a final thesis. Throughout the program, students are encouraged to engage with faculty on their research projects, to organize and participate in seminars that promote discussion with members of the Harvard T.H. Chan School community, and to engage in research opportunities during Winter Session, which may include either independent studies or coursework. Students are also required to conduct a summer research internship which could be used to complete the thesis.

The two-year, 80-credit degree program comprises a core curriculum of courses required by the School and the Department together with electives. The coursework emphasizes the acquisition of research skills and concepts necessary to address a range of global population health issues. Of the necessary 80 credits, the required core courses make up roughly half, allowing considerable flexibility for students to tailor their own degree programs. **All departmental requirements, including the 5-credit year-long thesis, must be completed for an ordinal (letter) grade.** The remainder of credits may be taken pass/fail and ordinal or, a combination of both.

Students are provided with a detailed course schedule for the two years (see page 9). In the first year of study, students focus on the core courses required by the School and the Department. Foundations of Global Health and Population, GHP 272, offered in the first semester, provides a common platform for the more advanced work that follows. There are approximately 25 required credits in the first year of study, including school-wide requirements; courses in demography, program evaluation, research ethics; and applied courses in politics and economics. In the summer after the first two semesters of instruction, students develop their ability to apply their skills and knowledge to contemporary problems in global health by undertaking a required internship. Students are encouraged to use this research project and the opportunities it provides to inform their thesis. During Winter Session (January each year), many students join one of the faculty-directed field trip courses, which in recent years have included research work in Brazil, Chile, China, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Mexico, and Tanzania.

The second year involves a combination of coursework and independent research study. Individual contracts for independent study with faculty members in the School or the University are encouraged in this second year, in order to develop additional research skills. Some students also choose to take courses at other Harvard Schools such as the Harvard Kennedy School or the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

## Admission Criteria

On entry, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline. Many entering students already hold advanced degrees in medicine or a social science discipline. The admissions committee looks for candidates with:

- GRE or MCAT scores **at least** in the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- TOEFL test with a minimum IBT score of 100 with a minimum of 25 in the Writing Section, and no less than 23 in the remaining 3 sections.
- College Transcript must show **both a Statistics AND a Calculus** course with a **minimum grade of B+**. This does not include courses on Statistical software (e.g. SAS, SPSS, or Stata).
- Relevant global health or public health research experience is required. The review committee looks for applicants with international work experience for a minimum of 6 months or more full-time equivalent (FTE) over recent years; health work with a migrant population at the domestic level for a minimum of 6 months or more FTE over recent years; substantive policy or advocacy work on a global health issue (e.g. HIV) at the domestic or international level for a minimum of 6 months or more FTE.

## Student Status

- The GHP SM2 Program is offered for **full-time** student status only. Part-time student status is not permitted.
- The GHP SM2 Program **does not** grant admission deferrals. Any individual who is admitted to the program and is unable to matriculate will need to reapply.
- Students **may not** request a leave of absence for the purpose of pursuing another degree at Harvard or another university.

## Additional Information

Procedures, application deadlines, and test requirements for admission to this program, as well as information on financial aid may be obtained from the Harvard Chan School **Admissions Office** website: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/admissions/>.

### Admissions Office

158 Longwood Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115-5810

Phone: 617-432-1031

Fax: 617-432-7080

[admissions@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:admissions@hsph.harvard.edu)

## Master of Science Program (80 credits) in Global Health and Population Degree Requirements for Students Entering Fall 2017

DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS	CREDITS	YEAR WHEN COURSE SHOULD BE TAKEN
GHP 272 Fall: Foundations of Global Health and Population	5.0	1
GHP 220 Fall II: Introduction to Demographic Methods	2.5	1
GHP 300 Fall / Spring: Summer Research Internship Seminar	1.25	1
GHP 230 Fall I: Intro to Econ with Applications to Health and Development	2.5	1 OR 2
HPM 548 Fall I or Spring I: Responsible Conduct of Research	1.25	1
GHP 265 Spring II: Ethics in Global Health Research	2.5	1
GHP 269 Spring II: Political Economy of Global Health	2.5	1 OR 2
Intermediate-level Biostatistics (see below for choices)	10.0	1 AND/OR 2
GHP 299 Fall / Spring: Master's Thesis (Culminating Experience)	5.0	2
GHP XXX Spring I: Risk Factors and Population Health	2.5	2
ID 212 Spring II: Large Scale Effectiveness Evaluations	2.5	2

INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL BIOSTATISTICS CHOICES (SELECT 10.0 CREDITS)	CREDITS	YEAR 1, 2 OR COMBINATION
BST 210 Fall: Analysis of Rates and Proportions	5.0	
BST 223 Spring: Applied Survival Analysis	5.0	
BST 226 Spring: Applied Longitudinal Analysis	5.0	
GHP 525 Fall: Econometrics of Health Policy	5.0	
SBS 263 Spring: Multilevel Statistical Methods	5.0	
EDU S-052 Spring: Applied Data Analysis	5.0	
EDU S-030 Spring: Intermediate Statistics: Applied Regression & Data Analysis	5.0	

CORE REQUIREMENTS	CREDITS	YEAR WHEN COURSE SHOULD BE TAKEN
BST 201 Fall: Introduction to Statistical Methods	5.0	1
EPI 201 Fall I: Introduction to Epidemiology	2.5	1
EPI 202 Fall II: Elements of Epidemiologic Research	2.5	1

**Total required Departmental and Core Credits for Year 1 and Year 2: 46.25 or 47.5.  
Total credits needed for degree is 80 credits of which 60 must be letter grade.**

NOTE: All departmental and core credits must be taken for a letter grade with the exception of GHP 300 *Summer Research Internship Seminar* and HPM 548 *Responsible Conduct of Research* which, if taken for credit, is offered only Pass/Fail. Audited courses do not count toward total credits.

**No course substitutions permitted.**

## Summer Research Internship

The summer research internship is an opportunity for students to engage in a variety of public health research programs as a team member under the supervision of both their faculty advisor and a field preceptor. The research internship provides a public health setting in which students may integrate and apply the skills and knowledge acquired through their coursework.

The Summer Research Internship Seminar is designed to assist first-year students in preparing for their research internships. The intent of the seminar is to formalize the task of planning a small project related to global health research, and expose students to the skills needed to operationalize a project and successfully undertake fieldwork. During the internship seminar, students will develop a proposal for their summer internship (under the supervision of a faculty advisor), to be submitted near the end of the spring semester.

First-year students **must** register for an independent study under Professor Nicholas Menzies for both fall (GHP 300 134) and spring (GHP 300 159) semesters. The fall section should equate to .25 credits and the spring section should equate to 1.0 credits for a total of 1.25 for the academic year.

## Guidelines for Summer Research Internship

During the summer between the first and second years, students are required to undertake a research internship for hands-on experience and to integrate the research skills that they have learned from their coursework. Many students use the summer research experience to develop their thesis.

## Objectives

The summer research internship is designed to enable students to:

- integrate and apply the research skills and knowledge acquired through coursework to a public health issue in the field;
- develop the interpersonal skills necessary to be an effective team member within a research group;
- generate data that can be used to develop the Master's thesis;
- further develop oral and written communication skills; and
- work on a public health issue within a research environment.

## Placements

Once students have identified a potential research internship opportunity, they must submit the Internship Proposal (as developed during the *Summer Research Internship Seminar*) to the GHP Education Office. The proposal must be submitted by **April 4, 2018** and should include information that confirms the opportunity represents an acceptable research internship:

- Description of the research activity and how it may generate new knowledge for the field of global health
- Location
- Length (at least 6 weeks @ 30 hours per week required)

- Letter/Email from the individual who will supervise/work with you during this period
- Letter/Email from faculty advisor indicating their approval of this activity (he/she may simply co-sign the letter or email from the field supervisor)
- Budget – this should include all funding sources (confirmed sources and any funding opportunities to which you are applying)

## Funding

Once a student has submitted the required materials for an acceptable internship as outlined above, they will be eligible for consideration of the basic level of funding provided by the Department and managed through the Education Office. These funds are meant to help fill in budget gaps for students. These awards will vary in amount with the maximum level of funding being \$1,000. All sources of existing or expected funding must be included in the student's original budget.

The following would **not** be considered eligible for these funds:

- Students with fully funded internships covering travel, housing, and stipend
- Students remaining in Boston and receiving a stipend or salary

Additionally, a set amount of second tier funding known as a GHP Experiential Learning Fellowship may be awarded for proposals identified by the SM2 Committee as exhibiting high scientific merit. All proposals will be reviewed as candidates for the Experiential Fellowships. Recipients of this fellowship will be expected to participate in a poster session at the Annual State of Global Health Symposium in the spring.

## Reporting

All SM2 students are required to write a 3-5 page report of their summer activity. This report must be submitted electronically via email to the Education Office (Allison Gallant and Barbara Heil). This report is due **September 19, 2018**.

The following components should be included:

- Description of your summer research internship – activities, responsibilities, and outcomes.
- The name, title and contact information of your supervisor as well as a complete address of the organization/group with whom you are working.
- Indicate whether or not you plan to incorporate your research experience into your Master's Thesis. Explain how you plan to incorporate it, or why you are not doing so.
- Indicate whether or not you would recommend this internship to future students.

As stated above, fellowship recipients will be expected to also share their experience with the broader university community as part of the poster show that is presented with the Annual State of Global Health Symposium each spring. Specific details and poster instructions are communicated by the event organizers.

At the conclusion of the summer research internship, preceptors will be contacted by the Education Office to provide a written assessment on the student. At a minimum, the assessment will address the following points and provide a brief commentary on each:

- Was the student prepared to fulfill the tasks required? If not, what research skills were missing?
- Was the student reliable and committed?
- Did the student contribute as a team member and work well in a group setting?
- Were the expected tasks completed?
- Would you consider hiring this student in the future?
- In your opinion, does this student show overall promise as a public health researcher?

Preceptors will be asked to email their assessments to the Education Office, (Allison Gallant or Barbara Heil). These will be reviewed by both the student's academic advisor and the SM Committee. The advisor will also discuss the assessment with the student.

All students are required to:

- Consult with their faculty advisor and check the Office of Human Research Administration (OHRA) Guidelines <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ohra/> to assess if OHRA approval for the field experience activity is required.
- Register their travel with the Harvard Travel Registry: <http://www.traveltools.harvard.edu>.

### **Sample of recent internships/summer work**

- Evaluation of community-based Surveillance Program for Avian influenza in Vietnam
- Examine the effect of neonatal vitamin A supplementation on child mortality in multi-site clinical trials in Tanzania
- Evaluation of how perceptions of mental illness impact one's treatment in Ethiopia
- Assessment of the determinants of breastfeeding in a western Amazonian community, Brazil
- Assessment of the determinants of child health and immunization status in an Indian Urban Slum in Mumbai, India
- Measuring health-related quality of life (QoL) of Type II Diabetes Mellitus
- Evaluating Tuberculosis DOTS at the BHU Level in the District of Lahore, Pakistan
- Addressing the persistent high neonatal mortality in Nepal

### **Winter Session**

The Department strongly encourages all students to participate in Winter Session activities, whether for-credit or non-credit, on-site or off-site, in accordance with their individual needs and interests. Activities may include field-based courses, independent studies, and providing research support to faculty projects, among others.

### **Course Waivers**

Students seeking to waive a school-wide core course should follow the procedure as outlined in the [Harvard Chan Student Handbook](#). For Departmental requirements, waivers will be considered only if a student can demonstrate that the subject matter has been covered in a previous graduate level course. To waive an individual required course or one of a choice of courses fulfilling a requirement, please proceed as follows:

- 1) Secure a copy of the syllabus of the course you took that you believe closely matches the course you want to waive.

- 2) Secure an unofficial copy of your transcript indicating the course you took and the grade you received.
- 3) Send the documents to Barbara Heil ([bheil@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:bheil@hsph.harvard.edu)) with an email identifying which course you would like to be evaluated for in order to waive.

Once your documents have been received, they will be forwarded to the faculty who teach the course so they can evaluate your request. Once they make a decision, you will be informed. **No course substitutions are allowed.**

## **Master's Thesis**

The second year involves a mix of coursework and the Master's Thesis. The thesis is intended to allow the student to pursue a single topic in depth and demonstrate analytical and substantive research expertise in an area of global health and population.

A Master's Thesis is required of all students enrolled in our two-year SM program. Ideally, work on the thesis begins during the summer internship, while the final written version is produced during the student's second year in the program. The thesis serves several purposes:

- It provides an opportunity for the student to work on a new problem or issue of particular interest
- It allows the student to apply many of the research skills acquired in the different courses taken for the degree
- The thesis itself is proof of the student's mastery of certain skills that are important whether the student begins a research-based career or continues to a doctorate research degree
- It is a useful document that can be shown to employers and supervisors indicating a student's level of achievement in particular areas of research

The research skills and understanding that we expect to see developed through the research thesis include:

- The capacity to conceptualize a problem and to identify the key research question(s) that need to be addressed
- The ability to reduce broad questions and issues to a specific research question that can be answered with the resources available to the student
- The capacity to apply the technical skills acquired in the courses taken during the two-year period of training
- The capacity to concisely summarize new conclusions based on existing evidence and on new findings obtained in the thesis
- The ability to frame the thesis in a broader context and to summarize how the findings contribute to the development of new knowledge and understanding in the domains of Global Health and Population
- The ability to write a scientific report of publishable quality

**Students are required to register for the thesis (GHP 299) in the fall semester and spring semester of their second year.** A meeting to discuss the detailed guidelines for the thesis [**Appendix 2**] will be scheduled during the spring semester of year I.

### **Sample of Recent Theses Titles**

---

The Economics of an HIV Vaccine

---

Health Care Worker Motivations and Perception Related to a Three-Year Results-Based Financing Program in Post-Conflict Uganda

---

Implications of Improved Water and Sanitation for Child Health in the Republic of Sudan: A Longitudinal Analysis

---

Empirical Paucity, Substandard Education and Female Genital Cutting: The Pursuit of Cultural Competency in Health Care Provision

---

An Analysis of Changes in Infant Feeding Practices After the Passage of Indonesia's 2009 Health Law

---

The Impact of Multiple Risk Factor Exposures on Early Childhood Development among 2-year-old Children in Rwanda

---

Informing Interventions to Prevent Violence: an Analysis of Aggression-related Trauma in the Capital of Honduras

---

Guidance for Chlorine Use for Water Treatment in Emergencies

---

Financial Incentives and Medical Professionalism in China and the United States in an Era of Health System Reform

---

Pay for Performance? A Cross-Sectional Analysis of Diabetic Control and Financial Incentives for Accountable Care Organizations in the United States

---

Longitudinal and Comparative Efficiency of the public Health System in Qatar

---

Non-communicable Disease in Qatar: An Analysis of Risk Factors, Service Utilization, and out-of-pocket Expenditures

---

Ethiopia's Dual Health Equity and Financial Sustainability Goals: A Look at Regional Government and External Aid Financing Mix and Equity in Maternal Health Service Utilization in Ethiopia

---

Predictors of exclusive breastfeeding: Evidence from a cohort of HIV-positive and HIV-negative mothers in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

---

Comparative Analysis of Post-Partum Contraceptive use among Adolescent and Adult Mothers in New Mexico: Reproductive Health in a US-Mexico Border State

---

Ethiopia's Health Extension Program: A Community Health Worker Program amidst a Changing Population

---

The Independent Elderly: Creating a Politically Feasible Health Policy to Enable Older Vermonters to Continue Living Independently

---

### **Academic Advisor**

All students are assigned an Academic Advisor upon enrollment. The Advisor is responsible for providing guidance and supervision throughout the 2-year program, including approval of the course selection by the student. Assignment of Advisors may be shifted by mutual consent of the student and the assigned Advisor. While solid efforts are made to match students with an appropriate advisor, there are occasions when a change is beneficial. Neither the academic advisor nor the advisee should feel uncomfortable about initiating such a change. To change an academic advisor, the student should speak with the potential new academic advisor to see if he/she is willing to accept another advisee. Once that has been established, they should speak with the current advisor and indicate who their new advisor will be. Finally, the student should prepare an email which indicates the change from one advisor to another. This email should be sent to Allison Gallant



([agallant@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:agallant@hsph.harvard.edu)) in the GHP Education Office, and must be copied to both the old and new advisors.

In an effort to strengthen the advising component of the Department's Master of Science degree program, the SM Committee has prepared a document to clarify the roles and responsibilities of both the academic advisor and the advisee [**Appendix I**]. Through this document, the committee has endeavored to present clearly the expectations of each and allow for a better understanding and a more cohesive and productive relationship between both parties.

## **Career Guidance and Internship Opportunities**

Master's degree students find employment in a wide variety of capacities within the broad areas of population and global health research. GHP faculty have strong links with the bilateral and multi-lateral health and development agencies, academic institutions around the world, and with national and international non-governmental and private voluntary organizations. Positions are largely identified through networking, and public health is not an exception to this rule. The search should start as soon as possible after a student arrives at the School, and it needs to begin with clarity about the type of position to be sought. Informational interviews with individuals in the field, including Harvard Chan graduates, will be helpful at this stage. Those interviews can clarify those work characteristics to be sought and avoided, as well as any academic or other requirements.

Advisors should be helpful during this initial process, as students' career goals and academic paths are mapped out. Their relative utility during the more specific searches for research internships and jobs will depend upon a number of factors including their (faculty members) own educational background, experience and interests. Students are encouraged to complement discussions with advisors by holding additional conversations with other GHP and Harvard Chan School faculty, especially those with matching research interests and connections.

Students should also make use of the [Harvard T.H. Chan School Career Advancement Office](#), which is supported by the School especially for this purpose. Staff in this office can help with overall planning of the job or interview search process, CV development, and interview preparation.

Students should be aware, from the outset of graduate study that responsibility for a successful search result rests with them. This is an active, rather than a passive endeavor. The Harvard Chan School and the Department of Global Health and Population cannot and will not provide or guarantee a suitable position upon graduation. School faculty and staff can be extremely helpful, as indicated above but their roles are limited. Successful students will take ownership for their job and internship searches and act upon the guidance provided.

## **Careers and Positions of Recent Graduates**

Recent graduates have chosen a variety of career paths. Some students continue into a doctoral program at Harvard or elsewhere on completion of the master's degree; their eventual aim is usually to work as researchers in varied types of institutions. Others have begun research careers with foundations (The Population Council, Catholic Relief Services, amongst others), whilst others have worked directly for international health and development agencies such as USAID, UN bodies including the World Bank, and companies and non-profit and non-governmental organizations in the US and worldwide such as JSI Inc., BRAC, and SEWA (India). Career advice and opportunities are

offered in a number of ways through job postings, a School-wide annual career fair and networking through the faculty.

Next, is a sample of positions taken by some of our *recent* graduates.

<b>EMPLOYER</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard University	Senior Research Analyst
Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Uganda	Malaria Research Analyst
Duke University (among others)	MD Student
Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard University	Instructional Design Specialist
Johns Hopkins University, Harvard Chan School, (among others)	Research Assistant
John Snow, Inc.	Technical Research Advisor
National Institutes of Health and Boston Medical Center	Research Associate
National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services (Presidential Management Fellowship)	International Public Health Analyst
Nouna Health Research Center, Burkina Faso Ministry of Health/University of Heidelberg	Health Systems Researcher
State of Alaska, Division of Public Health	Research Analyst
Population Sciences International (PSI), Washington D.C.	Research Analyst
The World Bank	Impact Evaluation Specialist
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Health Officer
Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Pennsylvania, UC Berkley and UC San Francisco, Princeton University, (among others)	PhD student

## Student Guidance

The Master's Committee holds a series of meetings with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students aimed at clarifying requirements and at providing guidance in varied activities. The meetings are often scheduled during lunch time, in order to avoid conflict with scheduled classes, and guarantee maximum attendance.

Topics discussed with 1<sup>st</sup> year students include:

- Summer research internship – suggestions on how to search for opportunities (e.g., consultation of past summer internship reports, available through the GHP Education Office), guidance on available funding, clarification on how to take advantage of the research internship for thesis development, and discussion on human subjects (one meeting in the Fall, and one in the Spring).
- Human subjects – depending on demand, a thorough discussion on human subjects with guidelines on how to secure ethical approval prior to embarking on a summer project.

Topics discussed with 2<sup>nd</sup> year students include:

- Summer research internship – feedback on the research conducted during the summer and discussion regarding the possibility of using this experience as a basis for their thesis; students are required to submit their summer research internship reports to the department's Education Office (one meeting early Fall).
- Thesis – discussion regarding the selection of topic, data, advisor, and second reader; advice on how to establish clear agreements with advisors regarding the frequency of meetings to discuss thesis progress; and advice on how to establish clear agreements with second reader

on how much effort he/she is willing to invest in meetings and draft reviews (one meeting on the Fall, and one early Spring).

**Regular email communications are routinely sent to both cohorts of students through the department's Education Office. These include reminders of upcoming deadlines, internship and job opportunities, thesis award information, and responses to any questions concerning procedures or process within the Department.**

## Departmental Master of Science Committee (2017-18)

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## DOCTORAL PROGRAM

This section presents the **Global Health and Population** field of study for the Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Population Health Sciences (PHS), a joint collaboration between the [Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#) and the [Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences \(GSAS\)](#).

This program offers advanced doctoral-level research training that builds on multiple disciplinary perspectives to understanding origins and determinants of health and disease across populations. The degree is intended for those holding a bachelor's or master's degree in physical, natural, or social sciences. A distinguished undergraduate record, as well as excellent performance in any graduate work undertaken, is required for admission to this program.

Students from the two-year SM degree in Global Health and Population are encouraged to apply to the PhD PHS program. Courses taken during the two-year SM degree may count towards the requirements for the doctoral program and by taking appropriate courses students can reduce the time required to complete the doctoral program once they enter.

Specific requirements for each **Area of Specialization** are outlined in this document. Adaptations and alterations of departmental requirements are not encouraged and are possible only with written support of the academic advisor in consultation with the head of the area of specialization, and approval of the Doctoral Committee Chair, Dr. Margaret Kruk.

### General Information

This program is intended for students likely to pursue careers in academic departments related to global health and population studies, or in research-related positions outside of academia. In addition to nurturing the development of the next generation of population health researchers and scientists, the program will provide opportunities for students to build scientific communication, and mentoring and teaching skills, thereby becoming educators in their field.

Within the **Global Health and Population** field of study, students must demonstrate, through coursework and examination, detailed knowledge and understanding of one major field (known as the area of specialization) and two minor fields. A major field consists of 20 or more credits and each minor field consists of at least 10 credits. Only letter grades of B or better may be counted towards these credits. The student must also prepare and defend a doctoral dissertation representing original research.

Some students arrive with considerable research experience and may move rapidly to completion of the degree, while others must design, collect, analyze, and write-up entirely new dissertation work. The pace of progress depends largely on the student's individual plan, which is designed in collaboration with the academic advisor and dissertation committee, and follows the PhD timetable.

Throughout a student's study program, the Field of Study will monitor performance in course work and in meeting degree requirements for completion. Upon request by the student, leave of absences during the program may be granted on a case-by-case basis in accordance with GSAS guidelines. Under such approved circumstances, the leave period would not be counted against the four-year

time limit. In cases of unacceptable performance, the student may be required to withdraw.  
**Students may not request a leave of absence for the purpose of pursuing another degree.**

### **Additional Resources**

PhD PHS Student Handbook, available online: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/phdphs/>  
GSAS Handbook, available online: <http://handbook.gsas.harvard.edu/gsas-handbook>

## **PhD PHS Global Health and Population Student Timetable**

<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>PROGRESS DUE</u></b>
End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester (May)	Submission of Prospective Program Sit Paper I of the Written Qualifying Exam
End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Semester	Submit Paper II of the Written Qualifying Exam
Prior to 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	Submission of Final Program (Includes nominations for Preliminary Qualifying Exam)
4 Weeks Prior to Scheduled Exam Date	Preliminary Qualifying Examination Scheduling Form Due
End of 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	Satisfactory Completion of Preliminary Qualifying Examination Submission of Nominations for Dissertation Advisory Committee (two weeks post completion of PQE)
Dissertation Research	Progress Report due every three months until thesis is completed
Thesis Submission to Outside Reader	Six weeks prior to intended date of defense
Degree Completion	Thesis presentation and public defense End of 4 <sup>th</sup> year

## **FIELD OF STUDY REQUIREMENTS**

To provide more focus and depth in the key areas of Global Health and Population, the Department has identified two areas from which students may specialize their doctoral training. Students must select from one of the following **Areas of Specialization**:

- Health Systems
- Population and Family Health

Advanced competence in each field requires more than the minimum of 20 credits. Students should consult their advisor to identify advanced courses that are appropriate. Selection of minor fields are determined in consultation with the academic advisor or, in the case of **Health Systems**, specific choices are provided.

In addition to **GHP210** Concepts and Methods in Global Health and Population Studies, the Department hosts a weekly Doctoral Research Seminar. The goals of this seminar are: (1) to help students meet important milestones for advancing their dissertation research; (2) to give students an opportunity to gain practical experience in presenting their research, and to receive constructive feedback on works in progress; (3) to encourage interactions between students and faculty in different tracks and cross-fertilization of ideas, concepts and methods; (4) to provide a forum for students to learn more about the work of their peers; and (5) to contribute to the community of scholarship in the Department by promoting lively discussions among students and faculty around a broad range of topics in global health and population.

The Doctoral Research Seminar is required and must be taken for credit, by all doctoral students who have completed both Papers I and II of the Written Qualifying Exam (WQE). In most cases, this applies to students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year and beyond. Exceptions to this may be those coming into the PhD PHS program from other Harvard Chan School degree programs. Those required to take the seminar for credit must register for two separate independent studies, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. Each independent study is graded P/F only and both independent studies are listed under Professor Margaret Kruk.

Course requirements for each **Area of Specialization** are listed in the corresponding section. These requirements may involve courses offered through other Fields of Study or Academic Departments, and through other Harvard Graduate Schools. They are designed to prepare candidates with doctoral-level knowledge in theory, analysis and research methods in a particular area as well as providing candidates with a broad-based education in global health.

### **Course Waivers**

Field of Study waivers will be considered only if a student can demonstrate that the subject matter has been covered to a similar level in a previous course. All Department waivers must be accompanied by a letter of support signed by both the course instructor and the student's advisor and will be reviewed by the Doctoral Committee. **Please consult the GHP Education Office for further information. No course substitutions are allowed.**



## **Written Qualifying Exam, Preliminary Qualifying Exam, and Dissertation Advisory Committee**

### **Written Qualifying Examination**

Upon completion of the requisite course work, the Department requires that all doctoral students sit a Written Qualifying Examination (WQE) consisting of two papers before advancing to the Preliminary Qualifying Examination (PQE). The first paper consists of a written examination while the second involves the submission of a research paper. The intention is that students complete both parts of the WQE by their fourth semester of study. Students will take the first paper at the end of two semesters of study and submit the second paper at the end of four semesters of study. Students with a prior Master of Science degree from the Department may take both parts of the examination by their second semester of study for the doctoral degree. Paper I of the WQE is offered **once** per year in May. Any re-sits for Paper I will be taken the following May. Paper II will have a deadline, in most cases, at the end of the fourth semester. The deadline for resubmission in the case of failure is November 1<sup>st</sup> of the same year.

### **Aims of Written Qualifying Examination**

The principal aim of the WQE is to ensure that the student is adequately prepared for a period of independent research. The examination is intended to test the candidate's general knowledge in Global Health and Population and the capacity to deal with the kinds of questions that are likely to occur in the course of writing the doctoral dissertation. Passing the examination indicates that the Department judges that the student is ready to embark on a course of independent research culminating in the submission of a doctoral thesis. Introduction of the WQE should allow the PQE Committee to focus more sharply on the student's research program. The WQE seeks to:

- test a student's overall capacity to put together separate things learned in the core course;
- provide questions designed to solicit responses requiring the combination of different bodies of knowledge;
- design questions that are of the type one is faced with when they begin research (larger questions);
- to solicit answers to these questions that indicate that the student is at a level of comprehension where they are ready to both manage independent research and demonstrate training and mind-set of independence;
- provides the student with the opportunity to show ability to process information rather than simply repeating what was learned in a particular lecture and apply it to a larger question in which they may articulate their opinion or view;
- give the student the opportunity to show they are capable of carrying out a piece of independent research.

### **Structure of the Examination**

The examination consists of two papers. Each is described below. The WQE is **pass-fail only**. If the student fails a paper there will be an opportunity for a re-sit but each paper can be attempted twice at most.

**Paper I** shall be a 4-hour closed book examination, to be taken in the Department and shall consist of two sections. **Section A** shall consist of 2 compulsory questions which will be general in nature, both of which the student must answer. **Section B** shall consist of 4 questions from which the student must select 2. All of the questions on Paper I shall reflect general knowledge acquired through the departmental core course required of all GHP doctoral students regardless of their area of specialization.

### **Organization and Grading of Paper I**

The subject matter in Paper I will reflect the syllabus and extended reading list of GHP 210 *Concepts and Methods in Global Health and Population Studies*. The course instructors shall write the questions in consultation with the doctoral committee.

Each student will be issued an anonymous code. Each exam script will bear this anonymous code. The code key will be kept solely in the GHP Education Office.

Each question in the examination will be graded by two faculty. For Paper I, the doctoral committee will identify graders and at least one of the graders must be a member of the doctoral committee. The Education Office will be responsible for sending a series of reminders to the graders prior to the date of the examination. One of the two faculty graders may be a member of another department.

Once the examination has been taken, answers will be circulated to all the graders through the Education Office. Graders will have **one month** from the day of the examination to grade the exam and return the students' answers, grade sheets, and comments to the Education Office. The Education Office will record the grades.

When a grade difference of three grades or more exists on a question between two graders (e.g. A- to B-), the graders will be asked to consult with each other and reconsider their marks and comments. Each grader may revise their grade in the light of this consultation or keep the grade as is.

Examination answers, grades and comments are then considered by the doctoral committee. No conflict of interest will arise from normal academic links between committee members and the students under consideration (e.g. advising and instructing). The committee reviews the overall standard of the answers to all the questions and the marks and comments given by examiner. The committee ensures that graders comments are sufficiently detailed to provide assistance to students. The committee computes an agreed mark for each question by averaging the graders' marks.

The agreed marks for each question are averaged for each paper. The pass mark for the examination is B+ (3.3). Average marks of 3.25 and above are rounded up to 3.3 (B+). The committee confirms the pass or fail of each of the two papers of the WQE separately by a vote of a majority of the committee. The students receive only the pass or fail decision, and not the actual average grade.

If any pass or fail is not confirmed by the doctoral committee, the committee may either:

- a) Return the examination to the graders for reconsideration. Revised grades and comments are then considered again by the doctoral committee.
- b) Appoint one or more additional graders for each question. These graders will mark the questions and provide comments independently of the original graders. The doctoral committee will then reconsider all of the grades and comments, weighting them equally to recalculate agreed marks for each question.

After the result has been confirmed by the doctoral committee, the anonymous code will be unblinded. Students will be informed by the doctoral committee of the result of the examination. Students and their advisors will also be given the written comments on each question, but not the grade or the identity of the grader.

The advisor will then meet with the student to discuss the results of the examination. At this point, if a student has failed either or both papers of the examination, the advisor and the student must outline a plan through tutorials and any additional course work to prepare the student to re-sit the paper failed. This plan must be in writing and a copy provided to both the Doctoral Committee and the Education Office for the student's file. **All re-sits are taken in May of the following year.**

**Paper II** is a research paper. It is intended to help students better prepare for the development of their PQE proposal and may, in some instances, be further developed as part of their actual proposal. At the start of the academic year, a detailed timeline, along with collaboration guidelines for Paper II, will be provided to those students scheduled to take the exam. Any faculty who will be directly advising the student on the paper should be named along with the proposed title.

### **Work on paper II**

It may be that work on the paper takes place as part of a larger project involving other people. In this case the student should attach an explanation of authorship making clear their contribution to the work. The contribution of the student in this case should be consistent with being the first author. The student should write the first draft of the paper. A detailed timeline, including conduct of research information and deadlines will be distributed separately.

### **Content of paper II**

The paper should be in a format that makes it ready for submission for a journal. The paper is limited to a maximum of 6,000 words. Papers may be shorter if a journal with a more strict word limit is being targeted. An appendix (no word limit) may be attached setting out details not included in the actual paper.

There are no rules on the structure of the paper but most will have the following sections:

- Introduction – Pose an interesting question
- Literature Review – Survey literature on your topic and describe how research adds to it
- Methods/Data – Formulate your hypothesis and describe your data
- Results – Present your results with the help of tables and graphs
- Discussion – Critique your method and discuss policy implications
- Conclusion – Summarize what you have done and pose questions for further research

**NOTE:** *With papers that involve statistical analysis, the student must electronically submit a file containing the computer code that was used to perform the analysis.*

## **Grading**

Based on the proposed title, the doctoral committee will assign two graders, neither of whom will have been involved in advising the student on the paper. The graders will independently grade the paper. Graders will have 2 months to grade the exams. An average mark of B+ is required to pass. A passing grade will indicate that in the opinion of the examiners the papers shows that the student has acquired the skills necessary to successfully undertake research in the field. When a grade difference of three grades or more exists on a question between two graders, the graders will be asked to consult with each other and reconsider their marks and comments. Each grader may revise their grade in the light of this consultation or keep it as is.

The doctoral committee confirms the pass or fail of Paper II. If any pass or fail is not confirmed by the doctoral committee, the committee may either:

- a) Return the paper to the graders for reconsideration. Revised grades and comments are then considered again by the doctoral committee.
- b) Appoint one or more additional graders to review the paper. These graders will mark the paper independently of the original graders. The doctoral committee will then consider all of the grades and comments, weighting them equally to recalculate the marks for each question.

After the results have been confirmed by the doctoral committee, students and their advisors will be informed. The graders' comments will be provided to both the student and their advisor, but not the identity of the graders. They will schedule a meeting to discuss these.

## **Resubmission of Paper II**

Students who have deemed to fail Paper II of the WQE may resubmit. The resubmission date is November 1<sup>st</sup> for each year. The resubmission should be submitted electronically to Barbara Heil by 5:00 PM (Boston time) on November 1<sup>st</sup>. No paper will be submitted after that time and the student will be deemed to have failed the examination for a second and final time.

## **Distinction**

The committee will vote on whether a student should be awarded a distinction for overall performance on the WQE. A distinction normally requires an average mark in excess of 3.85 on both papers.

## **Outcome**

**A maximum of two attempts are allowed for each part of the examination.** Upon successfully passing the Written Qualifying Exam, the student should immediately meet with their academic advisor to establish their final program, nominate their PQE committee and begin

preparing their proposal in anticipation of the Preliminary Qualifying Exam.

No student may have non-resident status to begin dissertation research until they have passed **BOTH** the **Written Qualifying Exam** and the **Preliminary Qualifying Exam**, have an approved **Dissertation Advisory Committee (DAC)** in place, have a meeting with their DAC and submit a sign progress report.

### **Approval of PQE Committee and DAC**

The signature of the Department Chair is required for both the PQE Committee and the DAC forms. The Department Chair will sign such forms only upon the recommendation of the Doctoral Committee. This procedure has been established as a safeguard to ensure that the proposed committee membership will satisfactorily support the research planned by the student. **Please be sure to consult with the Education Office for any form requiring the Department Chair signature.**

Along with the forms, students should submit a 2-3 page proposal/abstract of their planned work, a bibliography, and briefly indicate how the expertise of the individuals nominated for membership will contribute and support the proposed research. These materials should be e-mailed to Barbara Heil in the Education Office for circulation to the doctoral committee. Any changes in membership to these committees should follow the same process. See sample proposal in **[Appendix 3]**.

## **Preliminary Qualifying Exam (PQE):**

**The Preliminary Qualifying Examination (formerly known as the Oral Examination) should be taken NO LATER THAN the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> semester.**

Upon successful completion of the WQE, a student should submit their final program, which includes the nomination of their PQE Committee. The student should immediately begin writing a PQE proposal which should continually be reviewed and revised in consultation with committee members. The final proposal is then given to the PQE Committee prior to scheduling the exam.

The proposal is basically a work plan, or calendar of activities for the next 1.5 year period. In this proposal, a student should:

- a. present a question;
- b. defend why this question is worthy of scholarly research and of public health relevance;
- c. demonstrate an understanding of existing related research;
- d. establish that the proposed research is methodologically sound and explain the methods and data you will be using (survey, secondary data, etc.); and
- e. present some preliminary analysis to demonstrate these methods.

The above points are presented in a proposal to the PQE Committee.

The Committee's role in the examination is to basically give their approval for a program of independent research and writing. Their responsibility is to check the feasibility of the proposal by asking the following questions:

- a) is it the right question – is this something worth looking into;
- b) is there a clear and feasible plan of activities that will answer this question;
- c) is the proposal route correct and appropriate;
- d) as a whole, is the work plan manageable in terms of time, money and other resources.

Finally, this exam demonstrates the capacity to produce something. Specifically, it seeks to answer the question, will this plan produce a thesis. **Within two weeks of successfully passing the Preliminary Qualifying Exam, the student must nominate and confirm a Dissertation Advisory Committee.**

## **Dissertation Advisory Committee (DAC)**

**Within two weeks of successful completion of the Preliminary Qualifying Examination, a student must submit the nominations for membership of their Dissertation Advisory Committee (formerly known as the Research Committee).**

Students should first obtain departmental approval of the DAC following the same process as outlined in **[Appendix 3]**. If there are no changes in membership from the PQE Committee to the DAC, **simply email this information to Barbara Heil in the Education Office.** While the Research Advisor/DAC Chair must be a member of GHP, the others may be from other departments and/or outside of Harvard Chan School. The role of the DAC is to oversee the student's progress towards completion of their thesis. Students are required to meet with their

committee every three months and then submit a progress report to the Education Office. Nominations for the DAC must be submitted and approved by the GHP Doctoral Committee and the student must convene a meeting with the committee before they may begin any overseas research on a non-residency status.

## Outside Readers

Beginning in September 1997, the Department implemented a system of Outside Readers for all doctoral theses in the Department. The principal reasons for this decision were to improve the quality of our doctoral dissertations and to ensure that our theses were on a par with theses presented in other major universities.

All students in the Global Health Field of Study are **required** to have an Outside Reader for their thesis. **[Appendix 4]** outlines the necessary steps to be followed when a doctoral student is nearing their thesis defense and is ready to identify an Outside Reader. The Department agreed that the Outside Reader would not be an external *examiner* able to referee the thesis as in some universities but an external *advisor* to the DAC and the student.

## Non-Resident Status

When dissertation research is to be performed away from the Boston area, students must apply for non-resident status. **Students must first pass the Preliminary Qualifying Examination prior to requesting non-resident doctoral status.** They must also establish their Dissertation Advisory Committee, and this Committee must meet with the student to appraise the dissertation plan. Agreement must be reached, and the GHP Doctoral Committee must provide written approval before the departure of the student. No student may be Non-resident until all these conditions have been met.

After the completion of the above steps, the DAC will use the following criteria for approving non-resident status:

- (1) acceptability and feasibility of the proposed research plan;
- (2) timing and scope of the periodic written reports required (including at least one Progress Report every three months);
- (3) adequate arrangements for direct supervision of the student; and
- (4) the minimum time the student will spend back at the School prior to the thesis defense.

Non-resident status is customarily granted one year at a time. Extensions beyond one year require the submission of acceptable and timely Progress Reports. **The Department expects candidates to be in residence during the semester preceding their defense; many advisors and committees will insist on their presence during the semester before submission.**

## **Departmental Doctoral Committee, 2017-18**

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# **HEALTH SYSTEMS**

## **AREA OF SPECIALIZATION**

Well-designed and functioning health systems are central to improving population health equitably. At the same time, health systems must provide financial protection to avert impoverishment due to medical costs and gain patient and citizen satisfaction. Now more than ever, globally policymakers want to know how to reform health systems to achieve these goals. Many international organizations (including the World Health Organization, World Bank, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) have identified health systems strengthening as a key priority in their strategies to improve population health. The Health Systems doctoral program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health aims to train future leaders in health ministries, academic and research institutions, international agencies and civil society organizations for the tasks required to understand and strengthen health systems.

The study of health systems begins with understanding of an analytical framework. A health system is a means to a set of ends represented by ultimate performance outcomes. The results involve trade-offs between equity, efficiency effectiveness and choice, which are shaped by a society's ethical values and by political processes and actors. The Health Systems Area of Specialization aims to train scholars who can answer questions raised by top policymakers such as how to address equity considerations in health care, how policy components influence performance outcomes, and how political strategies can be designed to improve the political feasibility of policy reforms. This requires a clear understanding of what constitutes a health system, how the broader context and political economy influences health systems reforms, and how the complex interactions of different components—namely financing, payments, organizational structures and processes, regulations, and persuasion to change behavior—determine system performance and outcomes.

### **Description**

The Health Systems Area of Specialization provides a comprehensive understanding of the approaches and methods of political economy appropriate for health systems research in the international context. The major recognizes that professionals in health systems must be capable of doing advanced research and evaluating the quality and approach of research performed by others. To achieve this, students are exposed to the frontier of knowledge about health systems, potential areas of new research, and methods appropriate for advancing knowledge and conducting significant research.

Students are trained to apply knowledge that addresses major health system questions such as:

- How do changes in health system functions influence health system performance and achievement of goals?
- What financing approaches are appropriate for achieving goals shaped by different ethical values and under varied economic and social conditions?
- Which payment mechanisms are effective in controlling healthcare costs and improving quality of healthcare services?
- How can regulation make the private sector more responsive to societal needs?
- How do political structures and processes affect opportunities for adoption and implementation of health system reforms?

A multidisciplinary approach, is used to address such questions, is the foundation of the Health Systems major. While economics can provide insights into financing and payment issues, political science can help explain policy choices and consequences as well as assess the feasibility of proposed reforms. In organizational design, political science and economics interact to understand how institutions can be organized and how such organizations respond to incentives. Ethical choices are embedded in all these choices and shape what is appropriate for different contexts. To become experts in policy analysis and evidence-based policymaking, Health Systems doctoral students learn an advanced level of quantitative skills and methods in evaluation science, epidemiology and biostatistics, and their application to real-world health system problems.

Building knowledge about interdisciplinary approaches to health systems research is a demanding pursuit, requiring both a deep understanding of disciplinary expertise as well as contextual knowledge of health systems in different national settings. The Health Systems major provides a solid disciplinary base for students, while developing skills in crossing disciplinary boundaries in order to analyze health system problems. The major offers an advanced level of interdisciplinary training in political economy, economics and finance, political science, ethics, and evaluative science, along with a strong foundation of public health skills. Through coursework and applied research, students learn to integrate theories and methods from various disciplines and apply them to analyze critical health system issues.

The Health Systems Area of Specialization is based in the Department of Global Health and Population, and draws on faculty and courses throughout Harvard University. Program faculty, who work globally with many countries and international agencies, are recognized leaders in the field of health systems analysis and have published widely on the subject.<sup>1,2,3,4,5,6,7</sup> Past collaborative work culminated in the book *Getting Health Reform Right*<sup>8</sup> which is used for teaching at Harvard Chan School as well as at a joint World Bank course entitled the “Flagship Course on Health Sector Reform and Sustainable Financing.” Faculty members have contributed to major research projects evaluating health systems, including financing and payment systems, burden of disease and cost benefit analysis, National Health Accounts, decentralization of health systems, human resources, benchmarks of fairness for health system reform, and political analysis. Faculty members are involved in many international projects supporting health system reform in low- and middle-income countries as well as more advanced economies.

Opportunities for doctoral research include topics such as: how changes in health systems influence national health spending and outcomes, the impact of decentralization on quality of health care services delivery, the organization and management of human resources to improve health system outcomes, the design and performance of health systems, regulation of health care and pharmaceutical products, equity determinants in health and in health systems, the political economy of health reforms, innovative financing methods to improve equity and efficiency of the health system, adoption of diffusion of complex health innovations in health systems, and consumer responses to characteristics of public and private health care providers.

## Requirements

<sup>1</sup> Reich MR, et al. Future of Japan's system of good health at low cost with equity: beyond universal coverage. *Lancet* 2011; 378:1265–73.

<sup>2</sup> Atun R, et al. Improving responsiveness of health systems to non-communicable diseases. *Lancet* 2013; 381:690-97.

<sup>3</sup> Hsiao W, et al. Early appraisal of China's huge and complex health-care reforms. *Lancet* 2012; 379: 833-842.

<sup>4</sup> Atun R. Universal health coverage in Turkey: enhancement of equity. *Lancet* 2013; 382: 65-99.

<sup>5</sup> Berman P. Organization of Ambulatory Health Care Services: A Critical Determinant of Health System Performance. *Bull. World Health Org.* 2000; 78(6): 791-802.

<sup>6</sup> Bossert T. Decentralization, Governance and Health System Performance: “Where you stand depends on where you sit”. *Dev. Policy Review* 2010; 28 (6); 669-691.

<sup>7</sup> Atun R, Androde LOM, Almeida G., et al. Health Systems and Universal Health Coverage in Latin America. *Lancet* 2015; 385; 1230-47.

<sup>8</sup> Roberts M, Hsiao W, Berman P, Reich M. *Getting Health Reform Right: A Guide to Improving Performance and Equity*, Oxford (2003).

The study of health systems includes theories and methods from economics, political science and ethics to understand and investigate systemic issues. Moreover, it is grounded in evidence that requires mastery of quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods.

At the end of this section, the core coursework, Field of Study, and Area of Specialization requirements are outlined. The first year courses cover several disciplines and prepare students for advanced doctoral level courses during the second year. Students choose two minors from the following three disciplinary fields: **economics**, **political science**, or **evaluation sciences**. Courses suitable for each minor field should be identified in consultation with the student's faculty advisor. Required courses not offered by GHP may be modified yearly by the Health Systems Core Faculty depending on changes in offerings by other schools and departments. Students with prior courses that cover topics and material found in Area of Specialization courses may petition for a waiver with the approval of the faculty offering the required course and the student's advisor.

Students in GHP are required to take a two part Written Qualifying Examination at the end of their first and second years. They must pass both parts independently to proceed in the doctoral program. After passing the Written Qualifying Exam, students will be expected to prepare a dissertation proposal and defend the proposal in a Preliminary Qualifying Exam.

### **Participating Faculty in the Health Systems**

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David Washburn, [dwashburn@sph.tamhsc.edu](mailto:dwashburn@sph.tamhsc.edu)

**Past Theses Titles** (most recent titles appear at the top)

- Angela Chang, “Falling short of expectations: Improving healthcare delivery gaps for HIV, non-communicable diseases, and childhood vaccination”
- Adanna Chukwuma, “The Politics and Impact of Perinatal Health Interventions in Nigeria”
- Jan-Walter De Neve, “Essays on Schooling and Health in sub-Saharan Africa”
- Iryna Postolovska, “Health Financing and Delivery in Low- and Middle-Income Countries in the SDG Era”
- Chantelle Boudreaux, “Essays on Maternal Health Services: Utilization & Quality”
- Heather Lanthorn, “Achieving Access to Antimalarials views from Ghana on the Political-Economy of Adopting and Implementing the Affordable Medicines Facility – Malaria (AMFM)”
- Mingqiang Li, “Physician Agency, Patients’ Trust and Institutions within Physician Groups”
- Indrani Saran, “Health Behaviors in the Context of Malaria Treatment in Uganda”
- Julia Goldberg Raifman, “Essays on HIV & Malaria Treatment in sub-Saharan Africa”
- Corrina Moucheraud, “Evaluation of Strategies and Outcomes in Maternal and Child Health”
- Susan Powers Sparkes, “The Political Economy of Health Reform: Turkey’s Health Transformation Program, 2003-2012”
- Shahira Ahmed, “Assessing the Implementation of Provider-Initiated Testing and Counseling (PITC) in Botswana”
- Peter Rockers, “Essays on Health Care Use in Zambia”
- Ye Xu, “Performance of Public Hospitals in China: Clinical Quality, Resource Use and Socioeconomic Equality”
- Nathan Blanchet, “Implementing National Health Insurance in Sub-Saharan Africa: Economic and Political Analyses of Ghana’s National Health Insurance Scheme”
- Seemoon Choi, “Pharmaceutical Policy and Behavior Change of Healthcare Facilities in Korea”
- Zubin Shroff, “The Politics of Publicly Funded Health Insurance in India”
- Banafsheh Siadat, “The Effect of Health Insurance on Patient and Provider Behavior in Ghana’s Health System”
- Elif Yavuz, “Effective Malaria Control in Uganda: Examining Aspects of Treatment and Prevention in a New Policy Context”
- Yarlini Balarajan, “Improving Maternal and Child Health in India: Anemia, Antenatal Care, and Health System Performance”

- Sarah MacCarthy, “Late Testing and Late Enrollment Access to HIV/AIDS Services in Salvador, Brazil”
- Tomoko Ono, “International Migration of Nurses: Patterns and Consequences-Case Studies of the US and the Philippines”
- Yen-Ting (Bradley) Chen, “Strategic Provider Behavior under Global Budget Payment”
- Victoria Fan, “Essays on Health Systems and Policy in India”
- David Washburn, “Applying Diffusion Theory to Implementation: An Analysis of Mexico’s Seguro Popular de Salud”

### **Positions of Recent Graduates**

Young Professional, Health, Nutrition, and Population Global Practice – World Bank Group, Washington D.C.

Assistant Professor – Heidelberg Institute of Public Health, Heidelberg, Germany

Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington

Assistant Professor – Texas A&M Health Science Center

Assistant Professor – University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)

Assistant Professor of Global Health – Boston University

Manager, Market Strategy for Special Programs – Kaiser Permanente

Research Officer – Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, Geneva

Senior Research Associate, Applied Analytics Team – Clinton Health Access Initiative

Senior Program Officer – Results for Development Institute

Post-Doctoral Fellow – Brown University and University of Southern California

Junior Economist – Health Division, OECD

Nutrition Specialist – UNICEF (Knowledge Management Focal Point)

Chair of Non-Communicable Diseases Research Center – Tehran University Medical Sciences

Research Fellow – Center for Global Health, Washington, D.C.

Lecturer – London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Assistant Professor of Medicine (Research) – Brown University

Pharmaceutical Specialist – World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Director – Center for Health Policy Research, Sri Lanka

Health Systems Strengthening Program Officer – PATH

Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Health Systems Specialist on Planning – San Francisco VA Medical Center

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

<b>CORE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>CREDITS (17.5)</b>	<b>YEAR WHEN COURSE SHOULD BE TAKEN</b>
PHS 2000 A/B (full year) Quantitative Research Methods in Population Health Sciences	10.0	I
SBS 506 (Fall I) Introduction to History, Politics, & Public Health: Theories of Disease Distribution & Health Inequities	2.5	I
EPI 201 (Fall I) Introduction to Epidemiology: Methods I	2.5	I
EPI 202 (Fall 2) Epidemiologic Methods 2: Elements of Epidemiologic Research	2.5	I
HPM 548 (option of Fall I/Spring I) Responsible Conduct of Research	1.25*	I

\*Auditing grade mode available for HPM 548.

<b>DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>CREDITS (7.5)</b>	<b>YEAR WHEN COURSE SHOULD BE TAKEN</b>
GHP 210 Concepts and Methods in Global Health and Population (Fall)	5.0	I
Doctoral Research Seminar – Independent Study (Fall)	1.25	Post WQE
Doctoral Research Seminar – Independent Study (Spring)	1.25	Post WQE

<b>HEALTH SYSTEMS REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>CREDITS (17.5)</b>	<b>YEAR WHEN COURSE SHOULD BE TAKEN</b>
GHP 244 (Fall 2) Health Sector Reform: A World Perspective	2.5	I
GHP 269 (Spring 2) Political Economy of Global Health	2.5	I
GHP 500 (Fall I) Measuring Health System Quality and Responsiveness	2.5	2
GHP 228 (Spring) Econometric Methods in Impact Evaluation	5.0	2
GHP 237 (Spring 2) Behavioral Economics and Global Health (not offered AY17-18)	2.5	2
GHP 501 (Spring I) Methods for Health System Analysis	2.5	I or 2

### **5.0 CREDITS IN ECONOMICS (TBD)**

SEE THE EDUCATION OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION

### **MINOR FIELD IN ECONOMICS, POLITICAL SCIENCE, OR EVALUATION SCIENCES**

Each student chooses two minors and must take 10 credits of advanced courses in each.

## **POPULATION AND FAMILY HEALTH AREA OF SPECIALIZATION**

Assessments of levels, patterns and trends in population health are essential for identifying priorities, monitoring progress, and planning, executing and evaluating health policies. One key component in these assessments is an understanding of the growth, structure and change of human populations (demography), including measurement of mortality and causes of death, along with broader assessments of health and functioning, informed by analyses rooted in the disciplines of epidemiology and biostatistics. Global, regional, national and subnational analyses, attempting to partition the factors determining population health, require competence in several cognate areas including the capacity to translate census, survey and routine health statistics into summary assessments for both priority-setting and action. Another key component is the use of population-based demographic and health data to investigate the causal impacts on population health and demography of health interventions, such as interventions to fight HIV, tuberculosis, or malaria, or primary healthcare and universal coverage reforms. Such analyses require skills in the use of individual-, household-, and community-level data and an understanding of causal inference and evaluation methods. For women and health, an important part of the analyses is to measure the contribution of sex and reproduction to health outcomes in those of reproductive age and beyond.

This area of specialization is designed to provide the foundation for work on population health around the world. The required coursework illustrates the way in which quantitative methods from demography, epidemiology, statistics and other disciplines can be applied to new challenges in burden of disease assessments. Since much of the work requires analysis of large-scale survey, surveillance systems, census and routinely collected health data, some recommended courses explain the major methods in data collection and analysis. Examination of causes of death and morbidity are based on combinations of demographic and epidemiological principles. Although the training is primarily quantitative, an understanding of the value of qualitative, ethnographic and mixed-methods approaches is encouraged. These methods are valuable in understanding culturally specific norms and values relating to health, and health behaviors including those related to sex and reproduction.

On completion of this area of specialization, students are expected to have the skills and conceptual understanding to develop their own research plans in a number of areas, mainly focusing on population and reproductive health issues in low-income countries. Prior students in this field have written dissertations on HIV/AIDS and infertility in Tanzania; religion and its role in determining the sexual behavior of Ghanaian adolescents, infertility in China and Chad, male and female fertility in The Gambia; longitudinal studies of child growth, development, and mortality in rural Africa; the causes and consequences of induced abortion in Mexico and Ghana; family planning promotion and its effect on rural fertility in The Gambia; domestic violence as a public health issue in Jordan; abortion in Accra, Ghana; evaluation of malaria control interventions in Africa; proposal of new methods for correcting underreporting in vital events; and the contribution of primary health care to child survival in Africa; among other topics.

### **Participating Faculty in the Population and Family Health**

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### **Past Theses Titles** (most recent titles appear at the top)

- Noah Haber, “Essays on HIV in Rural KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: Inference from Measurement to Policy”
- Mahesh Karra, “Essays on Maternal and Child Health, Fertility, and Economic Well-Being in Low- and Middle-Income Countries”
- Brian Patenaude, “Health, Behavior & Economic Analysis: Preference Elicitation Biases and the Welfare Consequences of Health Interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa”
- Elina Pradhan, “Beyond Health Technology Assessments: Evaluating the Impact of Scaling up Technology Interventions in Maternal and Child Health”
- Carlos Riumallo-Herl, “Essays on well-being, old age pensions, and health”
- Emily Smith, “Maternal and Child Health, HIV, and Nutrition”
- Jesse Heitner, “Influencing Health Behaviors via Short Message Service (SMS): Evidence for Best Practices from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Xi’an China”
- Ashkan Afshin, “Diet, Cardiometabolic Health, and Policy”



- Andrea Feigl, “Managing Non-communicable Disease Risk Factors in Developing Countries: Tobacco Control, Cardiovascular Disease Risk Surveillance, and Diabetes Prevention”
- Mathieu Maheau-Giroux, “Malaria Vector Control in sub-Saharan Africa”
- Yuan Lu, “The Impact of Multiple Risk Factors and Preventive Interventions on Cardiovascular Diseases and Disparities”
- Ryan McBain, “Evidence-Based Policy Perspectives on the Treatment of Mental Disorders in Low- and Middle-Income Countries”
- John Quattrochi, “Measurement and Determinants of Under-5 Mortality in Sub-Saharan Africa”
- Leena Merdad, “Investigating New Methods for Estimating Maternal and Child Mortality in the Developing World”
- Carmel Salhi, “Mental Health and Family Context of Arab Youth Affected by Political Conflict”
- Pamela Scorza, “Measurement Non-variance in Cross-Country Depression Estimates in the World Mental Health Surveys”
- Kathie Dionisio, “Biomass Fuels and Air pollution in sub-Saharan Africa: Measurement Studies in Rural and Urban Populations”
- Rifat Hasan, “Determinants of Reproductive Health Behaviors: Evidence on Fertility, Family Planning and Maternal Health”
- Livia Montana, “Estimating Child Mortality in Resource Poor Settings with Insufficient Data”
- Trong Thanh-Hoan (Tony) Ao, “The Biological, Behavioral and Economic Dimensions of Female Bar/Hotel Workers in Northern Tanzania: Implications for HIV and STI Prevention for an At-Risk Population”
- Anne Mackay Austin, “Maternal and Child Nutrition Trends in Egypt 1995-2005”
- Gaston Sorgho, “Social Capital and Health in Nouna District, Burkina Faso”
- Goodarz Danaei, “Population and Individual Level Analysis of Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors: Total Effects Contribution to Disparities and Intervention Analysis”
- Mary Bachman, “Early Child Health and Subsequent Morbidity and Mortality in The Gambia”
- Katherine Beal, “Religiosity and HIV Risk Among Adolescents in Ghana”

## **Positions of Recent Graduates**

Assistant Professor of Global Development Policy – Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University

Young Professional, Health, Nutrition, and Population Global Practice – World Bank Group, Washington D.C.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina

Research Fellow – Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Postdoctoral Research Fellow – Center for Nutrition, Boston Children’s Hospital, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Assistant Professor of Epidemiology – McGill University

Research Fellow, Development Economics Group, Wageningen University, Bukavu, DRC

Assistant Professor, Harvard School of Public Health

Senior Technical Officer, Measurement, Learning and Evaluation, Urban Reproductive Health Initiative, Carolina Population Center, UNC-CH

Research Scientist, Environmental Protection Agency

Assistant Professor, Boston University, Department of International Health

Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health

Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor, Pathfinder International

Assistant Professor, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR POPULATION AND FAMILY HEALTH AREA OF SPECIALIZATION

<b>CORE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>CREDITS (17.5)</b>	<b>YEAR WHEN COURSE SHOULD BE TAKEN</b>
PHS 2000 A/B (full year) Quantitative Research Methods in Population Health Sciences	10.0	I
SBS 506 (Fall I) Introduction to History, Politics, & Public Health: Theories of Disease Distribution & Health Inequities	2.5	I
EPI 201 (Fall I) Introduction to Epidemiology: Methods I	2.5	I
EPI 202 (Fall 2) Epidemiologic Methods 2: Elements of Epidemiologic Research	2.5	I
HPM 548 (option of Fall I/Spring I) Responsible Conduct of Research	1.25*	I

\*Auditing grade mode available for HPM 548.

<b>DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>CREDITS (7.5)</b>	<b>YEAR WHEN COURSE SHOULD BE TAKEN</b>
GHP 210 Concepts and Methods in Global Health and Population (Fall)	5.0	I
Doctoral Research Seminar – Independent Study (Fall)	1.25	Post WQE
Doctoral Research Seminar – Independent Study (Spring)	1.25	Post WQE

<b>POPULATION AND FAMILY HEALTH REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>CREDITS (15)</b>	<b>YEAR WHEN COURSE SHOULD BE TAKEN</b>
GHP 220 Introduction to Demographic Methods (Fall 2)	2.5	I

### **SELECT 12.5 CREDITS FROM THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:**

GHP 228 Econometric Methods in Impact Evaluation	5.0	I or 2
GHP 231 Sexual and Reproductive Health	2.5	I or 2
GHP 255 HIV Interventions: Rationale, Design, and Evaluation	2.5	I or 2
GHP 269 The Political Economy of Global Health	2.5	I or 2
<b>GHP XXX Risk Factors of Population Health (NEW)</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>I or 2</b>
GHP 534 Introduction to Spatial Methods	2.5	I or 2
BST 212 Survey Research Methods in Community Health	2.5	I or 2
ID 217 Nutrition and Global Health	2.5	I or 2
SBS 288 Qualitative Research Methods in Public Health	2.5	I or 2

### **MINOR FIELD**

Each student chooses two minors and must take 10 credits of advanced courses in each.

## APPENDICES

1. SM2 Advisor / Advisee Document
2. SM2 Thesis Guidelines
3. Sample of Justification for PQE / DAC Members
4. Outside Reader Procedures
5. Departmental Committees
6. Department Course Offerings (2017-2018)
7. Other Resources

### SM2 ADVISOR/ADVISEE DOCUMENT

For Academic Advisors to SM2 Degree Students in GHP

#### What is expected of you as an academic advisor?

- Comply with times when faculty attendance is required, these are noted in the Harvard Chan Faculty Handbook.
- Provide clear communication with advisees in advance of when you will be away and indicate who to contact in your absence.
- Be clear about how advisees should reach you and how to go about setting up appointments with you (e.g., email, sign-up sheet, office hours, or assistant).
- Use the appropriate resources available to you to provide advice. These include the Harvard Chan Student Handbook, the Department Degree Guide, the Master of Science Program Checklist, and the GHP Webpages.
- Take the time to familiarize yourself with the requirements of the GHP SM2 degree program. In conjunction with your advisees, you are responsible for making sure they take all the requirements in accordance with both the school's and department's time table.
- Be aware of key deadlines (these are often reminded by the Registrar's office and by the GHP Education Office).
- Read and respond to emails from your advisees in a timely fashion.
- You are expected to meet with your advisees ***at least*** once each quarter.
- Be aware of specific benchmarks in each year of this 2 year program and be prepared to hold additional meetings to discuss these with your advisee as appropriate – internships (year 1), and thesis and jobs/further schooling (year 2).
- Reinforce any expectations of attendance at certain events/seminars/etc. that have been made by the SM2 Committee or the Department Chair.
- If you have any type of concerns about your advisee, please contact Barbara Heil (617) 432-1179, who can help facilitate your concerns.

#### Specific Recommendations for Academic advisors of First Year Students

##### Pre-Orientation:

- Upon receiving the names and email addresses of your advisees from the Education Office in late July, you should be emailing a short note welcoming them to the department, encouraging them to read over the course information sent to them from the GHP Education Office, and let them know that you expect to set up a time to meet with them individually during orientation week to help finalize their schedules and answer other questions they may have.

##### Orientation:

- Each academic advisor is provided with a sign-up sheet. Please block off any times during which you have prior commitments and then attach it to your office door for students to sign up to see you for ½ hour blocks. This meeting provides an opportunity for you to both answer the student's questions and to lay out your expectations.

- Be clear about the process to follow for obtaining your approval for courses they plan to take.
- Be specific about the how many times you expect (at a minimum) to meet with your new advisee each term.

Post-Orientation (during 1<sup>st</sup> year):

- Begin discussing plans for summer research internships in late September.
- Based on internship selection, encourage them to think about using internship for the basis of their thesis; additionally encourage them to think about possible thesis advisors.
- Depending upon internship, students may need to consult *Human Subjects Committee Guidelines* and obtain the proper approval; should be done well in advance.

### **Specific Recommendations for Academic advisors of Second Year Students**

- At beginning of academic year, discuss what they propose to do for a thesis and who they plan to ask to serve as thesis advisor and second reader.
- Each summer, the Education Office conducts an audit of the course work of our returning SM2 students and an email which lists any missing requirements is sent to each student and their academic advisor. This list should be carefully reviewed with your advisee at the beginning of the year to ensure that they complete all of the program requirements.
- Encourage students to take advantage of resume workshops, 'how to interview' workshops, and career fairs that are sponsored through the School's Career Services Office.
- Early in the year have conversations with them about their post-graduation plans – job or additional schooling? While you are not expected to secure jobs for your advisees, it is important that you get them thinking and planning for post-graduation. For those planning to join the work force, give them some direction such as recommending personal contacts and/or agencies, NGO's, etc., that they should follow-up with; share with them any opportunities that come across your desk or any that may become available in any of your current research.

## For SM2 Degree Advisees in GHP

### **What is expected of you as an advisee?**

- You will receive clear communication from your academic advisor in advance of when they will be away and information indicating who to contact in their absence should you have any questions. Upon receiving this notice, you should plan any necessary meetings accordingly.
- Be sure you are clear about how you should reach your academic advisor and how to go about setting up appointments (e.g., email, sign-up sheet, office hours, or assistant).
- Use the appropriate resources available to you for guidance. These include the Harvard Chan Student Handbook, the Department Degree Guide, and the GHP Webpages.
- Take the time to familiarize yourself with the requirements of the GHP SM2 degree program. In conjunction with your academic advisor, you are responsible for making sure that you take all the requirements in accordance with both the school's and department's time table.
- Be aware of key deadlines (reminders are often sent by the Registrar's office and by the GHP Education Office).
- Read and respond to emails from your academic advisor and/or the Education Office in a timely fashion.
- You are expected to meet with your academic advisor ***at least*** once each quarter, but it is highly recommended that you do more than that.
- Be aware of specific benchmarks in each year of this 2-year program and be prepared to hold additional meetings to discuss these with your academic advisor as appropriate – internships (year 1), and thesis and jobs/further schooling (year 2).
- Have a clear understanding of the expectations of attendance at certain events/seminars/etc, which have been recommended by the SM2 Committee or the Department Chair.
- If you find yourself in a situation where you need any type of help and need to reach out to someone other than your advisor, we encourage you to contact Barbara Heil (617) 432-1179, who can help facilitate on your behalf.

### **Specific Recommendations for First Year Students**

#### Pre-Orientation:

- In mid-summer you should expect to receive a short welcoming note from the department's Education Office. This note will arrive before the beginning of orientation and will include information on course requirements to help guide you when registration starts in August. When you arrive in late August for orientation, you will have the opportunity to meet with your academic advisor, fine tune your course schedule, and answer any other questions you may have.

#### Orientation:

- Each academic advisor is provided with a sign-up sheet. Please be sure to schedule a ½ hour time block to meet with your academic advisor. Use this opportunity to clarify any questions you have about the program, as well as understanding expectations. Gain a clear

understanding about the process to follow for obtaining your academic advisor's approval for courses you plan to take, particularly with the electronic approval system.

- Be clear on how many times you should expect (at a minimum) to meet with your academic advisor each term.

Post-Orientation (during 1<sup>st</sup> year):

- Begin discussing plans for summer internships in late September. Be sure to take advantage of information provided by the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students based on their summer internship experiences. Sessions to hear directly from the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students are scheduled early in the fall and have been very useful to 1<sup>st</sup> year students in planning their internships.
- Based on internship selection, think about using the internship as the basis for your thesis; additionally think about possible thesis advisors.
- Depending upon the type of internship, you may need to consult *Office of Human Research Administration Committee Guidelines* and obtain the proper approval; this should be done well in advance.

### **Specific Recommendations for Second Year Students**

- At beginning of academic year, discuss with your academic advisor what you propose to do for a thesis and who you plan to ask to serve as thesis advisor and second reader.
- Each summer, the Education Office conducts an audit of the course work of our returning SM2 students and an email which lists any missing requirements is sent to each student and their academic advisor. This list should be carefully reviewed with your academic advisor at the beginning of the year to ensure that you complete all of the program requirements.
- Take advantage of resume workshops, 'how to interview' workshops, and career fairs that are sponsored through the School's Career Services Office.
- Early in the year have conversations with your academic advisor about your post-graduation plans – job or additional schooling? It is important to understand that it is not the responsibility of your academic advisor to secure a job for you, but he/she will be able to give you some direction such as recommending personal contacts and/or agencies, NGO's, etc. It is your responsibility to follow-up on any leads or contacts provided to you. If you are thinking about pursuing the doctoral program in this department, you are encouraged to begin having conversations with the faculty working and supervising doctoral students in one of the department's majors as identified in the Department Guide. Conversations with current students may also be useful.



### MASTER OF SCIENCE THESIS GUIDELINES 2017 - 2018

#### I. Thesis Purpose

The thesis for the two-year Masters students serves several purposes:

- It provides an opportunity for the student to work on a new problem or issue of particular interest
- It allows the student to apply many of the research skills acquired in the different courses taken for the degree
- The thesis itself is proof of the student's mastery of certain skills that are required whether the student begins a research-based career or continues to a doctorate research degree
- It is a useful document that can be shown to employers and supervisors indicating a student's level of achievement in particular areas of research

The research skills and understanding that we expect to see developed through the research thesis include:

- The capacity to conceptualize a problem and to identify the key questions that need to be addressed
- The ability to reduce broad questions and issues to a specific research question that can be answered with the resources available to the student
- The capacity to apply the technical skills acquired in the courses taken during the two-year period of training
- The capacity to concisely summarize new conclusions based on existing evidence and on new findings obtained in the thesis
- The ability to frame the thesis in a broader context and to summarize how the findings contribute to the development of new knowledge and understanding in the domains of Global Health and Population
- The ability to write a scientific report of publishable quality

The system of grading (see below) reflects the importance we attach to each of these elements.

The Master's Thesis is required of all students enrolled in our Department's two-year SM program. Whilst work on the body of the thesis may begin as early as the summer between years 1 and 2, the final written version is produced during the student's second year in the program.

**Students are required to register for the thesis (GHP 299, year-long course) in the fall semester and spring semester of their second year.**

## 2. Thesis Structure

The thesis should include a statement of the problem and its relevance to public health, followed by sections such as:

- a critical analysis of the literature with the aim of clarifying current knowledge and formulating the questions that will be the subject of the thesis;
- a description of the methods and materials to be used in the analysis of the chosen problems or issues;
- an analysis of the materials that illustrate the student's mastery of the skills acquired in the course work in the School and elsewhere;
- a concluding section that deals with the public health implications of the work.

The best advice is to consult with your advisors for suggestions on which previous theses should be consulted as models for your own work. These are located in the GHP Education Office.

The **title and signature pages** are self-explanatory. Look at previous theses if in doubt. The **preface or foreword**, as is usual in all good books and theses, is the place where you can say a few more personal words about how the study came about, thank your sponsors, mention people who have been especially helpful and generally add relevant non-scientific information that does not fit in the more formal body of the thesis. The **introduction**, by contrast, opens up the issues you are about to address and positions the work in the flow of previous scholarship. The style here is thus more scientific and impersonal.

We are keen to have an **abstract** from you since often we are asked to summarize the work of our SM students and it's much better if you write this summary rather than one of us trying to do it for you. Books generally do not contain abstracts but in the case of your thesis, the best place to place this abstract would be after the table of contents as the list in the Guidelines suggests.

## 3. Credits and assessment

We encourage students and evaluators to think of the thesis as an essential tool in the development of a professional expertise in some part of global health and population. To this end, we have developed a scoring system that is meant to provide readers/assessors and students with a guide to the kind of criteria we will be using to assess the quality of each thesis.

Criterion	Score
Originality of the idea for the thesis	15
Conceptualization of the idea and its translation into manageable terms	15
Mastery of existing materials and knowledge	15
Technical skills including qualitative and quantitative aspects and ability to deal with large amounts of information in different forms	15
Analysis and interpretation	15
Conclusions and implications for theory and practice	15
Presentation and clarity of expression	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

The Thesis is taken on an ordinal basis only for a total of 5.0 credits. Students must register for GHP 299 in the fall semester and spring semester of their second year (2.5 credits per semester).

#### 4. Supervisors, second readers and other faculty

The supervisor for the Thesis may be **any** faculty member within the Department, **not** necessarily the student's academic advisor. The thesis supervisor's role is to act as your technical guide on the project. He/she may suggest that you consult other faculty members as well. Students must meet on a regular basis with their thesis supervisor. The thesis supervisor also serves as the first reader and one of the assessors of the thesis.

The Department also requires a second reader. This person need not be a member of this Department but he or she is expected to hold an appointment in a university, a research institute or a professional organization concerned with global health and population. The second reader is involved in the production of the thesis as well as the overall assessment (see Section 5 below). ***If a student wishes to propose a Thesis Supervisor from outside the Department, the agreement of the Chair of the SM2 Committee is required.*** The main criterion used for selection of a second reader is their prior experience with the supervision and assessment of masters' theses, and their written agreement to serve in this role. The degree of involvement of the second reader can vary according to availability and expertise in the area. It is expected, however, that the second reader shall provide feedback at agreed-upon intervals.

Additionally you should plan on three key points of joint communication as a group (thesis supervisor, second reader and yourself): 1) when developing your statement; 2) mid-way in the process; and 3) before the submission deadline of **Friday, March 23, 2018**. These communications may take place in face to face meetings or electronically. Students are encouraged to make use of other faculty for production of sections of the thesis, perhaps using the tutorial contract as a means to ensure full participation in the process.

#### 5. Tips on Planning

Previous students have found a summer internship to be an excellent way of consolidating skills learned during the first year and of providing both a topic and data for the thesis. We urge you to consider your recent internship experience in terms of your upcoming thesis work.

Students **must** follow the timeline for GHP 299. It is important to note the specific deadlines as well as the dates of required attendance.

# Department of Global Health and Population

## 2017-2018

### GHP 299 Fall/Spring: SM2 Thesis

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GHP 299 sets aside dedicated time for SM2 students to work on their thesis. Therefore, it is not a regular course with weekly sessions. Instead, it is organized with just a few sessions, where the SM2 committee provides guidelines, instructions, and clarifications around the SM2 thesis, but also works with students and thesis supervisors on set deadlines to be achieved until thesis completion. Towards the end of Spring, a few sessions will be dedicated for these presentations, so students can share their work.

The following are required sessions for GHP 299 and key deadlines for thesis completion.

#### **[ATTENDANCE REQUIRED] Session 1: Monday, September 11, 2017, SPH-I Rm 1110, 1-2 PM:**

- Review steps and expectations of the SM2 Thesis
- Review qualifications and roles of Thesis Supervisor and Second Reader
- Match students with peer reader for the duration of the thesis course
- Help students to identify thesis committee members, as needed

#### **Deadline 1: DUE Monday, October 2, 2017:**

- Email the following materials to Barbara Heil ([bheil@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:bheil@hsph.harvard.edu))
  - Proposed Thesis title
  - Identify Thesis Supervisor and Second Reader, including email confirmation from both

#### **Deadline 2: DUE Wednesday, October 18, 2017: Problem Statement (last week of Fall I):**

- *Problem Statement:* This is your thesis prospectus. It contains a brief description of what you plan to do, including:
  - the specific questions that you plan to address
  - your hypothesis
  - a brief description of the data sources you intend to use, including basic descriptive statistics
  - the expected outcome from the project
  - an outline of your thesis
- 2-pages maximum, single-spaced, font 11, emailed to Barbara Heil ([bheil@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:bheil@hsph.harvard.edu)) and to your peer reader
- The Problem Statement should also be reviewed by the Thesis Supervisor & Second Reader

#### **[ATTENDANCE REQUIRED] Session 2: Monday, October 23, 2017, SPH-I Rm 1110, 1-2 PM:**

- Feedback on Problem Statement provided by peer reader. Students should read their peer's Problem Statement and come to the session prepared to offer feedback.

#### **Deadline 3: DUE Wednesday, December 6, 2017: Plan of Action:**

- *Plan of Action:* This is the methodology section of your thesis where you describe how you will carry out your analysis. Include here:
  - the software and methods you intend to use
  - the manner in which important variables are measured
  - a more detailed description of the data
- One page, single-spaced, font size 11, emailed to Barbara Heil ([bheil@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:bheil@hsph.harvard.edu)) and to your peer reader
- The Plan of Action should also be reviewed by the Thesis Supervisor & Second Reader

**[ATTENDANCE REQUIRED] Session 3: Monday, December 11, 2017, SPH-I Rm 1110, 1-2 PM:**

- Feedback on Plan of Action provided by peer reader. Students should read their peer's Plan of Action and come to the session prepared to offer feedback.
- Students will discuss with SM2 Committee any challenges with developing their Plan of Action and develop alternative strategies when necessary

**Deadline 4: DUE Monday, January 29, 2018: Background:**

- Background: This is the bibliographic review of your thesis
  - Students should receive feedback by the Thesis Supervisor & Second Reader
  - Ed Office to confirm materials received by Thesis Supervisor & Second Reader
  - Ed Office to confirm feedback was provided by Thesis Supervisor & Second Reader
  - Background section should be emailed to your peer reader

**Deadline 5: DUE Monday, February 5, 2018: Feedback:**

- Peer reader is expected to provide written feedback

**Deadline 6: DUE Friday, February 23, 2018: Preliminary Results:**

- Preliminary Results: This is a draft of the results and discussion sections of your thesis provided to your Thesis Supervisor and Second Reader
  - Students should receive feedback by the Thesis Supervisor & Second Reader
  - Ed Office to confirm materials received by Thesis Supervisor & Second Reader
  - Ed Office to confirm feedback was provided by Thesis Supervisor & Second Reader
  - Preliminary results section should be emailed to your peer reader

**[ATTENDANCE REQUIRED] Session 4: Monday, March 5, 2018, SPH-I Rm 1110, 1-2 PM:**

- Feedback on Preliminary Results provided by peer reader. Students should read their peer's Preliminary Results and come to the session prepared to offer feedback
- Students will review with the SM2 Committee the process for completing their thesis

**Scheduling of Oral Presentations (dates TBD):**

- Students will be required to sign up for one of the oral presentation dates provided by the Education Office. These presentations will be open to the SM2 Committee, Thesis Supervisor, Second Reader, Academic Faculty Advisor, and all first and second year GHP SM2 students. Attendance is strongly encouraged.
  - Each student will give a 10-minute presentation
  - *If the use of PPT is necessary, there is a limit of 5 slides*

**Deadline 7: DUE Friday, March 23, 2018:**

- Master's Thesis: This is the final version of the thesis with possible minor changes that is provided to the Thesis Supervisor and Second Reader.

**[ATTENDANCE REQUIRED] Session 5: (exact date/time TBD): Communicating Your Findings**

- Meeting with students to discuss ways of presenting and summarizing their work; meeting will include a guest speaker/speakers and practice with presenting

**Deadline 8: DUE Friday, May 11, 2018, 12:00 noon**

- One bound and signed copy of the Thesis submitted to the GHP Education Office

## 6. Final Grading

The thesis must have **two** readers, your thesis supervisor, and a second reader. Both the thesis supervisor and the second reader will be responsible for grading the thesis. After consultation, they will agree on and submit **one grade** to the Education Office. The Education Office will be responsible for contacting the thesis supervisor and the second reader about the grade submission process.

## 7. Length and Format

The final thesis should not exceed 30 single-sided pages in length, including all diagrams, tables, and references. Appendices may be kept separately and they are not counted within the 30-page limit. All pages must be numbered. The thesis should be typed using single line spacing, font size 12. All information should be appropriately referenced and references should appear at the end (no footnotes). Students may use ENDNOTE or variations thereof. With Endnote, the bibliography can either be formatted alphabetically or numerically. The point of the exercise is to learn how to produce a full referenced document with a complete bibliography – the kind of standard expected of journals and other professional publications. The thesis should be permanently bound with a stiff cover, no staples, clips or ring binders. Samples are in the Education Office, and students are encouraged to look at them. The Thesis should contain the following sections **within the 30-page limit**:

- Title page (see next page for format)
- Signature page (see next page for format)
- Preface
- Table of Contents
- Thesis Abstract
- Thesis text with graphs and tables
- References
- *Appendices (NOT part of the 30-page limit)*

## 8. Final submission of the completed thesis

After all the changes have been made and approved by the two readers, the student is responsible for submitting **ONE signed copy** of the thesis in its **final bound form** to Barbara Heil or Allison Gallant in the GHP Education Office by **Friday, May 11, 2018 at 12:00 noon**.

The final bound copy must be received  
before grades are submitted to the Registrar's office.

## **SAMPLE TITLE PAGE**

TITLE OF THESIS

NAME OF AUTHOR

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of  
the Department of Global Health and Population  
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Degree of Masters of Science  
Boston, Massachusetts

Date (month, year)

## **SAMPLE SIGNATURE PAGE**

This Thesis has been read and approved by:

(Signature of Thesis Supervisor)  
Insert Typed Name of Thesis Supervisor

(Signature of Second Reader)  
Insert Typed Name of Second Reader



## SAMPLE JUSTIFICATION FOR PQE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*The same format should be used for the Dissertation Advisory Committee (DAC)*

### **Toward Universal Health Coverage in Low-Income Countries: Political and economic lessons from the implementation of Ghana's National Health Insurance Scheme**

**Major:** Health Systems  
**Minors:** Politics  
Mixed (Quantitative and Qualitative) Research Methods

#### **PQE Committee Members:**

Dr. Thomas Bossert, Department of Global Health and Population  
Dr. Michael Reich, Department of Global Health and Population  
Dr. Günther Fink, Department of Global Health and Population

#### **Research Proposal Abstract (Goals and Objectives):**

As the concepts of “universal health coverage” (UHC) and “health systems strengthening” (HSS) rise in importance on the global health agenda, my dissertation research will broadly focus on how major UHC/HSS-type reforms are implemented in low-income countries. More specifically, I propose to examine whether and how certain political and economic factors determine variation in implementation of national-level health insurance reforms using evidence from Ghana’s National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS). My research will employ mixed methods. Quantitative analyses will assess individual and district-level variation in NHIS implementation (especially determinants of enrollment, and possibly some effects of enrollment); and qualitative analyses will complement the quantitative findings by exploring particular political-economic mechanisms that help explain variation.

My specific objectives roughly correspond with three proposed papers. These papers will:

- *Assess, quantitatively, determinants of enrollment into NHIS among a sub-population.* For the past year, I have worked with panel data from the Women’s Health Study of Accra to explore why some women enroll in NHIS and others do not; and whether NHIS enrollees are more likely to seek health care. I have focused on the potential salience of theories of adverse selection and moral hazard to guide this inquiry, and have found preliminary evidence that women do select adversely into the scheme, and do display “moral hazard”<sup>7</sup> by seeking more care once enrolled. Next steps include improving the metrics I have used so far, especially for health status and proximity to health facilities; improving my econometric empirical strategy, possibly through the use of instrumental variables; and exploring the salience of other theories that explain insurance uptake, such as diffusion theory.

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<sup>7</sup> The usage of this term is debatable and I may or may not maintain it.

- *Assess, quantitatively and qualitatively, the determinants of district-level variation in NHIS enrollment in (at least) its first year.* I plan to use recently-acquired data from the Ghana Living Standards Survey, plus data such as Parliamentary voting records at the district-level, to determine why some regions and districts in Ghana achieved higher rates of enrollment in its first year than others. These inquiries will be guided by one or more political-economic theories of variation in policy implementation that I am currently studying, including historical institutionalism, state capacity, and social capital. Depending on the theoretical base and more specific hypotheses I develop, I will likely supplement the quantitative data with key informant interviews and original document review.
- *Study, using qualitative methods, the consolidation/revision phase of NHIS implementation triggered by a change in Government in 2009.* In December 2008, Ghana achieved a historical political milestone with its second peaceful, democratic turnover of power from the NPP to the NDC. The NPP started the NHIS in 2003, and once in power the NDC began plans to substantially revise it. Proposed revisions include recentralizing power from district-level schemes to the central, NHIA authority; and implementing a first-of-its-kind “one lifetime premium payment.” Through political analysis using mostly qualitative methods, I plan to examine this change-over and suggest what political and/or economic factors and mechanisms drove it.

In addition, I plan one introductory and one concluding paper/chapter. The first will provide contextual background on the history and politically-charged development of the NHIS, based on secondary literature. The concluding chapter will suggest policy implications of the three core papers’ findings for the future promotion of universal health coverage in low-income countries.

### **Justification for PQE Committee Members:**

**Dr. Thomas Bossert (Health Systems).** Dr. Bossert will oversee my Major field of health systems. Dr. Bossert is a political scientist who specializes in health systems research, including decentralization of health systems, the political process of policy change, organizational reforms, human resource strategies, and social capital. Most recently, he has begun research on the role of state capacity in moderating the implementation of health reforms, a relationship I plan to explore in my dissertation.

**Dr. Michael Reich (Politics).** Dr. Reich will oversee my Minor field of Politics. Dr. Reich is a political scientist who focuses on the political dimensions of public health policy, including agenda-setting, access to health technologies, and the political economy of health reforms in several developing and developed countries. Dr. Reich’s expertise is also relevant for my second minor, mixed qualitative and quantitative research methods, as he has developed and applied qualitative methods such as stakeholder analysis for political inquiry of health policies.

**Dr. Günther Fink (Mixed Methods).** Dr. Fink will oversee my Minor field of mixed (quantitative and qualitative) methods. Dr. Fink is a health economist who specializes in econometric studies of a variety of public health phenomena, including fertility, ageing, urbanization, and malaria. He has extensive experience in Ghana, where he is currently running a time-use study in Accra and has contributed to the Women’s Health Study of Accra, one of my primary data sources. Dr. Fink has supervised my work on my first paper and has been instrumental in helping me access data for my second from the Ghana Living Standards Survey.

## **OUTSIDE READER PROCEDURES**

1. The student and their Dissertation Advisory Committee should meet as soon as the first complete draft of the thesis is in view to discuss possible nominees for the outside reader. All members of the DAC must agree that the thesis is ready for the Outside Reader review before the process may begin. When considering these individuals, please refer to the following criteria:

The Outside Reader should:

- (a) Be a full professor in a major academic institution with years of experience with the direction and assessment of doctoral dissertations. In general, based on this criterion, those in firms and development agencies are unacceptable.
  - (b) Be a leading figure with professional standing in the field. This is important since we often find our Outside Readers are very valuable as referees for jobs and promotion after graduation.
  - (c) Have worked in the student's area of research (usually evidenced by appearing in the student's bibliography).
  - (d) Should be individuals NOT previously involved directly with the research or the production of the thesis since we are seeking an assessment independent of the work of the student and the previous guidance provided by the DAC.
2. With the DAC's approval, the student submits the following materials to Barbara Heil in the Education Office for distribution to the doctoral committee for review:
    - (a) an abstract of the thesis;
    - (b) a copy of the bibliography, even if incomplete;
    - (c) 2-3 names of possible Outside Readers meeting the criteria above with a description of how the work of each is tied to the student's thesis work and the suitability of the person to serve as an Outside Reviewer.
  3. The Doctoral Committee will review the materials and inform the student of their preferred nominee with a reserve in case of refusal.
  4. Once the nominee has agreed to serve as the Outside Reader, the student's DAC will meet with the student and agree on the final timetable up to and including the thesis defense.
  5. The student will then be responsible for emailing their thesis to Barbara Heil **six to eight weeks** prior to the defense date. All of the student's DAC members must be copied on this email. The Education Office will then send the thesis directly to the reader for review. At this time, the role of the reader is explained with the attached instruction sheet and details of responsibilities, the time frame and remuneration. Note that the thesis must be complete (all sections written, tables, graphs and references included) even though the Reader and the Committee recognize this as the penultimate version of the thesis prior to the defense.

6. During this review process, the only communication with the Outside Reader will be through the Doctoral Committee Chair and/or the Education Office. Neither the student, nor members of the student's DAC may contact the outside reader directly at any time during this process.
7. The Outside Reader's report is sent directly to Barbara Heil in the Education Office and is circulated immediately without commentary to all members of the Doctoral Committee, to the student's DAC and to the student before the public defense of the thesis.
8. If the Outside Reader fails to provide a report within the agreed timetable, the Doctoral Committee will take action to ensure that the defense is not unduly delayed.

### **Recommendations from the Outside Reader**

Once the report has been received from the Outside Reader, the student meets with the DAC to review the commentary and to agree on a strategy for responding to any criticisms before the thesis defense and the production of the final version of the thesis. In the past, these comments have included a mix of general commentary, strategic and theoretical and some more detailed points, both statistical and grammatical. After meeting with their DAC to discuss the remarks and recommendations of the Outside Reader, the student will send a brief memo to Barbara Heil outlining the agreed upon next steps. This memo will be circulated to the Doctoral Committee.

In the event that the Outside Reader indicates that the student's thesis is not ready to be defended, the Department Chair will make a determination on the scheduling of the defense after consultation with both the DAC and Doctoral Committees.

**DEPARTMENT DEGREE COMMITTEES 2017-2018**

**DOCTORAL COMMITTEE**

Margaret Kruk (*Chair*), [mkruk@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:mkruk@hsph.harvard.edu)  
Rifat Atun, [ratun@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:ratun@hsph.harvard.edu)  
Marcia Castro, [mcastro@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:mcastro@hsph.harvard.edu)  
Lindsay Jaacks, [jaacks@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:jaacks@hsph.harvard.edu)  
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David Canning (*ex officio*), [dcanning@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:dcanning@hsph.harvard.edu)  
Wafaie Fawzi (*ex officio*), [mina@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:mina@hsph.harvard.edu)

**MASTER OF SCIENCE COMMITTEE**

Margaret McConnell (*Chair*), [mmccone@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:mmccone@hsph.harvard.edu)  
Goodarz Danaei, [gdanaei@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:gdanaei@hsph.harvard.edu)  
Nicholas Menzies, [nmenzies@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:nmenzies@hsph.harvard.edu)  
Stéphane Verguet, [verguet@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:verguet@hsph.harvard.edu)  
David Canning (*ex officio*), [dcanning@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:dcanning@hsph.harvard.edu)  
Wafaie Fawzi (*ex officio*), [mina@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:mina@hsph.harvard.edu)

**MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH – GLOBAL HEALTH**

Jesse Bump, [bump@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:bump@hsph.harvard.edu)  
Field of Study Leader

## APPENDIX 6

### DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL HEALTH AND POPULATION COURSE OFFERINGS 2017-2018

#### Fall 2017

GHP 210 F	Canning	Concepts and Methods of Global Health and Population Studies; (5.0)
GHP 262 F	Pham, Bhabha, Leaning	Emerging Issues in Humanitarian Response and Human Rights; (2.5)
GHP 272 F	Fan, Lamstein	Foundations of Global Health and Population; (5.0)
GHP 299 A (Fall)	McConnell	Masters Thesis; (5.0)
GHP 525 F	Fan	Econometrics for Health Policy; (5.0)
GHP 530 A (Fall I)	Bean	Practice and Culminating Experience for Global Health; (2.5)
GHP 557 F	Atun	Fundamentals of Global Health; (5.0)
GHP 568 F	Khanna	Contemporary Developing Countries: Entrepreneurial Solutions to Intractable Problems; (5.0) *FAS SW-47; HKS PED-338; HBS 1266
GHP 230 F1	McConnell	Introduction to Economics with Applications to Health and Development; (2.5)
GHP 270 F1	Reich	Knowledge and Research Design in Global Health; (2.5)
GHP 500 F1	Kruk	Measuring Health System Quality and Responsiveness; (2.5)
GHP 539 F1	Cash, Weisfeld	Control of Infectious Disease in Low and Middle-Income Countries: Social, Political and Economic Dimensions; (2.5)
GHP 552 F1	Somsak Chunharas	Leadership Development in Global Health; (1.25)
ID 250 F1	Eyal, Norheim	Ethical Basis of the Practice of Public Health; (2.5)
GHP 212 F2	Bossert	Political Economy of Health Sector Reform (2.5)
GHP 220 F2	Castro	Introduction to Demographic Methods; (2.5)
GHP 244 F2	Bossert	Health Sector Reform: A Worldwide Perspective; (2.5)
GHP 255 F2	Sudfeld, Mayer	HIV Interventions: Rationale, Design, and Evaluation; (2.5)
GHP 288 F2	Marks	Issues in Health and Human Rights; (2.5)
GHP 293 F2	Wikler	Individual and Social Responsibility for Health; (2.5)
GHP 553 F2	Bhabha	Human Rights Dilemmas in Child Protection; (2.5)
ID 552 F2	Atun	Innovation and Global Health Systems; (2.5)

### WinterSession 2018

GHP 263	Dumbaugh	Grant Writing for Funding of Research and Health Care Projects; (2.5)
GHP 511	Aptel, Bhabha	International Perspectives on Justice for Children; (2.5)
GHP 297	Bossert	Field Trip: Health Reform and Community Medicine in Chile; (1.25)
GHP 298	Cash, Jaacks	Field Trip to India; (1.25)
GHP 542	Castro	Field Trip to Brazil; (1.25)
GHP 543	Brüderlein	Humanitarian Field Study; (2.5)
GHP 544	Reich, Lajous	The Mexican Health System: Reform, Implementation, and Monitoring/Evaluation; (1.25)
GHP 547	Langer	Field Experience in Maternal Health; (1.25)

### Spring 2018

ID 217 S	Fawzi	Nutrition and Global Health; (2.5)
GHP 228 S	Cohen	Econometric Methods in Impact Evaluation; (5.0)
GHP 299 B (Spring)	McConnell	Masters Thesis; (5.0)
GHP 515 S	Kayden	International Humanitarian Response I; (2.5) *Tufts DHP 213 and NUTR 324
ID 205 S	Leaning, Cranmer	Societal Response to Disaster; (2.5)
<b>GHP XXX SI</b>	<b>Danaei</b>	<b>Risk Factors and Population Health; (2.5)</b>
GHP 501 SI	Verguet	Methods for Health System Analysis (2.5)
GHP 532 SI	Rhatigan, Mukherjee	Introduction to Global Health Delivery; (2.5)
GHP 537 SI	Greenough, Pham	Field Methods in Humanitarian Crises I; (1.25)
ID 212 S2	Kruk	Large Scale Effectiveness Evaluations; (2.5)
GHP 214 S2	Marks	Health, Human Rights and the International System; (2.5)
GHP 231 S2	Langer	Sexual and Reproductive Health: Global Perspectives; (2.5)
GHP 265 S2	Cash	Ethics of Global Health Research; (2.5)
GHP 269 S2	Bump	Political Economy of Global Health; (2.5)
GHP 518 S2	Kayden	International Humanitarian Response II; (1.25)
GHP 530 B (Spring 2)	Bean	Practice and Culminating Experience for Global Health; (2.5)
GHP 534 S2	Castro	Introduction to Spatial Methods for Public Health; (2.5)
GHP 538 S2	Pham, Greenough	Field Methods in Humanitarian Crises II; (1.25)
GHP 562 S2	Valadez	Program Monitoring and Evaluation Methods; (2.5)

## Summer 2017

GHP 213 Summer	Danaei	Global Cardiovascular Disease Prevention - Methods, Study Designs and Case Studies; (2.5)
GHP 532 Summer	Rhatigan, Mukherjee	Introduction to Global Health Care Delivery; (2.5)
GHP 555 Summer	Weintraub	Management Practices in Health Care Delivery; (1.25)

## Others

GHP 300                      Independent Study

### **Research** (*Doctoral Students only*)

GHP 350                      Research  
GHP 400                      Non-resident Research

## Not Offered 2017-18

GHP 504 S1	Applied Qualitative Methods in International Health (2.5)
GHP 506 S1	Measuring Population Health (2.5)
GHP 237 S2	Behavioral Economics and Global Health; McConnell (2.5)



### OTHER RESOURCES

In addition to the information printed in this Department Guide, students at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health are expected to review and become familiar with the following resources:

Harvard Chan Academic Calendar

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/registrar/academic-calendar/>

Harvard Chan Student Handbook

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/student-handbook/>

Harvard Chan Course Catalog

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/registrar/courses-and-schedules/>

Procedure for Cross-registration at other Schools

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/registrar/cross-registration-2/>

Office of Human Research Administration (OHRA)

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ohra/>

Career Advancement

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/career-services/>

Other important resources are:

#### **Alumni Affairs**

[James Smith](#), Assistant Dean of Alumni Affairs

#### **Career Advancement**

[Randi Friedman](#), Director of Career Advancement

#### **Ombuds Office**

[Melissa Brodrick](#), Ombudsperson

#### **Student Services**

[Kathryn Austin](#), Director of Financial Aid

[Stacey Herman](#), Associate Dean for Student Services

[Vincent W. James](#), Director of Admissions

[Leah Kane](#), Director of Student Affairs

[Joann Wilson-Singleton](#), Registrar