

# The UK Public Health Training Scheme

October 2023

LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE



## CHECK OUT MOODLE

**Lunchtime sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 1-1.30 pm (UK time)**

- **Planning your next steps: How to get started**
- **Careers with UN organisations**
- **Finding and Funding a PhD**
- **PhD Applications**

**LSE Discover International Organisations event**

Limited tickets, booking essential, details to follow

**Save the date - Wed 1 November - Global and Public Health Careers: Panel Discussion**

- Please keep mics on mute;
- Feel free to use the chat box
- Trouble with sound? Trying leaving and coming back, try a different browser;
- The session will be recorded and put on Moodle under 'Exploring Career Options (recordings)'.

# This workshop – objectives

- Introduction to UK Public Health specialty training;
- Application process;
- Insight from a current participant.

**Not** an overview of all aspects of Public Health in the UK.

Resources for that in 'Exploring Career options (recordings)':

- Careers in Public Health in the UK;
- Career options using your master's;
- Careers using your research skills.

# Who is in the room?

Clinicians/non-clinicians?

Experienced/less experienced?

UK/International?

Current level of knowledge of Public Health training scheme?

Use the chat box:



# The UK Public Health landscape

- National picture – central Government, [UK Health Security Agency](#) and [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities](#)), NICE.
- Implementation – local authorities (also charities/NGOs).
- Other major players – Think Tanks, consultancies, pharma;
- Research – universities, pharma, research aspects in other organisations/roles.
- Public Health training scheme/registrar training, leading to Public Health Consultant role (usually via local authority).

# What is the scheme?

One of the medical specialties, but open to non-medics;

Varied training over 4-5 years (4 years if already hold PH master's);

Mandatory placements: 12 months Local Authority; 4 months in Health Protection;

Optional placements;

Options for 'Out of Programme' experience (or research e.g. PhD);

Two exams – written and practical/scenario based;

Potential route to higher level jobs.

## Faculty of Public Health Specialty Training

Body responsible for the training.

60-90 places per year.

Visit website to check for 2023 application opening and closing dates (open window is circa 1 month).

Assessment centre - usually held in the January.

Selection events – late Feb to early March (virtual).

Do you have to be from the UK? No but...

"Applicants must be eligible to work in the UK" ([Public Health ST1, Essential Entry Criteria](#))



# Competition

One of the most competitive specialties for medics. Competition varies by location but overall, 8 (98:786 competition ratio\*). [Data on last year here](#)

- London and Southeast 18 (15:266), previously 14 (17:234)
- Scotland 6 (11:62), previously 11 (5:53)
- Wales 9 (3:26), previously 13 (2:26)

So it varies, but London/South East is particularly competitive.

\*Ratio (posts available: eligible 1st choice apps)

# I'm not a doctor

- Experience required, including public health experience
- No precise description of what that is
- Up to you to evidence & demonstrate
- "At least 48 months' whole-time equivalent (wte) work experience by application closing date, of which at least 24 months (wte) must be in an area relevant to population health practice" ([Public Health ST1](#))



# Application process

Application and assessment of eligibility – first stage;  
After that, all 'blind' selection (no difference for medics/non-medics).

Assessment centre – verbal/numerical reasoning, situational judgement;

Selection centre – group task, individual interview, written assessment.

All candidates ranked, candidates then also rank areas (in UK) in order of preference.

Training organized regionally, once on scheme, stay in that region.

# Recruitment Timelines

10am - 26 October 2023	Applications open
4pm - 23 November 2023	Applications close
Expected by 20 December 2023	Bookings open for assessment centre
9 & 10 January 2024	Assessment centre
to be confirmed	Notification of assessment centre outcome
27 February - 29 February 2024	Selection event (virtual)
By 5pm 26 March 2024	First offers will be made via NHS England - East Midlands. Offers will be made in meritocratic order with highest ranked candidates receiving first preference until all available posts are filled.

- [NHS Medical Speciality Training](#)
- [2024 Person Specifications](#)
- [2024 Essential Guidance FAQs](#)
- [Recruitment Information](#)
- [FPH recruitment information](#)
- For all enquiries about the recruitment and selection process please contact [publichealthrecruitment.em@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:publichealthrecruitment.em@hee.nhs.uk)
- Booklet produced by FPH '[Specialise in the bigger picture](#)'

## 2024 Essential guidance: Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Please click on the below to view 2024 essential guidance (FAQs).

### Table of contents

- [Eligibility and application](#)
- [The assessment centre process](#)
- [The selection centre process](#)
- [Offers](#)

### Eligibility and application

[+ Questions 1 to 10](#)

[+ Questions 11 to 20](#)

[+ Questions 21 to 30](#)

- What's the scheme like?
- Q&A

**Alice Kadri**  
**Public Health Registrar**



- What's the scheme like?
- Q&A

## Joe Home

Joe is a London-based Public Health Registrar and current student on LSHTM's Public Health programme. Prior to entering public health training, Joe worked in different roles in NHS management, healthcare policy and clinical medicine.



# Feedback form

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oaKtcild7U6xIPh0V3cUnib6FT5JU2lKm1h1jmhk5TFUQ1NBQ1gyMkZNTedINjBKM0tjQjQ3MINTSy4u>