EoE Public Health Training Programme

MPhil Guidance for Public Health Registrars (East of England)

This policy covers funding arrangements, attendance, expenses, leave (sick, annual and study leave), supervision and examinations.

1. Introduction

The curriculum for specialty training in public health requires a sound knowledge foundation which is delivered in phase one of training and is assessed through the Faculty of Public Health Diplomate exam (DFPH). A master's degree is not a prerequisite for CCT.

The East of England PH training programme supports StRs to gain the required knowledge through funding attendance at the MPhil in Population Health Sciences (Public Health) at the University of Cambridge (https://www.phs.masters.cam.ac.uk/).

New recruits who already have elements of the knowledge foundation from previous study e.g. a previous Masters level degree, do not attend the MPhil. Registrars in this position should identify any gaps they may have in the DFPH curriculum and discuss with the Training Programme Director. It may be appropriate for them to attend one or two MPhil modules.

During the MPhil registrars are salaried employees and are expected to attend and deliver service work for their training location outside of term-time. This supports a registrar in learning how to apply their new knowledge and is helpful preparation for DFPH.

Registrars should expect to spend a significant amount of their personal time in private study to complete the requirements of the MPhil.

2. Course structure

The full-time course is delivered over three terms. The timetable is available from the MPhil administrator.

The course is generally timetabled over four days each week. A part-time option is available to StRs who have approval to work less than full time (minimum 0.7WTE during the period of study). Registrars have compiled written advice for registrars taking the part-time route.

3. Attendance and leave

StRs are expected to attend all in-person sessions of the MPhil.

Sickness absence should be notified to the MPhil Administrator, Educational Supervisor and NHSE EoE Programme Administrator.

Time outside university terms must be spent full time in the service base undertaking service work relating to their phase 1 learning outcomes, unless taken as annual leave. Annual leave should not be taken in term time without permission of the Training Programme Director. This means that most time outside term time will be taken as annual leave. This

should be taken in accordance with standard leave policy and agreed by the Educational Supervisor.

It is advisable to choose MPhil assessment topics (e.g. essays, presentations) that have application to service work where possible. This extracts more value from the work, helps with preparation for DFPH and facilitates progress against learning outcomes. Registrars are not expected to deliver service work during term times but will benefit from keeping in touch with their placement, and working from the location occasionally on university non-contact days.

StRs in their first year are not entitled to study leave other than for attendance at the MPhil, induction and PHREE days (which are assumed and need not be applied for). (Please also see the EoE PHTP Study Leave Policy June 2023).

4. Supervision

StRs will be allocated an academic supervisor during induction to the MPhil.

StRs should continue to meet with their Clinical Supervisors in training location and their Educational Supervisor.

5. Examinations

The University examinations are in June.

Normally StRs will sit the Diplomate exam (DFPH) in the March after they have completed the MPhil (their second year of training). StRs wishing to sit the DFPH exam earlier should discuss their reasoning with the Training Programme Director. StRs may not choose a later sitting without agreement; deferment without agreement will be seen as failure to progress and addressed at the next available annual review of progress.

6. Expenses

The cost of the MPhil, the 'University Composition Fee', is paid by the programme. This is more than £15,000 and includes basic college registration fees and tuition costs. College fees can vary considerably and are the responsibility of the registrar.

StRs may claim the cost of accommodation and travel in line with the Relocation and Travel Expenses policy.

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