



## INTERNATIONAL MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

October, 2015 - September, 2016

### Dear Potential MPH Student,

As the first and largest school of public health in Israel, the Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine at Hebrew University-Hadassah has 50 years of experience in training public health professionals from Israel and from 90 countries across the globe. Our MPH degree has been awarded to more than 800 graduates from developing and transition regions as well as developed countries of North America and Western Europe since 1960, and a similar number of Israelis.

The International Master of Public Health (IMPH) Program offers a scientifically stimulating and culturally rewarding experience of studying in a foreign country and interacting with peers from different professional and cultural backgrounds, in the unique setting of Jerusalem. In his book *A Beggar in Jerusalem*, Nobel Prize Laureate Elie Weisel wrote "*Jerusalem: The city which miraculously transforms man into pilgrim; no one can enter it and go away unchanged*".

The one-year English-language IMPH Program provides its trainees with tools for examining public health problems and formulating relevant responses at the institutional, community and national level. We help our students develop knowledge and skills in a broad range of public health disciplines, thus preparing them to take up key positions as leaders and teachers in their home countries, in areas such as HIV, malaria and tuberculosis prevention and control, prevention and treatment of heart disease, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases, combating malnutrition and tobacco use, and fighting the stigma associated with mental illness. An equally important goal of the IMPH Program is to instill in our students a love and respect for the Land of Israel and its people.

The teachers and staff of the IMPH will do their utmost to make you feel at home while you undertake this demanding, yet very rewarding curriculum of study.

Acceptance into the Program is competitive, but selected applicants from developing and transition regions are offered generous scholarships that cover the costs of studying in the Program. Exceptional candidates can compete for a travel award.

In the next few pages you will get a glimpse of what the IMPH experience in Jerusalem entails, academically and socially-culturally. If, when you finish reading this brochure, you feel that our IMPH Program is what you are looking for, we encourage you to complete the application package, and allow us to consider you for this unique public health training experience.

**Professor Yehuda Neumark**  
Head,  
Braun School of Public Health  
and Community Medicine

**Professor Ora Paltiel**  
Director,  
International MPH Program

## The International Master of Public Health Program

### Introduction

The Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine is proud of its overseas students who since 1970 have made the International Master of Public Health (IMPH) Program a most rewarding and successful venture. More than 800 students from some 90 countries have participated in this unique experience.

Our students' wide range of cultural backgrounds and work experiences coupled with our demanding curriculum create an environment which is at once scientifically challenging and culturally stimulating. Personal contacts with our alumni and news of their contributions to their countries' health is a continuing source of pride and pleasure.

The IMPH student body comprises physicians, nurses, other health professionals, economists and those interested in public health from other disciplines. Our graduates return home at the completion of their training to occupy key positions in the health care systems of their communities and countries.

Most students come from developing regions of the world, but the program also welcomes students from the west, and our alumni include graduates from Western Europe, the USA and Canada.

Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV) has been a vital element in the development and continuation of this unique program for over 30 years.

A limited number of scholarships are provided annually by the Pears Foundation, Hadassah Medical Organization, British Friends of Hebrew University and American Friends of Hebrew University, MASHAV and other donors for selected candidates from developing regions and countries in transition.

Israel is known to be a welcoming society and along with providing you with public health knowledge and skills, we will be happy to show you many of the treasures of Israel and its capital city, Jerusalem.

Surrounded by terraced slopes and pine forested hills west of central Jerusalem, our campus lies next to the quiet, picturesque village of Ein Kerem. Students can wander along flower-lined paths, interspersed with vines and olive trees and watch artists at work. Quaint shops, restaurants and galleries dot the landscape. On campus, one of the first sights to greet newcomers is the magnificent set of stained glass windows created by Marc Chagall.



Join us and become part of our world-wide family devoted to the advancement of public health practices, research, and teaching.

The field of public health has been defined as “prevention of diseases, prolonging life and promoting health” (WHO, Regional Office Europe, 1994), spans numerous disciplines such as epidemiology, health administration, health promotion, nutrition, and environmental health.

Community Medicine, another cornerstone of our approach to public health, is concerned with the care of the community as a whole and of its subgroups. Toward this goal, the planning of community health programs requires an assessment of the health needs at the population level. As stated by the late Professor Sidney Kark, one of the founding fathers of our School, *“Diagnosis of the state of health of a community is as important a foundation of community medicine and community health care in general, as is careful diagnosis of the state of health of an individual patient seeking care”*.

### The Unique Advantages of the Braun School’s IMPH Program in Israel

- The program promotes excellence in international public health research and practice in a broad range of topics.
- The School has nearly 50 years experience in the international health field, its teaching in Israel and in many other countries.
- In recognition of our ongoing public health training efforts in Israel and abroad, the World Health Organization designated the School as a Collaborating Centre for Capacity Building in Public Health.
- The IMPH Program is recognized the world over as one of the leading courses in its field as evidenced by the 2003 review of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) towards regional accreditation.
- The IMPH Program provides tools for examining public health problems in any country and formulating relevant intervention strategies at the community and national level.
- The emphasis throughout is on active learning by the student rather than passive participation in the classroom.
- Israel is both a developed (academically, technologically, etc.) and a still developing young country. We have experienced and struggled with health issues in both these roles.
- Together with the high academic requirements, the program is tailored to the student’s needs and interests.
- The teachers are deeply involved, caring and have open communication with their students.
- Small group tutorial classes are provided for students requiring additional assistance in some core courses.
- The IMPH Program offers a wide range of social and cultural activities that serve to bond and integrate the students and introduce them to the historical and modern host country of Israel.

## Aims and Objectives of the Course

The overall objective of our Program is to provide basic knowledge of the theory and practice of public health and community medicine for those either currently engaged in this field or planning to do so in the future.

We will work toward helping you develop knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Principles and uses of epidemiology, research methods, and biostatistics
- Principles of health administration, health economics and health systems
- Evaluation of planning and provision of health services
- Principles of public health practice, planning and administration
- Planning and carrying out research projects
- Diagnosis of the state of health of a community
- Design and implementation of community care programs
- Control of communicable diseases
- Environmental, industrial and occupational health
- Sociological and behavioral factors related to health
- Nutrition in public health, food security, and combating malnutrition

## Upon successful completion of the program you will be expected to:

- Initiate and participate in the promotion and development of public health practices in your own country on a national or regional level or in a local community setting
- Develop capacity-building programs responsible for training public health personnel in your country
- Use epidemiological and other tools toward health system planning and evaluation, and health services delivery in geographical regions and within institutions



## Study Curriculum

The curriculum of study is comprised of core courses, elective courses, the COPC Workshop, and the writing of a mentored Thesis or Master's Paper.

### **1. Core Courses**

The required courses which constitute the core of the IMPH studies include:

- Basic Statistical Methods for Public Health including Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS)
- Community Oriented Primary Health Care Workshop
- Control of Communicable Diseases
- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Health Economics
- Interpretation of Epidemiological Data
- Introduction to Health Promotion and Health Behavior
- Introduction to Public Health
- Introduction to Public Health Nutrition
- Organization of Medical Care
- Principles and Uses of Epidemiology
- Public Health Practice, Organization and Evaluation
- Public Health Seminar
- Qualitative Methods in Health and Public Health
- Research Forum
- Sociology of Health and Illness
- Survey and Research Methods



### **2. Elective Courses**

Students also choose from a wide range of elective courses such as:

- Aging: Epidemiology and Services
- Community Mental Health
- Economic Evaluation of Public Health and Medical Interventions
- Family Planning
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Public Health
- Health Promotion
- History of Public Health Epidemiology
- Public Health Demography
- Maternal and Child Health
- Multidisciplinary Aspects of HIV/AIDS
- Public Health Ethics
- Reforms in Health Care Systems
- Risk Approach in Health Services
- Selected Topics in Epidemiology
- Statistical Methods for Analysis of Rates



### 3. COPC Workshop

A major component of the IMPH program is the Community-Oriented Primary Care (COPC) Workshop. COPC is an innovative approach to health care delivery at the population level that integrates clinical medicine and public health. The COPC model was developed in our School and is employed in communities worldwide.

The main objective of this workshop is to develop community medicine in a primary health care setting or other framework, with special emphasis on the use of epidemiology in daily practice. Students apply the COPC principles and methods to data from their own communities.

### 4. Thesis / Master's Paper

Students complete an individual, mentored Thesis or Master's Paper.

Thesis: Students in the thesis track collect and/or analyze data on a relevant public health topic or conduct detailed secondary analyses of an existing database. This track is open to students who achieve above-average grades in the first semester courses.

Master's Paper: Students who choose this track write a paper on a public health problem which is relevant to their country. The paper may comprise a detailed research project proposal, a program review, or an in-depth analysis of an emerging public health problem.

Theses and papers are submitted in writing and defended in an oral examination. Students in both tracks participate in the "Research Forum" in which the student's thesis or paper proposal is presented and peer-reviewed.

Thesis track students enroll in fewer elective courses than those in the Master's Paper track.



#### **Master's Thesis Topics 2013-2014**

- Predictive models of gender ratio at birth in China under the One-Child Policy
- Toenail heavy metal and trace element concentrations among Israelis and Palestinians and association with PON1
- Catastrophic out-of-pocket health expenditure in India
- Socioeconomic inequality and its association with maternal health service utilization in Kenya
- Determinants of breastfeeding practices in children aged less than 24 months in Nepal: a secondary analysis of the 2011 Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
- Current perception of physicians regarding the health care system in Israel
- Demographic and dietary predictors of urinary concentrations of phytoestrogens among adults in Israel
- Prevalence and determinants of cyber-bullying in Israel
- Cervical cancer incidence and trends according to ethnicity in Israel
- The effect of a quality improvement intervention on equity in maternal and newborn care practices in eastern Uganda: A quasi-experimental study
- Perceived social support and long-term mortality among survivors of first acute myocardial infarction in Israel

- Parent-of-origin effects on longitudinal change in BMI from adolescence to adulthood: The Jerusalem Perinatal Follow-up Study
- The impact of internal displacement due to armed conflict violence on social determinants of health: Colombia 2012

#### **Master's Paper Topics 2013-2014**

- Toward a “health promoting hospital” in Roosevelt Hospital, Guatemala
- Caring for illegal immigrants in the ‘Promised Land’
- How to develop and implement a newborn screening program for Congenital Hypothyroidism in a lower middle income country: case of Cote d'Ivoire
- Health promoting hospitals in South Sudan
- A Lyme Disease education program for kindergarten children in Dutchess County, New York
- Safe childbirth in rural Cameroon
- Aspects of the polio vaccine campaign, Israel, 2013

#### **The Academic Year – October-September**

The academic year is divided into two semesters and a summer session. The first semester begins in October and ends in January-February, and the second semester ends in June. Exact start and end dates vary from year to year.

The summer session (July - September) is primarily devoted to work on the thesis/master’s paper (including field work if necessary) and to a limited number of workshops and elective courses.

Course examinations are held in February and July, and the oral thesis/paper defense in September, prior to graduation.

Professional site-visits, social outings, cultural events, and lectures on current affairs and the history of the region take place throughout the year. Students join in the celebration of local religious festivals. Informal home visits facilitate contact with faculty members and other Israelis. Professional site visits are arranged to public health facilities across the country.

Comfortable on-campus dormitory facilities are provided for scholarship students (see below) and can be rented by non-scholarship students based on availability. Apartments can also be rented in close proximity of the campus.

#### **Examinations and Grading**

Course grades are based on written or oral examinations, papers, or student presentations, depending on the course. Students must obtain a passing grade of 60 in each course to be eligible to receive the MPH degree.

#### **Message to the Potential Student**

Having read this description of our program and what we regard as important, you should be in a better position to decide whether you are interested in applying for admission. If you feel that our Program will meet your professional/academic needs, read on.

### Let us start with what we will try to provide you with:

- The fundamental principles of public health and community medicine through our curriculum in epidemiology, research methods, statistics, health administration and other core and elective courses. All these courses are conducted by faculty members with vast international experience, bringing a high level of expertise to the training program
- Practical experience in the application of these principles in the COPC workshop
- Practical experience in planning and carrying out a research project on a subject of your choice
- A rewarding and stimulating experience of studying in a foreign country and of meeting and working with people from different professional and cultural backgrounds and joining a global network of hundreds of public health professionals who have graduated the program

### What we expect from you, or more accurately, what you should expect from yourself:

- A realistic assessment of your knowledge of English so that you are not handicapped by an inability to read material, write papers or participate fully and freely in class. We do not offer an English language course. If you do not have a very strong command of English you will not fully benefit from the course and you might be unable to successfully complete the requirements of the course.
- A firm intention to continue to work in the field of public health and social medicine in your own country and not just a desire “to get away for a while”, or merely to collect another degree. You should have a clear understanding of why you want the degree and how you plan to use it.

### Requirements for Admission

In order to be eligible for the Program the applicant should have an academic degree (BA/BSc, MA/MSc, MD) in medicine, dentistry, nursing, another allied health field, or in one of the basic biological or social sciences relevant to health from a recognized university. Diploma/Advanced Diploma degrees are not recognized as academic degrees by Hebrew University.

Applicants who hold only a bachelor's degree must have obtained an overall grade of at least 75% (GPA 3/4) in their undergraduate studies.

Practical experience in public health is taken into account as well as academic achievement.

Students must have a command of basic computing skills.

### IMPH Program Costs

A limited number of scholarships are available for selected students from developing countries and countries in economic transition. These scholarships cover virtually all costs related to participation in the Program including tuition, living accommodations, basic living expenses in the form of a monthly stipend, medical insurance, social activities, administration costs, and some textbooks. **Airfare to and from Israel is not included in the scholarship**, but exceptional students may be eligible for a travel grant on an individual basis.

Scholarship support is not available for students from high-income countries. The cost of participation in the IMPH program for non-scholarship students is 100,000 New Israeli Shekels (NIS). All payments must be made in Israeli currency or foreign currency based on the official exchange rate on the day of payment. This sum covers tuition, administrative fees, social/cultural activities, and medical insurance. (Living accommodations are not included and cannot be guaranteed.)

For applicants from the United States:

Upon acceptance to the course you may be eligible (as of information available in October 2013) to apply for a Sallie Mae loan (<https://www.salliemae.com/>) to finance your education at Hebrew University (HU). Note that as a student in this program you are **not eligible for a Federal Loan.**

The HU Financial Aid office in New York ([finaid@hebrewu.com](mailto:finaid@hebrewu.com)) can provide assistance in guiding you through the process and answering your questions regarding **Sallie Mae** loans. This office is a Rothberg International School office, and although the International MPH Program is not part of the Rothberg School they will assist you with this loan.

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Application Requirements

A non-refundable application fee of \$75 US is charged. A check for this amount made payable to "Hadassah Medical Organization" must be included in the application package. Students from developing countries and countries in transition are exempt from the application fee.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website:

<https://medicine.ekmd.huji.ac.il/schools/publichealth/En/Candidates/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://publichealth.huji.ac.il/>

Please include:

1. Completed and signed **application form.**
2. Copy of an **academic degree certificate and valid transcripts** (for all degrees).
3. Applicants from countries where English is **not** the language of instruction must present results of an **English language proficiency exam** from a recognized language-instruction institute. Applicants who have previously studied at an institution where English is the language of instruction do not need to submit proof of English proficiency.
4. **Medical report** attesting to the applicant's good health signed by a physician. Please note, medical insurance does not cover expenses arising from pre-existing conditions, dental care, eye care or routine gynecological procedures.
5. **Curriculum Vitae** (CV)

6. **“Personal statement”** or autobiography relating to the reasons for wanting to pursue a master's degree in public health.
7. **Letters of recommendation** from **3** senior academicians or professionals who can attest to the applicant's qualifications and ability to successfully complete the Program.
8. **A color photograph** on white or light background.
9. **Photocopy of a valid passport** Passport must be valid for at least 6 months from end of program.
10. **A letter from an employer** or future employer attesting to the intent to employ the applicant upon completion of the MPH degree is recommended.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE BY APRIL 30.**

**Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.**

**PLEASE DO NOT FAX OR EMAIL THE APPLICATION.**

If you wish to submit by courier service, contact the Program Office for instructions. It is also possible to submit the application at the nearest Israeli Embassy. Be sure to provide a clear address, telephone number (including country code and area code), fax number and e-mail address on all your communications.

**Program address:**

**International MPH Program**

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