



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2022-2023

Exchange

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers many English-taught courses in a variety of subjects, ranging from arts & culture and social sciences, neurosciences and computer science, to economics and business administration.

The International Office is responsible for course approval and course registration for exchange students. For details about course registration, requirements, credits, semesters and so on, please [visit the exchange programmes webpages](#).

International Public Health (BMED)

Course Code	AB_1145
Credits	6.00
Period	P5
Course Level	100
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Science
Course Coordinator	B.S. Mengistu
Examiner	B.S. Mengistu
Teaching Staff	L. de Groot, M.J. Visser, A.R. Riley-Powell, dr. M.M. Waltz, dr. T. Zuiderent-Jerak, dr. R.M.H. Peters, dr. E.V. Syurina MSc
Teaching method(s)	Study Group, Computer lab, Lecture

Course Objective

This course aims to provide students with the knowledge to identify and explain the contributors to global health issues by considering the scientific and social development of international public health.

After this course, students will be able to:

- Understand fundamental concepts and theories in global health, like the influence of the biopsychosocial and sociocultural models and the historical and political perspectives that impact global health.
- Discuss critical areas in global health such as health systems, nutrition, infectious diseases, emerging diseases, mental health, sexual and reproductive health and environmental health and identify the determinants that contribute to health inequities.
- Assess national public health issues, health systems and prevention strategies by understanding how health is influenced by global trends
- Critically analyze data and information in global health and present them in writing and orally

Course Content

International Public Health provides an introduction to global health and covers key topics integral to the rapidly growing and complex field. International public health strives to promote health equity by addressing the social determinants that disproportionately impact vulnerable communities. Strategies to address health inequalities include, but are not limited to, the implementation of equitable health policies, advocacy and social justice initiatives, health interventions, and creating health services that are accessible, affordable and suitable for all communities. International public health considers issues that extend beyond geographical borders, explicitly highlighting the experiences of health in transnational contexts and low- and middle-income countries.

One of the most characteristic features of international public health is its broad focus and its interdisciplinarity. This field coalesces contributions from numerous fields, such as epidemiology, biostatistics, biomedical sciences, economics, management studies, psychology, anthropology, political science, ethics, law, sociology, gender studies and more. Another central feature is the focus on social justice, which advocates for the removal of systematic barriers to optimal health and quality health services that equally benefit all groups within society. The third feature is related to worldwide trends like urbanization, migration, technological development and globalization. These trends have an enormous impact on health and illness. Studying the worldwide trends is a major aspect of international public health.

The lectures in this course will expose students to the primary contributors forming the global burden of disease, social, cultural, political and economic dynamics that influence health outcomes, and the importance of health systems factors in influencing population health. Participation in the workgroups will allow students to develop basic research, writing and oral presentation skills by developing a portfolio on a global health issue. Overall, students in this course will be encouraged to analyze the application, role and relevance of research and practice in advancing health equity for vulnerable communities worldwide.

Additional Information Teaching Methods

Lecture 28 hours

Assignments (workgroup sessions & group assignment) 75 (10 + 65) hours

Self-study 55 hours

Exam 3 hours

Method of Assessment

Your final grade is comprised of the following components:

- 50% final exam
- 40% group assignment (portfolio 30% + presentation 10%)
- 10% participation

A minimum score of 5.5 on each assessment is required to pass the course.

Literature

Title: Global Health 101. Author: Richard Skolnik (fourth edition)

Available: VU boekhandel

Potential extra literature will be made available via Canvas

Additional Information Target Audience

Elective course for first year students of the bachelor's programmes in Biomedical Sciences and Health Sciences (Gezondheidswetenschappen), and for second year students of the bachelor's programme in Health and Life (Gezondheid en Leven) with major BMW.

The course is strongly recommended to all students who consider the master's specialization in International Public Health or the master's programme in Global Health.

Additional Information

Students must attend all work groups to pass the course.

Guest lecturers will be invited for specific lectures.

Custom Course Registration

Registration via VUnet.