

A guide for students and supervisors on fulfilling the requirements for the degree of Master of Philosophy in Global Health with internship

Introduction

The Master's programme in Global Health is a 120 ECTS credits two-year full time post graduate degree at Centre for International Health (CIH), Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care (IGS), University of Bergen (UiB). Its main focus is current challenges in global health in populations in resource-limited settings. Students are being qualified to identify and critically analyze key factors shaping the health and wellbeing of populations in low and middle-income countries and to formulate effective and appropriate responses to complex health related issues.

The study comprises coursework (60ECTS), internship 3-6 months (30ECTS) and a research assignment written as a thesis (30 ECTS).

1st semester: the student takes core courses in global health (SDG303 Global Health Challenges and Responses), research methods (INTH315 Methods in Global Health Research) and proposal development (INTH330).

2nd semester: the student develops the project proposal in close collaboration with supervisor and takes elective courses relevant to the thesis topic (at UiB or other relevant institution). The research proposal may or may not be related to the internship.

3rd semester: the students prepare and completes an internship period of 3-6 months in appropriate organization and writes an internship report. See course description <https://www.uib.no/en/course/INTH317>.

4th semester: the student conducts research and prepares the 30 ECTS master thesis.

Type of thesis (30ECTS)

This is a 30ECTS thesis and thus smaller in scope than the 60ECTS thesis. Recommended methods are:

- Semi-systematic literature review
- Analysis of existing data: hospital records, registers or project data
- In special cases a small field study (3-4 weeks) may be feasible, for instance as part of an on-going study.

Benchmarks for the thesis (30 ECTS):

1st semester: Preparation of research proposal start December

2nd semester: Submit final research proposal by 15 April (if it involves data collection it must include a plan for ethics permit). The protocol is to be approved by the supervisor.

4th semester:

- Fulfill all course work before 1 May. The core courses and the agreed elective courses have to be successfully fulfilled before the student can apply to sit for the final exam/thesis defense.
- Application to sit for final exam is 1 May. Remember application to sit for exam; link to an online form here: <https://www.uib.no/en/cih/111928/important-dates#fouth-semester>.
- Final date for thesis submission is 15 May.
- Final exam usually takes place in June, date decided by examiners.

Research Proposal

A full proposal should include:

1. title of the project
2. abstract
3. introduction/background
4. aim/objectives
5. design methods (and data collection if relevant)
6. expected outcome/planned analyses/theory
7. limitations of the study
8. (if relevant; ethical considerations, ethical review and approval)
9. time frame
10. budget (if fieldwork is included)
11. literature references
12. annexes (if relevant; questionnaires, interview guides or other data collection tools)

Thesis requirements

The thesis must:

- be concerned with a global health research problem, which should be clearly formulated and justified
- have clear objectives/research questions
- be based on relevant and appropriately described materials and methods
- present results in a clear and balanced way
- present a relevant and critical discussion of materials, methods and results and relate this to pertinent literature within the field

Writing up the thesis (30 ECTS)

The 30 ECTS master will usually have a monograph format, but a paper format may be appropriate for some, based on the supervisor's recommendation and close guidance.

1. *Write up your thesis as a monograph*

The Master thesis should be about 20-40 pages (1 page is approximately 300 words with 1.5-line space, 12-font), excluding tables, figures, references and annexes.

It should include:

- a) title of project
- b) abstract
- c) introduction/Background
- d) aim/objectives
- e) design methods (including data collection if relevant)
- f) findings/results
- g) discussion (including limitations of the study)
- h) conclusions, recommendations.
- i) reference list
- j) annexes

2. *Present your thesis as a paper*

The thesis can be structured as a scientific paper. The paper may have more than one author, but the student must be the first author.

When a paper is the basis for the master thesis, the thesis should be organized like this:

- a) title page
- b) content list

- c) foreword (voluntary), including acknowledgements
- d) introduction to the paper.
An introduction for the paper should be written, including a literature review (more extensive description than possible in a paper) on the topic and the rationale for performing this study, and if relevant, a more in-depth presentation of models and theories related to the work (10-15 double space pages)
- e) the Paper itself, including abstract, main text, tables and figures (if any), reference list
The paper should be written for a publication in an international journal with peer-review evaluation, and the student should mention which paper is aimed for. It should be written in the format asked for by this journal, and the manuscript should be prepared as for submission. Double spacing should be used
- f) annexes: Guidelines from the journal, details of methods (like questionnaire), ethical clearance

The Master thesis should be submitted in Mitt UiB within the ordinary deadline 15 May.

Supervision

The Master thesis is written up under the supervision of an employee at the Faculty of Medicine; an assistant professor, associate professor or a professor. A co-supervisor may be appointed if there is need for special expertise. Co-supervisors can be working in other parts of the university, other universities, other research institutions, or international organizations. The University of Bergen provides no payment for such supervision.

Identification of supervisors

Supervisors will be identified for each student in the first semester. Each student has generally a right to 20 hours of supervision per study year. This includes reading of drafts. If a student has more than one supervisor, the 20 hours will be divided.

Roles and responsibilities

As a student, you are expected to:

- select your proposed area of study in consultation with academic staff at CIH/IGS
- participate fully in the core courses, in the elective courses as agreed with your supervisor(s), and in the research seminars
- prepare a thesis proposal in collaboration with your supervisor(s)
- present your proposal to teachers and fellow students at research seminars
- if undertaking primary research, discuss with the supervisors any ethical issues associated and secure ethical approval from relevant bodies
- produce work in accordance with the schedule agreed with your supervisors
- ensure that material is presented in sufficient time to allow for comment, discussion and alterations before proceeding to the next stage
- keep record of meetings with supervisor and agreed action points
- be familiar with research ethics guidelines
- be familiar with referencing guidelines
- be familiar with rules about plagiarism

Supervisor(s) are expected to:

- assist the student in choosing a relevant study topic
- assist in the appointment of (an) appropriate co-supervisor(s)
- assist the student in selecting appropriate elective courses
- read through drafts and give feedback

The main supervisor will be responsible for:

- discussing the type of guidelines and form of contact that would best suit the student, and agree on a schedule of meetings
- advising the student on the plan for his/her work
- providing guidance in the chosen field of study, including application for ethical approval when relevant
- advising on data and literature sources
- suggesting specialists whom you may consult for additional advice
- providing the supervisory sessions as contracted
- giving advice on the necessary completion dates of successive stages of the work in order to meet the submission deadline
- reading through drafts and give feedback

Assessment:

The deadline for application to sit for exam is May 1st. The thesis will be read by two examiners, an external examiner not employed at UiB, and an internal examiner from CIH/IGS. As a final oral exam, the student will be given 15-20 minutes to present the thesis, followed by a discussion with the two examiners. The supervisor(s) is (are) allowed to be present. Time frame is 1.5 - 2 hours. The student will be informed about the grade (thesis + oral exam) immediately after the oral exam.

You are welcome to contact the student administration if you have any specific questions concerning your exam.