

SECTION ONE: General Information

Programme Title	MSc Environmental Health	
Approval of Specification	15/08/2016	
Award Title & Interim Awards	Master of Science in Environmental Health (OLPBK) Postgraduate Certificate in Environmental Health Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Health	
Mode of Study	Full-time: <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time: <input type="checkbox"/> E-learning: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distance: <input type="checkbox"/> Sandwich: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Programme Start Date & Period of Validation	Start Date: September 16	Date of Last Update: 04/04/2012
	5 Years: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indefinite: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please state):	
Awarding Institution	University of Derby: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please State):	
College Managing the Programme	University of Derby Online Learning	
Institutions Delivering the Programme	University of Derby: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please State):	
Relevant External Reference Points	<p>The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) and The Royal Environmental Health Institution of Scotland (REHIS) provide benchmarks and accreditation requirements which have formed a basis for the design of this programme. This benchmark is provided through the new CIEH Environmental Health Curriculum 2011. The existing MSc Environmental Health programme is currently accredited by both the CIEH and REHIS. Both professional bodies have been actively involved with the development of the new programme structure which was validated by the University in June 2016.</p> <p>This programme will provide you with a route that leads to qualification as a Generalist Environmental Health Practitioner.</p>	

External Accreditation/ Recognition	Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) Royal Environmental Health Institution for Scotland (REHIS)
JACS Code(s)	B910

SECTION TWO: Overview

Background/Context:
<p>Environmental health as a profession and discipline has its origins in the mid nineteenth century. It encompasses the assessment and control of those environmental factors that can potentially affect health and is targeted towards preventing disease and creating health-supportive environments.</p> <p>In England, Wales and Northern Ireland the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) and in Scotland the Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland (REHIS) are the professional bodies responsible for ensuring the educational standards of their members and are the “gatekeepers” for entry into the environmental health profession in the United Kingdom (UK). A key part of this process is ensuring a baseline level of education and this is achieved through their accreditation of degree programmes, both BSc and MSc, that meet their minimum requirements.</p> <p>The University of Derby first offered the MSc Environmental Health by online distance learning in 2003 and this version of the programme was validated in July 2016. It was the first accredited environmental health programme to be delivered by online distance learning (OLDL) and is accredited by both the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) and The Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland (REHIS).</p> <p>By enrolling onto this programme you have taken the first step to becoming a professionally recognised and qualified environmental health professional</p>
Overview of the Programme:
<p>Environmental Health is a multi-faceted discipline which deals with issues that impact on the health and well being of individuals and society as a whole. As a discipline it encompasses the main areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health • Food Safety • Workplace Health and Safety • Health and Safety in the Home Environment and • Environmental Protection <p>There is a need for environmental health practitioners (EHPs) and environmental health officers (EHO's) who are able to understand and evaluate the risks posed by the stressors of environmental</p>

health which in turn can impact on human health and well being. They then need to be able to critically evaluate a full range of sustainable interventions which are available to eliminate or mitigate the stressors thereby protecting human health and promoting well being.

In 2011 the revised core curriculum of the CIEH identified 7 key thresholds which are to be used to frame environmental health in terms of the curricula and professional development. These have informed the aims and objectives that this professionally accredited degree is built up on. These thresholds are:

Knowledge

1. Dahlgren and Whitehead's 1992 conceptualisation of the determinants of health and well-being
2. Assessment, management and communication of risk
3. Earth and health-based sciences

Skills

4. Knowledge acquisition and transfer, including research, development and innovation.
5. Evidenced-based practice
6. Reflective practice
7. Dissemination

These thresholds underpin the design and content of this programme.

It provides a challenging and flexible approach to course delivery and we pride ourselves with the friendly and supportive environment that the University and the course team promote. The course team has strong professional and academic links and the programme we offer is currently the only CIEH and REHIS accredited course offered by online distance learning.

As well as delivering the core knowledge associated with environmental health, the programme is very practical in its approach. We believe that an essential element of gaining competence in environmental health is by being exposed to real life situations both through the work place and through the use of case studies based on real life scenarios. We also believe that EHP's and EHO's need to look holistically at environmental health stressors and the risk posed to public health and wellbeing. The ability to critically evaluate the associated environmental health interventions, having regard to the potential impact of these beyond the specific intervention, underpins much of your learning throughout the programme.

How 'stressors' acting on the environment as a whole which, individually and collectively, produce a series of health impacts that are capable of being intervened against by Environmental Health Practitioners can be show schematically below.

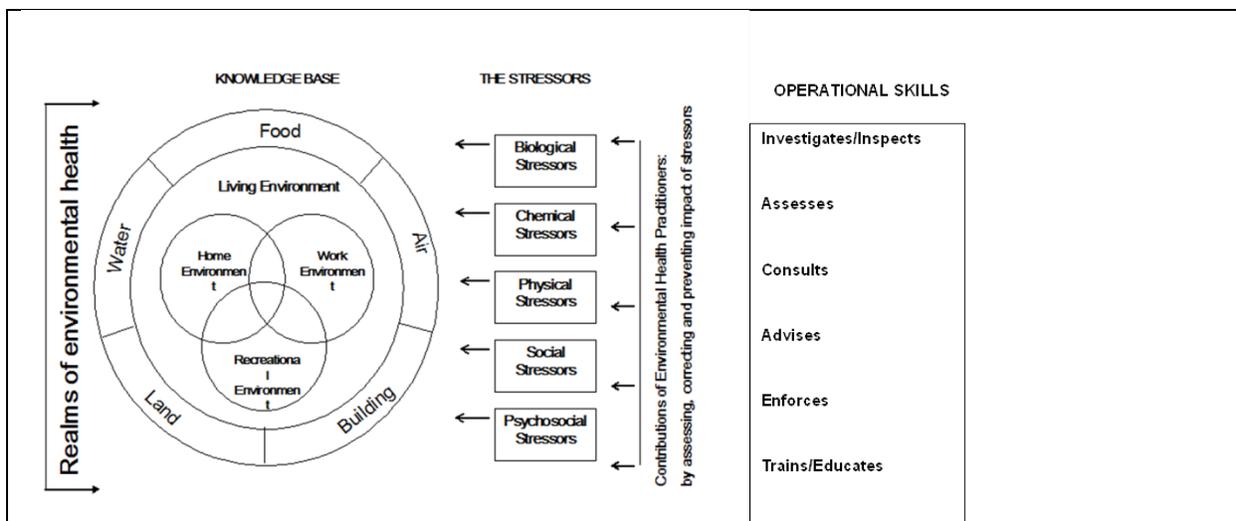


Figure 1 Diagram to show ‘stressors’ acting on the environment as a whole which, individually and collectively, produce a series of health impacts that are capable of being intervened against by Environmental Health Practitioners. Source “Environmental Health 2012 – A Key Partner in Delivering the Public Health Agenda” 2002, Burke, Gray, Paterson and Meyrick

Key Characteristics:

The key characteristics of this programme are;

1. Flexibility of delivery through the online learning environment
2. Self-paced, supported online learning
3. Collaborative online learning
4. Portfolio-based, reflective online learning
5. Accreditation by both REHIS and CIEH for professional registration purposes
6. Friendly and supportive environment that both UDOL and the course team promote
7. Support from a dedicated team of professionally qualified academics
8. Support from a dedicated team of online learning advisors to support your academic studies.

Programme Aims:

The MSc Environmental Health programme will take students on a journey that will equip them with a broad understanding of the inter-relationship between environmental hazards, risk assessment and the impact on public health and wellbeing. Progression through the programme will develop critical thinking and analysis skills culminating in the ability to think strategically across the breadth of environmental health.

The programme aims are to produce graduates:

1. Who have a detailed, comprehensive and critical understanding of the relationship between the 'sphere of environmental health', 'the stressors' and the necessary intervention strategies.
2. With the ability to undertake primary data collection, and to critically evaluate the likely effects on public health and wellbeing.
3. With a deep conceptual understanding that enables them to evaluate critically current research, scholarship and application and to communicate this in a clear, concise way.
4. With the ability to demonstrate self direction, originality and critical evaluation in utilisation of complex tools in novel situations.
5. With the ability to work confidently and effectively, both autonomously and in groups.

SECTION THREE: Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of the MSc Environmental Health you will:

Knowledge and Understanding

Post Graduate Certificate

1. Critically analyse, evaluate and apply the available current literature concerning the knowledge base of environmental health.

Post Graduate Diploma

In addition to the above learning outcome

2. Critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship within the discipline of environmental health

Master of Science

In addition to the above learning outcomes

3. Have a systematic understanding of the knowledge, and a critical awareness, of current issues and / or new insights in environmental health

Intellectual Skills

Post Graduate Certificate

4. Have a conceptual understanding that enables you to make a critical evaluation of available models of analysis and where appropriate propose alternative models

Post Graduate Diploma

In addition to the above learning outcome

5. Have the ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively and make informed judgements in the absence of data

Master of Science

In addition to the above learning outcomes

6. Be able to critically evaluate the interventions available to control mitigate or eliminate the impact from environmental health stressors on human health

Subject Specific Skills

Post Graduate Certificate

7. Be able to express in a critical and reflective manner your understanding of the discipline of environmental health set in a professional context

Post Graduate Diploma

In addition to the above learning outcome

8. Be able to critically reflect on the interventions, outcomes and conclusions associated with the discipline of environmental health
9. Be able to identify and implement the most appropriate course of action to achieve compliance with applicable legislation and / or codes of practice and guidelines, having regard to the level of risk and other commercial, social, economic and public health and wellbeing considerations,

Master of Science

In addition to the above learning outcomes

10. Have developed a critical and holistic view and approach to environmental health interventions, the inter-relationship between stressors and with other aspects of environmental health

Transferable Skills

Post Graduate Certificate

11. Articulate and communicate with a range of people and organisations using suitable language and means of delivery.
12. Critically reflect on professional practice and critically evaluate its effectiveness

Post Graduate Diploma

In addition to the above learning outcomes

13. Critically evaluate and implement evidence based practice

Master of Science

In addition to the above learning outcomes

14. Organise undertake and disseminate critical independent scholarship to a satisfactory standard with an appropriate level of originality

SECTION FOUR: Programme Structure & Curriculum

The programme is delivered by Online Distance Learning.

The programme is taught over three trimesters and has three entry points in September, January and May. The programme is a flexible level 7 modular courses that can be studied over a period of one to five years depending on your requirements and employment needs.

There are three stages to obtaining the MSc Environmental Health:

- Stage 1 Post Graduate Certificate Environmental Health
- Stage 2 Post Graduate Diploma Environmental Health and
- Stage 3 MSc Environmental Health.

Only the MSc Environmental Health award is recognised and accredited by CIEH and REHIS for the purposes of professional registration.

The MSc Environmental Health programme has been designed to meet the requirements of the CIEH Environmental Health Curriculum 2011. Subsequently and in order to obtain the CIEH and REHIS accredited MSc Environmental Health degree ALL the identified core modules MUST be passed – there is no allowance for compensation between modules. Likewise ALL the assessment elements for each module MUST be passed and again there is no allowance for compensation between assessments.

Obtaining CIEH registration is a 5 stage process and you need to fulfil the following requirements:

1. Pass the MSc Environmental Health
2. Pass the practical food inspection course and examination – this course is provided by the University as a stand alone short course that does not contribute towards the final MSc grade. It is currently provided for the University by Billingsgate Market in London and the course with examination is run as a 5 day block usually in July.

3. Pass the Integrated Professional Assessment – this assessment is incorporated into the MSc Environmental Health programme and forms a part of the assessment of the Applied Interventions Module. This module is delivered on campus as a 5 day block in May each year and it MUST be the last taught module studied. It is a programme requirement that all students seeking registration with the the Environmental Health Registration Board (EHRB) undertake this module on campus at Derby. Further details of this assessment can be found in the module specification for Applied Interventions.
4. Pass the CIEH Portfolio of Professional Practice (PPP) – you are required to maintain and submit a portfolio of evidence relating to professional practice. Details of the PPP can be found on the CIEH website at: http://www.cieh.org/professional_development/ppp.html Elements of the MSc programme, if presented appropriately, can be used to fulfil certain elements of the PPP and students will be advised of such elements in the module handbooks.
5. Pass the CIEH Professional Interview – having successfully completed 1 to 4 above you can put yourself forward for a final professional interview. Details of this can be found at www.cieh.org/professional_development

Items 1 to 3 above can be achieved through the University whereas items 4 and 5 are overseen by the CIEH although members of the course team will be able to advise on these,

To gain REHIS registration you need to fulfil the following requirements:

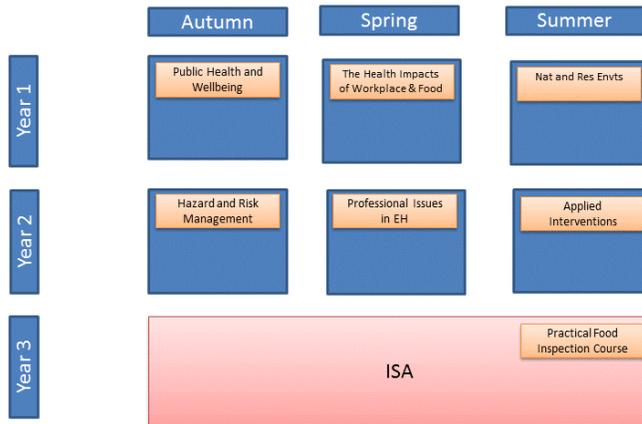
1. Pass the MSc Environmental Health
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3. Undertake a period of work based learning (normally up to 48 weeks) and submit a professional logbook – details of this can be found at www.REHIS.org/
4. Pass a series of professional examinations – details of these can be found at www.REHIS.org/

The programme is normally taken over a three year period although up to five years is allowable. Examples of the standard study plans for September, January and May intakes are as follows.

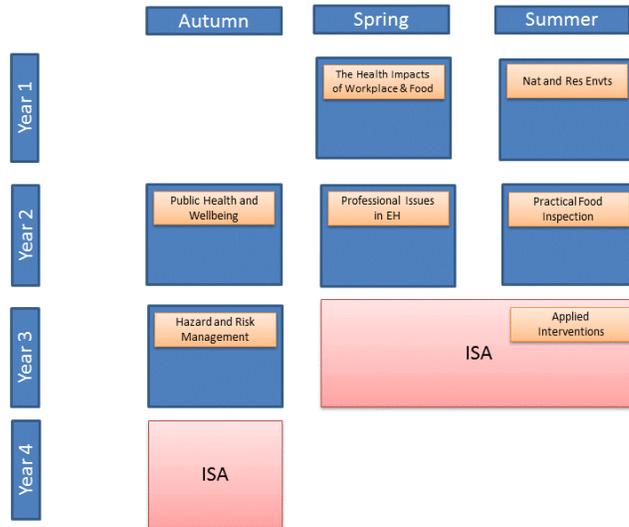
MSc Environmental Health Module Availability

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Public Health and Wellbeing	The Health Impacts of Workplace & Food	Nat and Res Envt
Hazard and Risk Management	Professional Issues in EH	Applied Interventions
		Practical Food Inspection Course
ISA	ISA	ISA

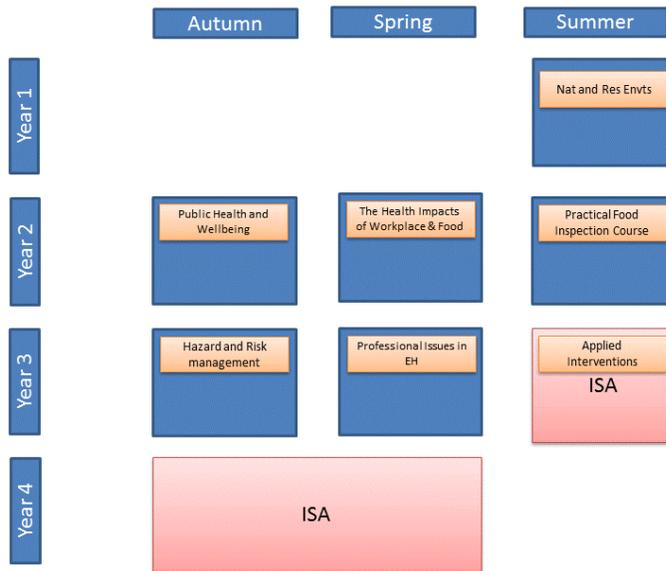
MSc Environmental Health Autumn Start Normal Route



MSc Environmental Health Spring Start Normal Route



MSc Environmental Health Summer Start Normal Route



You will study either Public Health and Wellbeing, Natural and Residential Environments or The Health Impacts of Workplace and Food in your first semester depending on your starting point. Each of these modules will start with a common unit that provides the underpinning knowledge that is needed to understand the context of environmental health. (This will only be undertaken by you in their first module of study). The first module will also allow you to develop your academic skills at level 7, which you will need to be successful in your studies.

The Applied Interventions module builds on key skills and knowledge, in a practical and applied manner, that have been obtained in the initial 5 core modules:

- Public Health and Wellbeing
- The Impact on Health: Workplace and Food
- Natural and Residential Environments
- Hazard and Risk Management
- Professional Issues in Environmental Health

So you will only be able to take this module after studying the above five modules.

This Applied Interventions module runs as a 1 week on campus block during May and it is compulsory for all students who wish to register with the professional bodies to attend this module. This approach has been taken since the course was first validated by the University in 2003. It is seen as a programme strength and feedback from previous online distance learning students, when they attend this module, has been extremely positive and supportive.

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) requires that:

“Upon the completion of an accredited programme of study student EHPs should be able to demonstrate a range of competencies when confronted with a food specimen. These will include simple identification; the capacity to explain the nature and purpose of any preservation methods employed in manufacture; the ability to discuss the critical aspects of its continued safety; and, the insightfulness to explore the consequences to health and consumer protection if something is found to be abnormal or a defect detected. Awareness of the impact on the commercial interests of manufacturer, supplier or retailer is also important.” (CIEH Assessment of Learning Outcomes and Skills Development Associated with Qualification as an EHP version two, November 2011.)

This course is provided by the University as a stand alone short course that does not contribute towards the final MSc grade. It is currently provided for the University by Billingsgate Market in London and the course with examination is run as a 5 day block usually in July.

SECTION FIVE: Learning & Teaching

It is our aim to produce an interesting learning experience which is achieved by making use of a variety of learning, teaching and assessment strategies.

The overall approach to teaching, learning and assessment is influenced and determined by the following key areas:

- Flexibility of course delivery
- Attainment of a holistic overview of environmental health
- Practice based approach
- Research based approach
- Technology based support, instruction and assessment
- Integrated course delivery across the breadth of environmental health
- Multidisciplinary team approach

A guiding principle within UDOL is the call to action through activities, where you can engage with your peers from different work backgrounds and which is vital for your learning and development. You will therefore be encouraged to engage with other students throughout all modules to gain a rich sense of the subject matter from different work perspectives. Participation in online discussion forums serves a dual purpose: to improve learning and to provide support.

As this Masters programme requires you to possess relevant academic qualifications, you are expected to advance your knowledge and skills in both academic and practical perspectives through studying the set learning materials on each module and sharing your experiences and professional views with other practitioners in the discussion forums and other collaborative learning settings.

Each module is designed to develop your skills and knowledge in specific areas of environmental health without requiring pre-requisite theoretical knowledge. (With the exception of the Applied Interventions Module).

The programme contains a combination of learning design types that specifically reflect the nature of online learning. These are identified in the module specifications as:

- Self-paced, supported online learning (S)
- Collaborative online learning (C)
- Portfolio-based, reflective online learning (R)

In some cases the learning design types are combined, for example self-paced supported with significant collaborative activity (SC) or Self-paced supported with significant reflective activity (SR)

Details of the learning design types, their principles and tutor engagement are detailed in the [UDOL Academic Framework – Teaching and Learning](#)

Details of how these learning design types are reflected in both formative and summative assessments are detailed in the [UDOL Academic Framework - Assessment](#)

Module types/learning designs

Key:

Self-paced supported design type: S

Reflective/portfolio design type: R

Collaborative design type: C

Self-paced supported/reflective design type: SR

Self-paced supported/collaborative design type: SC

Self-paced supported/reflective/collaborative design type: SRC

Autumn	Public Health and Wellbeing (SC) Hazard and Risk Management (SC) ISA (S)
Spring	Natural and Residential Environments (SC) Professional Issues in EH ((SRC) ISA (S)
Summer	Applied Interventions (SRC) + on Campus Element The Health Impacts of Workplace and Food (SC) ISA (S)

The use of case studies allows you to utilise more practical methods and also creates complex scenarios for assessment purposes. For example we believe that a holistic approach to problem solving in environment health is one of the key strengths of the EHP/EHO. The case studies we use

will reflect this by utilising multi faceted scenarios that look beyond a single intervention. For example an open air rock concert allows you to explore issues such as:

- Crowd safety and control
- Food safety and standards
- Health and Safety at Work
- Noise pollution
- Alcohol and drug misuse
- Anti social behaviour

None of these can be considered in isolation and would need a multi disciplinary approach where the EHP/EHO would be able to take an overview to ensure the health and well being of the public.

SECTION SIX: Assessment

“This programme operates within the University’s Regulatory Framework and conforms with its regulations on assessment”

The assessments are designed to test the module learning outcomes, which are derived from the module content, generic learning outcomes and programme aims. With the exception of the Practical Food Examination and the Integrated Professional Assessment (IPA) all assessment of knowledge and applied skills is carried out by coursework. The summative assessments test the above but also provide the opportunity to develop key practice skills. The assessments will require you to work both autonomously and in groups. As such more traditional essays and reports are used in combination with the use of portfolios containing shorter exercises to assess specific skills. Multifaceted case studies will be used that integrate topic areas to enable you to develop your critical thinking and innovation. Use will also be made of the new online technology to facilitate formative assessments such as online quizzes, multiple choice tests and group discussions. This approach helps ensure a breadth of knowledge and also the depth required at this level. The shorter items and formative interactive elements are provided online to ensure that you engage with the topic areas covered in each module. The larger items of work will require you to integrate the knowledge and skills covered and use research skills to locate and critically evaluate information. Parity of assessment load will be ensured through discussions between module leaders, monitored by the academic lead and noting any feedback from students and the external examiner.

You will be encouraged to consider knowledge gained during taught modules in the context of environmental health in practice and to demonstrate understanding by relating your online discussions or assessments when applicable to practice and your experiences. You are encouraged to use the online discussion boards to discuss your assignments. We will also provide formative assessment in all modules that will enable you to learn more effectively by giving you feedback on your performance for you to develop. This will be provided in a variety of formats such as sending a sample of work to tutors on which formative feedback is provided prior to submission, the use of interactive quizzes, group activities with tutor feedback and discussion boards with tutor moderation.

SECTION SEVEN: Admission

Entry Requirements

Admissions to this programme are consistent with those of Regulatory Framework for Postgraduate Taught Programmes.

Applicants should normally have:

EITHER

- At least a lower second class (2:2) Honours degree (or better) in a pure or applied science (or combination) of a UK university, the CNAO or an overseas equivalent.

OR

- Qualifications and experience considered to be equivalent to the above. All students applying via this route will be assessed and where necessary interviewed by the Academic Lead.

In addition International Students will be expected to demonstrate that they have achieved a total overall IELTS score of 6.5 or above or equivalent.

Exceptionally, entrants not qualified under the above may be admitted by the University where the candidates can demonstrate the potential to achieve the aims and outcomes of the programme. The candidate will also need to demonstrate that their experiences are equivalent to having achieved the 2.2 Honours Degree mentioned above. All students applying via this route will be assessed and evaluated by the Academic Lead.

When assessing a non standard entrant's suitability for entry onto the programme the Academic Lead will have particular regard to:

- Level of current qualifications
- Experience of working in an environmental health setting, the roles undertaken and the level of decision making undertaken
- Ability to write in a clear, coherent and critical manner
- Motivation for undertaking the programme
- Support from employer to undertake programme

To ascertain the above an interview with the candidate may be undertaken, a reference from the employer that details the applicant's experiences and current role, and the applicant may be asked to undertake a critical written report for consideration.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a way of recognising and valuing the knowledge and skills that you bring with you when embarking on a programme of study. If you can demonstrate and provide evidence of prior learning and that your existing knowledge and skills meet some of the requirements of this programme, then the University will allow you to be considered for exemptions for parts of your academic programme.

Further details of the University RPL scheme can be found at:

<http://www.derby.ac.uk/online/course-credits-past-study-and-experience>

and you can contact the Online Advisor or Programme Academic Lead for further details

SECTION EIGHT: Student Support & Guidance

Induction

For all online students there is an [Online Student Orientation](#) which serves the purpose of highlighting the particular needs of online study and to prepare you for the online learning environment. This orientation is available to you before formal entry onto the programme and is accessible to you throughout your studies. As an enrolled student there are a number of support mechanisms available including; a customer service and operations team who provide advice and guidance on administrative, technical and pastoral support issues, Academic Leads who are able to provide academic guidance and are also able to refer you to central university services designed to support your academic and personal development within the programme.

Academic guidance, welfare and pastoral support

The day to day management of the programme is the responsibility of the Academic Lead and the academic lead is responsible for communicating with the outside professional bodies regarding programme specific issues.

To support the academic lead in the smooth running of the programme there is a dedicated team of academic staff made up of on campus lecturers and also Associate Academics who oversee subject specific modules. The academic team meet and communicate regularly to discuss programme specific issues and the academic lead organises an annual away day to look in detail at specific issues and to promote team cohesion.

From September 2016 all students enrolled onto a programme will also be allocated a personal academic tutor to support you through your studies and to be available to discuss any concerns that there may be.

The Online Learner Advisors (OLAs) provide the bridge between you and the academic team. Their primary focus is on your pastoral care and guidance.

A comprehensive range of support is made available to you at enquiry, application, enrolment, induction and during your studies. This support is provided locally within UDOL and centrally from the University's central teams. In order to explain the special arrangements for supporting you as an online student, you are advised to view the [UDOL Academic Framework – Student Support and Guidance](#).

Students with special needs

The learning and teaching strategy is constructed with direct reference to the Equality Act (2010) via the University Of Derby Equal Opportunities Code Of Practice in relation to students declaring a disability. UDOL has been proactive in its support of any students with dyslexia or other educational/health needs. This has included the development of a microsite '[Make I.T. work for you](#)' that supports you in making changes to your computers and other technologies, to improve accessibility. In addition, the Content and Commissioning team take steps to ensure that authored materials of the learning content are as [accessible as possible](#), the [Universal Design for Learning framework](#) underpins this work.

SECTION NINE: Employability

An education in environmental health allows a wide choice of subject and non-subject related careers. It is anticipated that the majority of you will pursue careers in local government typically within first or second tier authorities, in the role of environmental health / regulatory compliance officers and also potentially in a public health role.

We are seeing a growing number of our graduates gaining employment within the hospitality and catering sectors and food industry. We have an established record of training students who are already members of, or potentially recruited into the armed forces (Army Medical Corp). However, the degree can also allow you to obtain positions in other career choices such as emergency planning, environmental conservation, scientific writing and risk management.

SECTION TEN: Post Programme Opportunities

The MSc in Environmental Health programme allows progression in terms of further qualifications and employment. The Masters is a good basis for further study in the form of a PhD and accreditation by the CIEH and REHIS. As a qualifying course for membership of both the CIEH and REHIS (subject to completion of relevant professional examinations) it is a good basis for employment in environmental health both in the UK and around the world. Together with relevant experience the Masters allows for further progression to chartered membership of the CIEH.

From a wider perspective the programmes provide a suitable qualification for those working in allied areas to progress and broaden the skills they offer. For example within the Environment Agency, Public Health England and with private consultancy companies. Contact the programme team if you wish to discuss such issues.

The Careers Department offers advice, support and guidance with a more focused approach to career and continuing professional development. The careers staff will engage with you in online sessions, upon request, in preparation for job selection, person specification, job roles, curriculum vitae preparation and techniques for interview.

Many of you will already have clear ideas regarding the direction of your career. The academic team are able to provide professional guidance and direction to help you progress this and with our support you are encouraged to pursue professional recognition upon completion of the programme

We actively encourage you all to become student members of the respective professional bodies when you commence your studies. This membership is currently free for both CIEH and REHIS and will allow you to network and to explore career options.

SECTION ELEVEN: External Links

The programme has good employer links as institutions sponsor their employees to enrol onto the programme so both your and your employer feedback about content and delivery helps to ensure employer needs are met and a dialogue is maintained. Further dialogue and awareness is maintained by the activities of the programme team, through employer visits, conference attendance, publication of articles related to environmental health and other practice based scholarly activity.

Within certain modules, practicing professionals will be brought in, to illustrate how careers develop within specific areas of environmental health to illustrate their employment journeys. Recruitment and selection guidance is also offered by the core team members with industry experience in this area.