Research at SPHCM
Research is a fundamental part of the work of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, addressing a number of key local, national and global public health issues. SPHCM has a vibrant, thriving research culture and a pipeline for research development from research students to post-doctoral researchers and senior research leaders, which makes it one of the leading research schools in Australia.

Our largest areas of research strength, underpinned by large research groups, are in our flagship areas, each of which has dedicated staff and students:
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- Child and Adolescent Health
- Global Health
- Health Systems and Services
- Immunisation and Infectious Diseases
- Injury Prevention and Disaster Management
- Non-Communicable Diseases
- Primary Health Care

SPHCM is very strong in both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies across our flagship areas – and a range of other areas. The School has strong research programs with a large number of domestic and international candidates, as well as talented post-doctoral researchers from around the country and internationally. SPHCM hosts post-doctoral fellows, reflecting a fertile environment for growth of talented early career researchers. We have strong partnerships with government, the community, health authorities and non-government agencies. SPHCM has a vibrant research student community with over 150 research students currently studying with the school and 60 graduates over the last 3 years. This makes it one of the largest public health research programs in Australia.

Research programs we offer
Our School offers excellent research programs to public health and health service researchers aimed at beginner, intermediate and experienced levels. Options are available for research only degrees (PhD and Masters by Research) or combined coursework and research (Masters of Philosophy). The SPHCM also offers a unique Professional Doctorate in Applied Public Health (DrPh). We offer:
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- Professional Doctorate in Applied Public Health - UNSW Future Health Leaders Program
- Masters by Research
- Master of Philosophy in Public Health

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program is recognition of successful research experience. The PhD is designed as advanced research in a specialised area and comprises 100% research. Candidates are expected to submit an original thesis which substantially contributes to knowledge in the field. The thesis is usually expected to be between 75,000 and 100,000 words.

Entry requirements
Candidates must have a Bachelor with Honours degree including a thesis or equivalent; MBBS (from an Australian or New Zealand university) OR a Masters degree with a significant research component in a relevant discipline OR must have relevant and appropriate research experience and at least one first author refereed publication in a journal of sufficient standing.
UNSW Future Health Leaders Program

The SPHCM offers a unique Professional Doctorate in Applied Public Health (DrPH) which is designed to be delivered in partnership with a suitable health workplace.

The DrPH is aimed at strengthening practitioner based knowledge and practice with graduates able to generate and use evidence within the context of real-world challenges and priorities.

As a qualification it is in line with international trends demonstrating the advantages of a professional doctorate for practitioners and leaders in public health and health management as an alternative to a PhD.

Graduates of the professional doctorate are recognised as advanced health professionals and practitioner researchers who can take on senior and leadership roles within public health and health service settings.

Candidates fulfil the requirements for the DrPH while working – through workplace experience, formal coursework and education seminars, workshops, and a thesis which reflects original research undertaken through professional practice.

Candidates are supervised by SPHCM academic supervisors and workplace supervisors for the duration of their candidature.

PhD opportunities

We are pleased to announce that students with a coursework Masters degree from the School will be considered for entry to the PhD program if they have a suitable research proposal and the agreement of two potential supervisors and have fulfilled the requirements for Articulation from Masters by Coursework to PhD program.

Entry requirements

A candidate for the degree:

(a) shall have been awarded a Bachelors in a relevant discipline from the University of New South Wales, or equivalent program from another university; or

(b) in exceptional cases, equivalent academic and professional qualifications as may be approved by the Higher Degree Committee of the Faculty of Medicine.

Further information

For more information on our research programs visit the website or contact us:

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