



# MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Azim Premji University - Bhopal



## Reimagining higher education in Public Health.

**India is facing multiple health challenges concurrently:** burden of growing non-communicable and infectious diseases, persistent malnutrition, and health risks due to environmental degradation and climate change. Although we have made significant progress on several health indicators, people's ability to seek medical treatment and a healthy life varies significantly across population groups due to social inequalities. Factors beyond health, such as, the availability and affordability of nutritious food, clean air and water, and sanitation facilities pose a great burden on the health of vulnerable populations.

Improving health and wellbeing outcomes in India require public health practitioners who are committed to the social purpose of public health, have strong conceptual understanding of public health, and have a robust grounding in the contexts and field realities of the country.

Azim Premji University's Master of Public Health (MPH)\* programme aims to contribute to this by enabling professionals to develop a grounded understanding of public health challenges in India embedded in a commitment towards the values of equity, rights, and social justice. It is designed for professionals with a medical or non-medical background, who are interested in tackling some of India's biggest public health challenges.

\*Subject to final approvals from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

## Why enrol in Master of Public Health at Azim Premji University?

Azim Premji University's MPH programme is designed for those interested in designing and implementing public health programmes which have principles of equity and social justice at their core, and which are well-conceptualised, grounded in realities, and cut across disciplinary silos.

The programme helps participants develop competences for programme design and implementation by the state, NGOs, and other social sector organisations. It strengthens capabilities related to research, communication, and advocacy. The programme includes significant field engagement among diverse communities in rural and urban contexts. It prepares students to imagine new initiatives and actions by identifying and leveraging opportunities for inter-sectoral action.

## Who is eligible to apply?

Professionals from medical and non-medical backgrounds with a minimum of 2 years of work experience are eligible to apply. All students will undergo a suitable pre-programme orientation to familiarise themselves with basic terminology and concepts, as needed.

Candidates with a Bachelor's or higher degree in any discipline and at least two years of work experience (employment or long-period full-time internships/volunteering) in the social sector are eligible to apply for the programme. The work experience could be in health domains (clinical, paramedical or health care in physical or mental health) or in the social sector (government organisations, NGOs, policy, advocacy groups and others).

## Programme Structure

Our MPH programme is a two-year, full-time postgraduate degree programme. It is organised in four semesters with field engagements taking place throughout the semesters and during the breaks between the semesters.

### Core courses (33 credits):

- What is public health: Perspectives, ethics, and values.
- Health as social phenomena.
- Inter-sectoral approach to public health action.
- Disease profiles and health programmes in India.
- Programme planning, implementation, monitoring & evaluation.
- Health economics and financing.
- Civil society interventions in health.
- Understanding health systems and policy.
- Evidence for public health.
- Applied epidemiology.
- Social research methods in health.



### Electives (06 credits):

Students will have an option of selecting electives out of a diverse offering of elective courses. The electives course offerings will vary from year to year and will cover topics such as mental health, gender, health and rights, comparative health systems, advanced research methods, occupational health, medical pluralism, sexual reproductive health, disability etc.

## Field Practice (30 credits)

The programme includes multiple mandatory field practice components. This includes field-based courses during the semester as well as field work during inter-semester periods.

### Semester 1: Skills for public health practice – Working with Communities (field visit once every week)

This course helps students develop an experiential understanding of the ground reality of public health and health care concerns in the community. This will help develop the skills for conducting a health vulnerability assessment including mapping of health services, among others.



### Semester 2:

#### Skills for public health practice - Health systems and programmes

(Field visit will be conducted once every week)

The key objective is to help students learn to describe and document how the various health programmes and policies are implemented in the lived context of varied communities. Students would be able to engage with various actors to identify critical issues, analyse gaps and enablers in the health system and implementation of health programmes by applying relevant methods. Students would choose a programme and follow its implementation in the local context.

### Winter break between semester 1 and 2:

#### Primary health care interventions: field learning

The 4-week immersion enables students to understand the relevance of primary health care interventions by social sector organisations, in order to strengthen primary health care. It will expose students to the challenges and complexities faced by such interventions and provide them an opportunity to learn from experienced practitioners.

### Summer break between semesters 2 and 3:

#### Communication for public health action

The skill-oriented 3-week course will equip students with a basic set of competencies required for communication at the level of community, social action, and advocacy for public health action.

### Semester 4: Internship and Field project (4 months)

Students will do a concurrent internship at a field organisation and complete an independent field project at the same location. The project will be developed under the guidance of a faculty mentor and will involve either a study for the purpose of generating evidence or starting a new community health initiative. This semester will also have hands-on skills tutorial sessions on advanced data analysis and writing for public health communications.



### **Assessment and Grading**

The programme will entail continuous assessment through multiple modes such as tests, assignments, presentations and building a portfolio.

### **Financial Aid**

Azim Premji University has an explicit commitment towards supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds . We provide financial assistance for deserving students to pursue their education with us through need-based scholarships (both full and partial) and facilitate education loans for students.

## **Faculty and Academics**

The programme requires rigorous academic engagement for two years. Our classroom learning environment is designed to encourage discussion and dialogue. It builds critical thinking and self-learning capabilities. The programme also includes one-on-one academic mentoring by faculty members for field projects and other aspects of the programme.

Our faculty members have diverse backgrounds and expertise in academia and public health practice in domains such as epidemiology, public health programmes, health communication, medical sociology, environmental health, public health law, health systems and policy, among others.



## Placement opportunities

The University's placement cell provides assistance for placement after completion of the programme and support for general professional development. For this purpose, the cell works with various types of organisations in the health sector, including NGOs and other social sector organisations, corporate social responsibility organisations and government organisations.

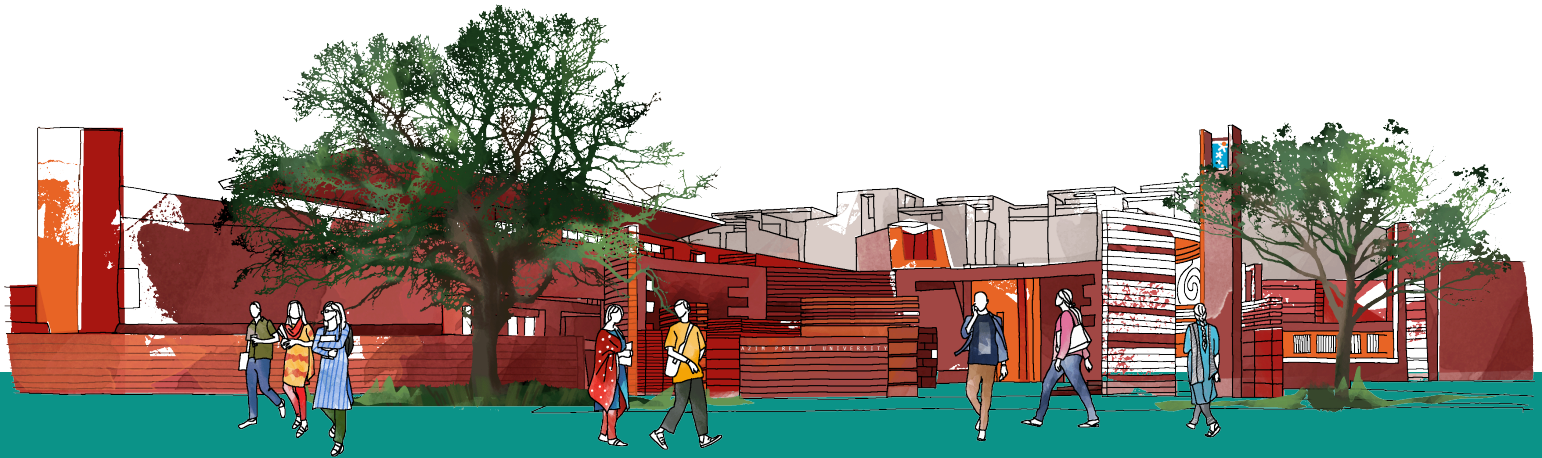


## Career opportunities

Azim Premji University's MPH programme is designed to prepare students for work with various government as well as non-governmental organisations in the field of public health and related sectors. Examples of roles include programme coordinators, district programme managers, project officers, coordinators, policy analysts, health communication officers, and consultants.



For more information visit us at  
<https://azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/bhopal>



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