WHY STUDY AT THE MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF POPULATION AND GLOBAL HEALTH?

The Melbourne School of Population and Global Health is at the forefront of the prevention of disease and injury and the promotion of health and wellbeing. It provides world-class teaching and research expertise that is grounded in community development.

Our research evaluates and informs local and national health strategy. We are a vibrant, multidisciplinary school with strengths in epidemiology and biostatistics, health social sciences, global health, women’s health and Indigenous health.

Our School is part of the University’s Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, which is located in one of the world’s most highly concentrated biomedical and public health precincts. The Faculty has extensive links with hospitals, leading research institutes, the public and private sectors and is internationally renowned for global leadership in health research, policy and practice. The University of Melbourne is Australia’s top-ranked university. The University graduates more PhD students and attracts more nationally competitive funding than any other Australian university.

THE MASTER OF BIOSTATISTICS

The Master of Biostatistics provides specialist training in biostatistics, the discipline that underpins the use of statistical methods in health and medical research and practice.

This specialised program will give you the opportunity to develop a sound understanding of the theory and application of the major areas of biostatistics relevant to professional practice, including skills in:

- Complex statistical analyses to handle a variety of problems using modern statistical techniques and software
- Data collection and data management, including database design, quality control procedures and the ethical handling of data
- Identifying the relevant statistical issues in practical problems in medical/health settings and proposing and implementing appropriate statistical design and/or analysis methods
- The communication of biostatistical issues to other health professionals including appropriate presentation of statistical results in health-related journals and/or professional reports.
Is the Master of Biostatistics for me?

The program is designed to accommodate students from a range of academic backgrounds and includes subjects designed to provide the necessary foundations in mathematical and statistical theory to those without a first degree in mathematics or statistics. A compulsory subject in epidemiology introduces those unfamiliar with research in population health to critical appraisal of the health and medical literature. The main requirement is that you should have an aptitude for advanced mathematics and a desire to learn biostatistics at a professional level. Introductory subjects provide the necessary foundations in mathematical and statistical theory.

How long is the course?

This course is available on a part-time basis only, and at the maximum rate of two subjects per semester requires three years to complete (150 credit points). All subjects are taught by distance education, via a consortium of universities known as the Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia (BCA). For further details, see the BCA website: www.bca.edu.au.

As the Master of Biostatistics includes a compulsory supervised workplace project portfolio, enrolment in the Master of Biostatistics is not usually possible for international students unable to live and be employed in Australia while undertaking the degree.

Career Opportunities

The Master of Biostatistics will allow you to develop a specialist career role in health-related research or health services. Biostatistical expertise is in very high demand in many areas. Possible employment settings include:

- Medical and epidemiological research in universities, research institutes, hospitals and other non-government agencies
- The pharmaceutical and medical-device manufacturing industries
- Government departments and agencies.

The Master of Biostatistics also provides an excellent grounding for those wishing to undertake a PhD or other higher degree research program.

Fees and Scholarships

Full fee-paying only. To calculate fees go to: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/fees

For information on scholarships go to: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/scholarships

Further information about the course can be found at: www.pgh.unimelb.edu.au/future/coursework/biostatistics

Further information about the subjects that can be studied can be found at: www.bca.edu.au/futurestudents.html#curriculum

Selection Criteria

To apply for the Master of Biostatistics, applicants must have:

- A four-year undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline incorporating studies in mathematics or statistics at least at second-year level with an average mark of at least H2B (70 per cent); or
- A Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma in Biostatistics. Successful applicants with a Postgraduate Diploma in Biostatistics with at least H2B (70 per cent) average may be awarded a maximum of 50 points credit (advanced standing) on entry to the masters degree.

The Selection Committee may conduct interviews or tests or call for referee reports or employer references to elucidate any of the matters listed above.

How do I apply?

Go to: www.pgh.unimelb.edu.au/future/howto

More information

Tel: +61 3 8344 9339
Fax: +61 3 8344 0824
Email: pph-gradinfo@unimelb.edu.au

“The Master of Biostatistics gave me a strong foundation in statistical theory, as well as the practical skills to apply this knowledge to epidemiological data. I originally had a background in health and medical research and the course has enabled me to change career paths. Because the course was delivered through distance education, I was able to study while continuing to work full-time. The Masters program has opened up many career opportunities to me. I am currently doing a PhD within the biostatistics and epidemiology unit of a paediatric hospital. The knowledge I gained through the Masters in Biostatistics degree has been vital to my PhD research.”

– Cattram Nguyen

Master of Biostatistics