

Public Health and Maternal & Infant Care

Healthcare is constantly changing. Besides new insights for curing diseases, also measures to prevent diseases and to promote the health of the wider population are gaining more and more attention. Public Health is the discipline that aims to promote the health of the community. As such public health shares a lot of common ground with midwifery care. Pregnancy is the starting point of a new generation: healthy aging begins in the womb.

The preconception and prenatal periods are two periods in a human life, in which health improvements can be achieved through prevention – thus providing an important window of opportunity for public health. By stimulating healthy lifestyles and recognizing health problems in a timely manner, midwives can make a difference to public health. The organization of midwifery care offers significant opportunities for a broad approach to health, focusing on both individual health and a community approach.

This module is designed for midwives who want to combine the development of domain-specific competences aimed at prevention in midwifery with the development of general academic skills. These competences enable you to further develop on a policy, scientific and professional level. This offers opportunities for personal career prospects and for the further professionalization of midwifery care.

In this module, you will literally and figuratively cross borders to:

- Approach midwifery care from a broad health perspective;
- Find much room for exchange with an international student population;
- Bring together theories and concepts from other disciplines with midwifery concepts to deepen and broaden midwifery knowledge.

This module's structure and the balanced combination of contact and distance learning ensure a flexible fit into your personal situation. If you want to develop further in the field of midwifery or discover whether it is possible to pursue an MSc degree, this module is for you!

After successful completion of this module you will be able to:

- Critically analyse theories, concepts and instruments of public health and relate these to models of maternity care;
- Evaluate the impact of these public health theories, concepts and instruments on maternity care and apply them to their home country and field of work;
- Assess factors influencing the health of mother and child;
- Use and compare national and international resources of information on maternal and infant health;
- Perform a health needs assessment;
- Critically appraise public health research and comparative health research;
- Build an international network as a source of information;
- Present and debate a view on public health and maternity care, taking into account ethical issues and an international scope.

Credits: 8 EC

Study load: 20 hours per week for 10 weeks