Career Options: Public Health and Health Services Management

Public health focuses on the health of whole populations and communities rather than on the health of particular individuals.

There are well-established career paths for graduates in health management, epidemiology, health promotion, environmental and occupational health, occupational health and safety, nutrition and physical activity, health and community development and international health.

As a graduate, you will be able to:

- assess the social, behavioural, cultural, political, economic and institutional context of health problems in the general population and in specific population groups, and intervene effectively in their management
- demonstrate an adequate understanding of health care organisation and delivery, and be able to work effectively within these systems
- provide management skills and health service program development and delivery capabilities and contribute to health leadership responsibilities
- apply epidemiological, biostatistical and qualitative methods and principles to gather, analyse and evaluate data and published literature, and describe the state of health of a defined population
- demonstrate a working knowledge of diseases/health problems of major public health importance
  assess threats to health, and assist in their management by working with communities, governments and non-government agencies in the planning, delivery and evaluation of small public health programs

In addition to knowledge and skills directly related to your program of study, you will also develop a range of other skills (e.g. teamwork, analytical, communication) through academic study, employment, voluntary work, sporting activities and life experience. Recognising the value employers place on these skills is an important factor in your graduate job search.

Professional recognition

As a graduate, depending on your choice of major, you'll be eligible for membership of:

- the Public Health Association of Australia
- Sports Medicine Australia and the Nutrition Society
- associate membership of the Dietitians Association of Australia
- the Australian Institute of Environmental Health, the Australian Health Promotion Association
- The International Union of Health Promotion and Education and the Safety Institute of Australia.

Who employs public health graduates?

Public Health graduates are mostly employed in:

- State and Federal Health departments
• Local Government
• Medical foundations
• Aged care service providers (government and private sector)
• Public and private hospitals
• Diagnostic (pathology, medical imaging) service providers
• Health research institutes
• Health Insurance funds
• Pharmaceutical companies
• Community health services
• Health fund raising and benevolent agencies
• Universities
• Health related non-government organisations, such as the Cancer Council, the Heart Foundation

Positions and employers

Many graduate employers recruit from a wide range of disciplines. The major directory of graduate recruitment in Australia, Graduate Opportunities, lists employers by the disciplines from which they are recruiting. You might be surprised by the range of employers recruiting from your degree and the sectors of the workplace where you might establish a career.

Examples of graduate positions and employers include:

Executive Officer RRBC Division of General Practice
Principal Project Officer Queensland Health
Project officer Bureau of Health Promotion
Research Assistant Griffith University
Senior Health Promotion Officer Queensland Health
Corporate Health Manager Queensland Health
Project Officer National Heart Foundation
Workplace Health Manager Private sector organisation
Workplace Health and Safety Inspector Department of Workplace Health and Safety
Environmental Health Officer Gold Coast City Council
Environmental Health Officer Brisbane City Council
Health and Safety Consultant Queensland Health
Case Manager, HR Department of Primary Industries
Health and Safety Advisor Queensland Rail
Project Officer Queensland Health
Health Promotion Officer Queensland Health
Operations Support Officer NSW Health
Business Manager Community Health Service
Registered Nurse Queensland Health
Registered Nurse Prince Charles hospital
Environmental Health Officer Town of Port Hedland
Research Nurse Queensland Health
Environmental Health Officer Queensland Health
Physiotherapist Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
Social Worker Queensland Health
Public Health Officer Cancer council NSW
Community Program Coordinator North Coast Medicare local
Program officer strategic clinical and Service design Department of Environmental Health
Vacancies on-line

Australia

- ACT Health employment
- Australian Public Service recruitment
- Careers at CSIRO
- Careerone healthcare, medical and pharmaceutical jobs
- Graduate Opportunities (the major directory of graduate recruitment in Australia)
- Health and Community Jobs (HACjobs)
- Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association vacancy listings
- Kelly Scientific Resources
- Mycareer healthcare jobs
- Northern Territory Department of Health and Families jobs
- NSW Health jobs
- Pharmaceutical Jobs (healthcare, medical, scientific and pharmaceutical vacancies)
- Queensland Government vacancies
- Queensland Health vacancies
- Recruitment consultants in Australia (Searchable by industry sector)
- Research Jobs (vacancies in Australia and New Zealand)
- Science People
- Unijobs (vacancies in Australia and New Zealand)
- Unigrad (specialist Australian graduate recruiter)
- Your World Healthcare
- Careerjet employment search engine

International

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide</td>
<td>Career Jet (Use keyword: graduate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide</td>
<td>Going Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>Alpha-Maps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Zhaopin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>Eurograduate live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>FreshersHome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>JobStreet Campus Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>GradIreland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Graduan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>JobStreet Campus Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>TalentCorp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>JobStreet Campus Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>OverseasJobs Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>Contact Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>JobStreet Campus Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>JobStreet Campus Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Prospects Web UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>TARGETjobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom and Europe</td>
<td>Milkround.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Quintessential Careers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>United Nations Headquarters graduate internships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Targeting potential employers

Many work opportunities are not advertised. It is common practice for jobseekers to search out these opportunities. When approaching potential employers, conducting research to identify links between your selling points (your skills, experience, interests and qualifications) and an employer’s needs, increases your chances of success. Research will also reduce the number of approaches you need to make, saving you time in the end. Developing and using your personal and professional networks is also a valuable tool in finding these ‘hidden’ opportunities.

- Australian Government departments
- Australian Universities
- Community service providers in Australia
- Federal and state health departments and agencies in Australia
- Health and fitness centres in Australia
- Health and welfare organisations and associations in Australia
- Health insurance funds in Australia
- International health organisations
- Local Governments in Australia
- Medical and health research organisations in Australia
- Not for Profit organizations in Australia
- Queensland Government Departments
- State and territory health departments
- Private Hospitals in Australia
- Public hospitals in Australia
- State workcover authorities

Employment prospects and starting salaries

Grad Jobs and Dollars provides information on employment rates and median starting salaries by field of study, for Australian university graduates surveyed four months after graduation. Information on occupations Australia-wide, such as the size of the workforce, employment prospects and average weekly earnings is available from JobOutlook.

Professional associations

Joining a professional association is a great way to meet people in your field, who can assist you to explore your career options and potentially find employment opportunities. These associations exist in every field of employment and hold regular professional development and networking events. Students are welcome to join, and membership and can cost as little as $60 per year.

- Australian College of Health Service Management
- Australian Health Economics Society
- Australian Health Promotion Association
- Australian Indigenous Health Promotion Network
- Australian Institute for Environmental Health
- Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand
- Dietitians Association of Australia
- Health Informatics Society of Australia
- International Union for Health Promotion and Education
- Nutrition Society of Australia
• Public Health Association of Australia
• Statistical Society of Australia
• Waste Management Association of Australia

Other career-related links

• Pathways to careers in health
• Careers in health service statistics
• Careers in health information management
• Graduate Entry Medicine and Dentistry Admissions Test (GAMSAT)
Sample job advertisements

AusAID provides aid to approximately 70 countries, with a strong focus on the Asia-Pacific region. Our staff specialise in, and provide expert advice on, areas of critical importance to developing countries, such as: health, education, infrastructure, agriculture, law and order, governance, the environment and economic growth.

Your role as an AusAID employee
Working for AusAID gives you a unique, first-hand insight into international diplomacy issues affecting developing countries. Your role as an AusAID employee could be as diverse as:

- preparing submissions and briefings on international development issues for the Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- representing AusAID and the Australian Government at international meetings or seminars;
- providing policy advice on economic growth, education, environment, gender, governance, health HIV/AIDS, pandemics, human rights, infrastructure, regional stability, rural development and water;
- providing support to the regional programs of Papua New Guinea, South Asia, East Asia, the Pacific, Africa and the Middle East;
- monitoring aid effectiveness (including impacts and outputs of policies and programs);
- managing relationships with non-government organisations and multilaterals such as the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund and the World Health Organisation;
- providing disaster relief support and advice to AusAID officers posted overseas following a humanitarian crisis or disaster; or
- supporting the agency in its delivery of the aid program through corporate functions such as human resources, financial management, property management, information services and public affairs.

What we’re looking for
Graduates for either corporate or program and policy areas of the agency who possess:
- exceptional analytical and research skills;
- strong interpersonal, written and oral communication skills;
- cultural sensitivity and an awareness and interest in other cultures;
- initiative, drive and the highest professional and ethical standards;
- commitment to, and a keen interest in, development; and
- a commitment to working for the Government

Eligibility
At minimum:
- a three-year university degree,
- a keen desire to work in the Aid Program, and
- Australian citizenship

ACHSM – The Australian College of Health Service Management offers graduates of health service management programs the opportunity of intensive structured programs for people interested in experience and building a health management career.

On the job training and experiential practical learning in arranged in a number of public and private sector health care organisations in several Australian States. The program provides other professional development opportunities including me mentoring and career development activities.

Health service managers provide leadership and management skills, general and specialist knowledge, support and innovation management in a wide range of health care facilities including
hospitals, community health services, aged care services, mental health facilities and palliative care facilities.

ACHSM receives applications periodically from those interested in supported carer development in paid roles – further details are available at ACHSM http://www.achsm.org.au/members-services/management-training-programs/

**KPMG** are looking for dynamic graduates with a real interest in working with our government and non-government clients in the health, human services and social policy sectors. KPMG works with governments and not-for-profits to help them improve the value and quality of health and human services delivery. We are looking for dynamic people with a real interest in working with our government and non-government clients in the health, human services and social policy sectors.

Our experience spans a wide range of areas including: healthcare, mental health, child and family services, youth services and youth justice, disability services, community services, sexual assault and family violence services, alcohol and drug rehabilitation services, aged care, public housing and services for the homeless, income support, vocational education and training, employment services, police and justice services.

From program and service reviews and evaluations, the development of pricing, funding and resource allocation models, the establishment of performance measurement frameworks, strategic and business planning, stakeholder consultation and service design, our work is diverse and wide ranging.

KPMG’s open and friendly culture encourages you to explore and share new ideas, and build a successful and individual career at your own pace. KPMG professionals never stop learning. As a graduate at KPMG, you’ll participate in continuous learning and professional development as your career progresses and we financially support you all the way.

Tertiary qualifications in human and/or health services and/or public policy (eg. Psychology, Social Work, Nursing, Allied Health Services, Social Policy, Public Policy). Other qualifications which provide research skills, data analysis and/or financial analysis skills will also be considered.

**Drug Arm** has a full-time position available for a health promotion or public health graduate.

DRUG ARM is a specialist drug and alcohol agency founded on Christian principles. The organisation has been serving the community in Queensland since 1933.

**Our Vision**
Reaching Out – Reducing Harm

**Our Mission**
Engage – Encourage – Empower
Individuals and Communities

**Our Values**
- The worth of each individual
- Leadership based upon vision and innovation
- Credibility, integrity, accountability and excellence

**Accountability**
To: Ultimate accountability is to the Executive Director through the Director, Centre for Addiction Research and Education (CARE) or nominee;
By: Providing verbal and written reports on a monthly basis, or as otherwise required;
For: The effective delivery and promotion of the AOD program, all other duties as described the
project funding agreement and guidelines, the job description, operational plan and the employment contract.

**Remuneration Package**
The remuneration salary package for this position will be in line with the responsibilities of the position and with the Social, Community, Home Care and Disability Services Industry Award 2010 Grade 5 depending on experience and qualification.

**The Program**
The person will work within a multidisciplinary team service environment to provide a comprehensive range of primary prevention activities that are related to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use and the promotion of social and emotional health and wellbeing. The AOD Prevention Worker may work with a variety of people and organisations to develop and deliver alcohol, tobacco and other drug related prevention initiatives.

For example:
- Government, non-Government and community controlled health services, including Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services, acute care, community, child and youth, women’s crisis and rehabilitation services.
- Government departments such as Queensland Health (including Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services and School based Youth Health Nurses), Queensland Police, Queensland Liquor Licensing, Queensland Transport, Queensland Department of Communities, Education Queensland, and Queensland Sport and Recreation.
- Local government
- Non-Government organizations such as Queensland Cancer Fund, Division of General Practice, Police Citizens Youth Clubs, Anglicare etc.

**The Purpose of the Position**
- Deliver services in accordance with harm minimization policy and practice, which encompasses a balance between supply reduction (e.g. drug law enforcement), demand reduction (e.g. treatment) and harm reduction (e.g. needle and syringe programs);
- Ensure evidenced-based practice and appropriate clinical care standards are used in all interventions and activity by maintaining professional networks, participating in regular professional development and conducting ongoing monitoring and evaluation;
- Help to build the capacity of the community by establishing and maintaining strong community links and networks;
- Collaborate with health professionals and other stakeholders to support the local implementation of Queensland Drug Strategy 2006-2010 and other relevant national, state and departmental policy directions;
- The staff in this position must work in close partnership with Queensland Health alcohol, tobacco and other drug clinicians and other professionals.

**NOTE:**
- DRUG ARM Australasia is an organisation founded upon Christian principles and employees need to feel comfortable working in that environment.
- The successful applicant will need to be prepared to undergo a Police clearance and be eligible to obtain a Working With Children Blue Card as issued by the Commission for Children and Young People.
- The successful applicant must hold a current valid Qld manual driver’s licence (or equivalent)

Updated: December 2014
Careers and Employment Service, Griffith University