



Master of Primary Health Care Management – Special Track in Social Health Protection

● Overview

Primary Health Care (PHC) is considered the most effective and suitable approach to address today's health and health system challenges. It is an appropriate strategy for achieving equity, accessibility, and quality of health services, and plays a fundamental role towards the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In light of the importance of PHC, a Master of Primary Health Care Management (MPHM) has been offered since 1986 through a collaboration between the ASEAN Institute for Health Development (AIHD), Mahidol University, Thailand International Cooperation Development Agency (TICA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The program focuses on the development of managerial and leadership skills for health managers and health professionals, including medical doctors, paramedics, and other public health care professionals from all over the world, especially Asia.

● MPHM – special track in Social Health Protection

Due to limited government spending on health in most Asian countries, health financing in the region still heavily relies on out-of-pocket payments - direct payments made by patients at the point of service. This creates a major access barrier to needed health care services and can lead to financial hardship, deepen poverty and exacerbate health and socioeconomic inequalities, especially among vulnerable groups. South East Asia is in fact the region which accounts for the highest percentage of people impoverished by out-of-pocket health spending in the world.

Social health protection - through affordable public health insurance or government-funded health services - aims to avoid this and provide adequate financial guarantees to protect against the risk of ill health and related financial burden and catastrophe. It plays a crucial role in poverty reduction and access to good health for all.

Building the capacity of decision makers and practitioners in social health protection is therefore essential to strengthen the efficiency and sustainability of health protection systems. The MPHM with special track in Social Health Protection (SHP) aims to address capacity building needs through a strong partnership between Mahidol University, the ILO and Connect- an innovative regional initiative that aims to support efforts towards the extension of SHP coverage in Asia and the Pacific through South-South Cooperation initiatives.



Key Dates

Semester 1:

August - December

Semester 2:

January - April

Summer term:

May - July

Contact Us

Detailed information about the program, student profiles and admission requirements is available on the Mahidol University webpage www.aihd.mahidol.ac.th.

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Objective of the program

The MPH special track in SHP is a unique program that aims to develop critical analysis of issues of social health protection in order to enable students to acquire the necessary skills to devise appropriate social health protection schemes, and support relevant health policy reforms. The program focuses particularly on strategic purchasing in health systems, providing quality health care, health systems and health security financing/ social health protection, and health benefits package design.

Student profiles

Current and future social protection officials, public health professionals, policy makers, and relevant public administrations. Postgraduate students considering a career in SHP and are showing commitment to public affairs are also encouraged to apply.

Course Details

The MPH special track in SHP is a 1-year full-time master's degree, taught in English at the ASEAN Institute for Health Development (AIHD), Mahidol University in Salaya - Bangkok.

The full curriculum is composed of the following modules:

- > **MPHM Core course (15 Credits)**
 - > Health Services and Primary Health Care Management (3 Credits)
 - > Epidemiology for Primary Health Care Management (3 Credits)
 - > Management of Environmental Health for Sustainable Development (3 Credits)
 - > Research Methodology for Primary Health Care (3 Credits)
 - > Health Promotion in Primary Health Care (2 Credits)
 - > Thesis Seminar (1 Credits)
- > **Special Track for Social Health Protection (9 Credits)**
 - > Strategic Purchasing for Universal Health Coverage (2 Credits)
 - > Health Providers in Health Systems (2 Credits)
 - > Health Benefit Package Decision/Design or Health Economics (2 Credits)
 - > Health Financing for Social Health Protection (2 Credits)
 - > Field Study (2 Credits)
- > **Thesis (12 Credits)**

Entry requirements

- A degree in medicine, public health or a related field. Students with non-health degrees and relevant work experience are also encouraged to apply.
- A minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 or 75 % or above
- All applicants must satisfy Mahidol University's English language requirements.