Pre-Mock Interview Questionnaire

Master’s in Public Health

Type in the shaded boxes. Save your completed PDF before returning it to your WSA counsellor.

Full name	
University	
Full course title	
Course start date	
Interview date, if known	
Interview time and time zone, if known	
Interview purpose	

Purpose of the interview

The university will explore your motivation, relevant experience, understanding of population health and readiness for postgraduate study and research. Confirm the interview purpose with your counsellor from the invitation. If credibility or scholarship assessment is also included, use PMIQ 08 or 06 alongside this course questionnaire.

How to prepare

Before your mock, use the podcasts below. Review your invitation, official course information, CV and submitted personal statement. Record the sources you use and prepare a public health example from your country or community. Write short notes in your own words. Practise unexpected follow up questions without reading. Listen, answer directly and ask for clarification if needed. Use a clear point and genuine example, then stop. Look towards the camera naturally and communicate respectfully. Protect identities. Actual questions may differ.

Interview questions

01. Tell us about your education and experience relevant to public health. Explain your own responsibilities, any research you completed and how these prepared you for postgraduate study.

02. Why public health, and why now? Describe an experience or problem that influenced your decision and the specific knowledge or skills you need to develop.

03. Why did you choose this university and course? Give one specific strength of the department and one feature of the course, such as a module or an opportunity to apply public health methods. Explain how these support your goals and name the university sources you used.

04. Explain the course structure and two modules that interest you. What would you learn, how would you be assessed and how would you apply the learning? Check the official course information.

05. What is public health, and how does it differ from treating individual patients? Use an example to explain prevention and action to improve population health.

06. Describe a health or community activity you contributed to. What was the aim, what did you personally do and what happened? Explain what you learnt and what you would change.

07. Choose a public health issue in your country or community. Who is affected, what evidence have you checked and what response might help? Explain how income, housing or education may affect the problem and access to support.

08. A community is reluctant to join a health programme. How would you listen, understand concerns, avoid assumptions and involve people in planning? Explain how you would check whether participation and outcomes improved.

09. How would you judge whether health research or data is reliable? Discuss the source, date, methods and limitations. Explain a finding from something you have actually read and distinguish evidence from your own interpretation.

10. What manageable topic might you research during your Master's? State a possible research question, the data or sources needed, a suitable method and one limitation. Explain why the approach fits the question.

11. How would you obtain informed agreement and protect privacy in a community health project? Consider sensitive information, voluntary participation and when you would seek ethical guidance or approval.

12. How will you manage reading, research, data analysis, written assignments and competing deadlines? Give a realistic plan, identify a skill to develop and explain when you would seek support.

13. What public health role do you intend to pursue? Explain its responsibilities, likely employers or sector and realistic next steps. Link two course skills to a practical improvement you hope to make. If planning an organisation, explain how you would begin.

14. What are your tuition fees and confirmed discounts? Explain who will fund the balance, living costs and accommodation, and the evidence available. Distinguish confirmed arrangements from estimates.

15. What two questions would you like to ask about teaching, assessment, research opportunities, practical learning or student support?

16. Where is your university ranked, if listed? Give the source and year. You may also mention a relevant subject or course ranking. Explain one limitation and how the ranking informed your choice alongside course fit.

17. Which universities in your home country did you genuinely consider for comparable study? Name the institutions and programmes, explain the similarities and differences, and why your chosen university better meets your academic or career objectives.

18. How would you manage your physical health, mental wellbeing and study workload while studying? Describe practical habits, sources of support and what you would do if you needed help. You do not need to disclose private medical information.

19. Will people travel more or less in future, and what might this mean for infectious disease prevention, public health surveillance or health inequalities? Give a reasoned answer.

20. If asked a public health question you had not prepared for, how would you identify reliable evidence and explain uncertainty?

Ranking references (check the latest edition and whether your institution is listed):
QS World University Rankings: https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings
Times Higher Education World University Rankings:
https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings

Use genuine examples from study, work or volunteering if you have no direct public health experience. Distinguish your contribution from the team's and protect identities. Expect follow up questions such as "Why?", "Give an example" and "Explain that more simply". Tell your counsellor about any discrepancy in your documents.

Podcasts to use before your mock interview

Open each link in the WSA Student Support Library. Listen to the podcast and read or download its summary before completing this questionnaire. Make a note of anything you would like to discuss with your counsellor.

WSA 026 UK University Credibility Interview

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/uk-university-credibility-interview

Use the general advice on clear answers alongside your course interview instructions. Prepare separately to discuss public health knowledge, research and your relevant experience.

WSA 010 Personal Statement Guide

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/personal-statement-guide

Review your submitted statement so you can explain your motivation for public health, relevant experience and career plans using genuine examples.

WSA 002 Cost of Studying Abroad

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/cost-of-studying-abroad

Prepare your tuition fee and living cost figures, including accommodation and travel, and explain how they will be funded.

Before your mock, check that you can explain a public health issue, your research interests, career plans and practical arrangements in your own words.