



Centre for IMPACT Postgraduate Diploma/Masters in Health Economics Studentships 2024-2027

The [NIHR Centre for IMPACT](#) is launching 3 funded Health Economics Distance Learning Studentships: Postgraduate Diploma (2 years) or MSc (3 years) to support postgraduate training in health economics.

Applications are open to candidates based in Afghanistan or Pakistan who are interested in an academic career in non-communicable diseases. We wish particularly to encourage candidates working in universities or ministries of health who wish to further their career in health financing, planning, delivery or administration.

The Studentships are funded through the [NIHR Centre for IMPACT](#) to Improve Mental and Physical Health Together. They will cover student fees for up to 3 years. They do not include funding for the time commitment. Students must be able to cover their time either through an agreement to be released by their employer, or other means.

Health Economics Distance Learning (HEDL) Programme

What is the HEDL Programme?

Taught by academics at the University of York, Health Economics Distance Learning (HEDL) is a two-year Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) or three-year Masters (MSc) programme specialising in health economics and related disciplines. Students can study for 2 years for a PGDip qualification, and if they are successful, they have the option to progress to a 3rd year of training for a Masters qualification.

This distance learning course is designed to be completed on a part-time basis (minimum 20 hours per week) in your own home or workplace – enabling you to gain a PGDip/MSc qualification without interrupting your career.

Teaching and learning is delivered online via a virtual learning environment. Students have access to a wide range of online study resources and facilities, including recorded lectures to supplement workbook materials, discussion boards monitored by a module tutor or module leader, and online tools for submitting assessments and receiving feedback.

Course Content

The programme will give you a comprehensive knowledge of health economics, which you can apply directly to the health problems faced in your country.

The HEDL Programme is divided into two courses, each designed to provide you with the skills and confidence to apply the principles of health economics in your career:

- Health Economics for Health Professionals and Policymakers (PGDip) | September 2024 - June 2026
- Health Economics for Health Professionals and Policymakers (MSc) | September 2026 - June 2027

Who is eligible to apply?

This is a Continuing Professional Development course and is designed for those who are already employed in a health or health-related field (e.g., finance, community health, medicine, statistics, economics, health care administration, planning, research) and wish to further their career.

Applicants must work in one of the following types of institutions and roles:

1. Public universities or research NGOs, in departments focused upon health or economics disciplines, in researcher, lecturer, or research coordination/support roles; or
2. National Ministries of Health planning departments in analyst, advisor or similar roles; or
3. Governmental or intergovernmental organisations focused on health (e.g. Teaching Hospitals, affiliated to Universities).

Prerequisites:

- An undergraduate degree (equivalent to a UK university 2:1), with some relevance to health economics. Other qualifications and experience may also be accepted. [Information about entry requirements for international students](#). Please note, the requirements for students with qualifications from Afghanistan are different. A Master's degree from Afghanistan is equivalent to a Bachelor's degree in the UK, i.e.
 - A score of 80-85%, B or 3.0-3.99 out of 4 is considered comparable to a UK 2:1
 - A score of 70-79%, C or 2.0-2.99 out of 4 is considered comparable to a UK 2:2

You will need to provide evidence of your qualifications.

- Written approval from your line manager to be released for one day per week to complete the course (over 2 years for PGDip and 3 years for MSc); or evidence of other means of support for the time commitment for your studies.

- Evidence of your [English language ability](#).
- A cover letter setting out your reasons for wanting to undertake the Studentship and how you hope it will support your career.
- An up to date CV providing details of your education, qualifications, work experience, training courses, publications and research grants.

For more information on the course structure, module content, entry criteria and career route opportunities, please visit the [University of York HEDL web pages](#).

You can also contact NIHR Centre for IMPACT students already on the course for informal enquiries:

[Badruddin Saify](#)
[Amna Babar](#)
[Alishba Khan](#)

Centre for IMPACT PGDip/MSc Studentships

Funding

The Studentships cover:

- Course fees for up to 3 years of study (approx. £6,039 per year)

Please note: the Studentships do not cover stipends, you will be expected to have access to IT equipment, including a laptop and internet access, to enable you to take part in course activities (e.g. using the VLE, accessing online study resources and videos, and engaging in group chats using Zoom or similar platforms). You will also need to cover the time commitment through release by your employer or other means.

Travel costs to attend in-person activities are not included in the Studentship and must be supplied privately if you wish to travel. In-person activities are not mandatory.

Application Process

Applications for the Centre for IMPACT HE Studentships are welcome by 12th July 2024 (23:59 BST).

To apply, please complete and submit your [online application form](#), ensuring that you attach the following documents:

- A copy of your undergraduate degree qualification certificate.

- A copy of your English language test certificate (if required) – further information can be found on the [University of York English language requirements webpage](#).
- A copy of your latest CV (maximum 2 A4 pages).
- A Letter of Support from your employer, committing time (1 day per week) and necessary support to complete the 2 or 3-year course.
- A cover letter setting out your reasons for wanting to undertake the PGDip/MSc and how you hope it will support your career.

NB. You will require a Gmail account in order to complete the online application form (if you do not have an account, you can set-up one using the instructions on the [Gmail Help website](#)).

Applications will be reviewed by a panel from the NIHR Centre for IMPACT.

Successful applicants will be invited to submit their final registration forms to the University of York HEDL admissions team (deadline Thursday 1st August 2024).

Timeline 2024

Friday 24th May – Studentships advertised

Friday 12th July (23:59 BST) - Submission deadline for online application form and attached documents

Friday 22nd July – Date by which decisions are communicated to all candidates

Friday 1st August- Deadline for successful candidates to submit registration forms to the University of York.

September 2024 - start of programme

Frequently Asked Questions

What does 'distance learning' mean?

The University of York distance learning course in health economics allows you to gain a qualification without interrupting your career, and offers the flexibility to schedule your study around your professional and personal commitments. All classes will be held online, with a large proportion of lectures pre-recorded for you to watch in your own time. You will be able to complete much of the work you need to do for each module in your own home or place of work by accessing course content and teaching materials via the University's virtual learning environment (Yorkshare).

Students are expected to commit 20 hours to study per week. The majority of these 20 hours will be dedicated to independent studying outside of formal teaching (e.g. pre- and extra reading, completing exercises, and contributing to the course's online forums).

Do I have to live and work in Afghanistan or Pakistan to apply?

Yes, as the studentships are funded by the Centre for IMPACT to build research capacity in these countries, only applicants from Afghanistan and Pakistan are eligible.

What are the residential workshops?

The University of York distance learning course includes optional residential workshops held at the University. These workshops offer introductory lectures and seminars, as well as training in the use of the web-based learning environment and information systems. For students who are not able to attend in person, recordings of workshop activities will be made available and some sessions will be conducted in a live-hybrid format online.

What financial support is available during the programme?

Studentships cover course fees for the duration of the programme. Funding for travel, accommodation and other costs related to the attendance at residential workshops is not included, and students would need to cover the cost of attending if they choose to participate in-person. Candidates will need to fund other associated expenses themselves (i.e. provide their own laptop and access to the internet). They will also need a means to cover their time, either through an agreement to be released for the required time by their employer, or through private means.

What support will I receive during my Studentship?

Students are assigned an academic supervisor during the course of their study, who will be on hand to provide ongoing support and guidance with any programme queries you might have. You will be invited to attend a one-to-one meeting with your academic supervisor each term. Programme Administration staff will also be on hand to provide support with any non-academic or Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)-related queries or issues. You will also join an online network of HEDL students, with access to discussion forums to ask questions and discuss programme activities, and support is also available through the University of York's Student Well-being Officers and Practitioners, University of York Library Services and the Maths Skills Centre.

To whom should I address my Letter of Support and/or cover letter?

Letters of Support and your cover letter should be addressed to the Centre for IMPACT panel. We would welcome your letter to be written on headed paper by your employer, if possible.

For the attention of:

Professor Kamran Siddiqi
Department of Health Sciences, Faculty of Sciences,
University of York,
Heslington, York. YO10 5DD

Professor Zainab Samad
Department of Medicine,
The Aga Khan University,
National Stadium Rd,
Karachi, Sindh,
Pakistan

Contact Details

For any queries about the NIHR Centre for IMPACT Health Economics Studentships, please contact [Harriet Evans Tang](#).