



Faculty of Public Health Projects Scheme brief

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Name of the Project Lead	Dr Mariam Sbaiti, Dr Jack Haywood, and Dr Samia Latif
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Date	19/6/2025

Project Details

Title and brief description of the project with summary of key roles and outputs expected from the registrar	<p>Exploring differential attainment in the Faculty of Public Health Diplomate examination (DFPH): a qualitative study by the Fair Exams Steering Group</p> <p>In November 2024, the FPH published a report which identified that the likelihood of passing the DFPH on first attempt varied by age, ethnicity, professional background, and candidate status. A steering group has been established to act on the recommendations of this report and to work to close the attainment gap identified.</p> <p>This project provides an opportunity to address one of the report's recommendations; to explore and better understand the causes underpinning the identified attainment gaps within the public health context.</p> <p>Registrars are invited to join a small research group, supported by Imperial College London to design and conduct an initial hypothesis-generating qualitative research study to identify the range of factors perceived to contribute to the attainment gap in the DFPH exam by relevant stakeholders. Registrars who join the project will be involved in all stages of the qualitative research process including study design, ethics applications, data collection, data analysis, write-up and dissemination and publication of findings. The findings of this research will be presented to the FPH's Fair Exams Steering Group and are anticipated to inform potential future research and policy.</p> <p>There may be scope to widen the study to the MFPH at a later date.</p>
Name of the organisation supporting the project	Fair Exams Steering Group, Faculty of Public Health
Where will the Registrar be based for the duration of the project?	Most work will be done remotely. There may be rare occasions where Registrars may decide to run face-to-face interviews. However, these will be optional, and

	the number will be agreed with the Registrar and their supervisor.
Please set out the Learning Outcomes and likely competencies to be achieved by the registrar from Public Health Specialty Training Curriculum	<p>Depending on the Registrar's involvement in the different stages of the project, some or all of the below competencies will be applicable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 1.6 • 2.2, 2.3 • 4.1, 4.2, 4.5, 4.7, 4.8 • 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8 • 9.1, 9.3, 9.7, 9.8, 9.10, 9.11 <p>By the end of this project, Registrars will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciate the value of qualitative research in informing the design and delivery of fairer assessments • Contribute to the design of a qualitative research project focused on education, including: formulating aims and objectives, designing methods • Contribute to conducting a qualitative project focused on education and assessment including collecting, analysing and interpreting data, and writing up the findings in a paper format • Communicate findings to inform education policy and practice including presenting the research findings and key recommendations within FPH and beyond <p>Agreement should be sought with the registrar's current educational supervisors to sign off the competencies, in discussion with the project leads.</p>
Start and end date of project (project duration)	The start date is 1 August 2025, but there may be flexibility. The project is expected to run until May 2026.
Time requirement for the Registrar on the project (days per week)	Average of 0.5 - 1 day a week across the timespan of the project.
How many Registrar places are available on this project?	4-6 depending on time availability
Location of Project Lead	Imperial College London
Details of the approved Project Supervisor (please include email)	<p>Dr Samia Latif</p> <p>Consultant Communicable Disease Control, Consultant in Global Health, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)</p> <p>Samia.latif@ukhsa.gov.uk</p>

<p>Will there be accommodation/travel costs associated with this project? If so who would be expected to cover this cost?</p>	<p>Registrars will conduct interviews remotely.</p> <p>In cases where Registrars decide to schedule interviews face-to-face, these will be arranged to take place in an appropriate academic centre in the Registrar’s training region. Therefore, the travel costs should be the usual ones involved in attending a regular training session.</p> <p>There is no additional funding for travel to these interviews. If the costs exceed the usual daily travel costs for the training programme, then interviews will be conducted remotely.</p>
<p>Please describe how the project will work in practice.</p>	<p>This project offers an opportunity for registrars to take part in an exploratory research project involving qualitative interviews. Registrars are invited to take part in each phase of the project in order to explore potential drivers of differential attainment in FPH examinations.</p> <p>The findings will inform potential future research (e.g. a wider mixed method survey) and policy. This provides registrars with an opportunity to contribute to knowledge production and inform future practice within FPH, contributing to enhancing equality and belonging in public health training.</p> <p>Below is an indicative timeline off the project.</p> <p>Phase 1 (June – September 2025)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study design • EERP ethics application (Imperial College) <p>Phase 2 (October 2025 – January 2026)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection (e.g. interviews/focus groups) <p>Phase 3 (January – March 2026)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data analysis and interpretation <p>Phase 4 (March – May 2026)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing up/dissemination/presentation to the Fair Exams Steering Group and FPH

Projects Scheme application checklist

This is only a guide and other criteria may be used for specific projects or training locations. Please record if you think you have met the following criteria and if not please provide details about why the criteria will not be met.

The Registrar has completed the MFPH exam or has an appropriate level of experience N.B This project is suitable for Registrars who have completed their MPH qualitative/social sciences research methods module. Registrars are not required to have passed the DFPH or MFPH examinations or to have previously conducted qualitative research to join this project. We would encourage Registrars who have not yet had their first attempt at the DFPH to carefully consider their capacity to take on this project with their Educational Supervisor before applying.	YES/NO
The Registrar has a named Project Supervisor for the duration of the project	YES/NO
The TPD for the Registrar has seen and approved the project	YES/NO
The Registrar's Educational Supervisor has seen the project and agrees that it meets the Registrar's training needs	YES/NO
There is clarity on the process for the Project Supervisor and Educational Supervisor to communicate about the Registrar's progress	YES/NO
The project brief clearly describes the Learning Outcomes and competencies expected	YES/NO