Research Methods in Population Health (IEHC0028)

Description

**Brief Module Description**

This module will develop students understanding of research methods, interpretation of data and evidence, and research study proposals in population health.

The best way to get interested in research is to:

- understand how other people did theirs and what they found;
- appreciate how study design can have an impact on how seriously to take their findings; and
- think about what you might be interested in finding out.

To support this, the module emphasises and develops students understanding of:

- randomised controlled trials and cohort studies;
- case control studies and cross sectional surveys;
- systematic review;
- qualitative research;
- selecting study designs;
- bias;
- sources and interpretation of data, and evidence;
- protocols for doing and reporting research; and
- designing a research study proposal, and preparing an application.

**Module Aims**

- to allow students to evaluate current research in population health; and
- to provide students with a range of opportunities to practise research skills

By the end of this module, you should be able to:

1.
Recognise Population Health resources including academic journals, online data repositories and public health information

Explain the applicability of a range of study designs

review and critically appraise health literature

Design a research project

This is an introductory core module for Year 1 students on the BSc Population Health programme. The module is also open to UCL elective students from other departments. Spaces are limited to 40 and places are allocated on a ‘first come first served’ basis on Portico.

There will be 3 to 4 hours of teaching each week including lectures, and small group work. The module runs in Term 2 of the academic year.

The module is assessed by a written piece of coursework (3,000 words) counting for 100% of your final mark for this module.

**Selected Reading List**

- Epidemiology for the uninitiated. Coggon D and Rose G.
- How to read a paper (2014) Greenhalgh T.