

**Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut**

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE FOR**

**PUBLIC HEALTH IN CONFLICT AND PROTRACTED CRISES**

**A. Description**

The certificate is a 12-credit program embedded within degree programs offered by the Graduate Public Health Program (GPHP) and that focuses on the determinants of health in contexts of emergencies and volatile environments. The certificate aims to introduce students to the concepts of quality and timeliness of health-related humanitarian responses and to equip graduates with in depth knowledge about the health needs of populations affected by conflict and complex emergencies as well as developing interventions to address them. Through courses, the practicum in a relevant site as well as through the completion of the Integrated Learning Experience (ILE) on a relevant topic, the certificate will provide an opportunity for students to develop and assess their competency in planning, implementing and evaluating public health in complex emergencies.

The certificate is tailored to meet the needs of applicants who are involved or interested in fields of public health in humanitarian crises and vulnerable environments (such as refugee settings) and/or are working or plan to work for governmental and non-governmental humanitarian-relief organizations.

Students in the certificate will be exposed to the different roles and approaches taken by governmental, local and international agencies in the context of rapidly evolving humanitarian health situations. The central features of the proposed certificate are an interdisciplinary focus, a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical application and experience relevant to Lebanon and the region.

**B. Eligibility to apply**

Graduate students from any MPH concentration or MS program at FHS who are currently working or plan to work to improve public health in conflict settings and humanitarian emergencies are encouraged to pursue this certificate. Applicants to the certificate should have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.7 (85%) at the time of application submission.

A limited number of already enrolled students will be accepted each year for the certificate.

Students supported by the TDR scholarship are not allowed to apply for the certificate due to the limited funds supporting their tuition under the scholarship program. Students on other scholarships will be allowed to apply on a case by case basis.

### **C. When to apply?**

All interested students must inform their academic and registration advisors about their intention of pursuing the certificate upon enrollment in order to choose the electives and the practicum site accordingly.

Students enrolled in the graduate program on a full-time basis must formally apply for the certificate by the last week of December of the first academic year. Decisions should be finalized by mid-January of the same academic year and usually before the start of the Spring semester.

Part-time students must formally apply by the first week of March of the second academic year. Decisions should be finalized by the first week of April of the same academic year.

### **D. Eligibility for admission**

Applicants to the certificate should meet the following criteria:

1. Interest or experience in fields of public health in humanitarian crises and vulnerable environments  
(Assessed through: personal statement and Updated CV).
2. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.7 (85%) at the time of application submission.
3. Expressed commitment to improve public health in conflict settings and humanitarian emergencies.  
(Assessed through: Personal Statement).

### **E. Competencies**

At the completion of the Public Health in Conflict and Protracted Crises Graduate Certificate Program, graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the multidisciplinary literature on conflict and forced migration from a critical public health perspective.

2. Apply public health tools and methods in research and evaluation in refugee and other humanitarian settings.
3. Demonstrate the capacity to plan, implement and evaluate a health intervention in a variety of humanitarian contexts.
4. Describe the ways in which conflict, forced migration and humanitarian crises shape public health program management and coordination.
5. Demonstrate ethical conduct in dealing with populations affected by war and forced migration

#### **F. Certificate Requirements**

To obtain the graduate certificate, students must successfully complete a minimum 12 credits distributed according to the graduate program s/he is enrolled in as shown in the table below. For MPH students, their practicum and ILE would both need to be focused on relevant conflict-related topics and the practicum would need to take place in either a conflict-related site or another type of site that has conflict or refugee-related activities. The students must reinforce at least one competency of the certificate in the ILE project. For MS students, their thesis or project (for MS-EH students) would need to be focused on relevant conflict-related topics.

Students should complete the 1- credit required course “Research Methods in Humanitarian Settings” that will be offered as the core requirement of all students. In addition students on the certificate will need to complete two out of the three relevant 3-credit courses as part of the electives requirement for the certificate for a total of 6 credits:

- Forced Migration and the Humanitarian Relief System (3 credit)
- Humanitarian Engineering (3 credit)
- Public Health and Armed Conflict (3 credit)

Payment for additional credits of electives will depend on the enrollment term and on the total number of registered credits during that term. Please see the table below.

In addition, students on the certificate need to complete an online course from the list of relevant online courses. They must produce the certificate showing completion of that course; to secure the certificate there is a charge depending on which online course is chosen. Further information on the online courses will be sent to students accepted on the certificate.

Graduate Certificate for Public Health in Conflict and Protracted Crises  
Academic Year 2022-23

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Requirement	GPHP Students' Accumulated Credits		
	MPH	MS-EPI	MS-EH
Online course(s)	0	0	0
Required course on Research Methods	1	1	1
Practicum	2	--	--
Integrative Learning Experience I	1		
Integrative Learning Experience II	2		
Project	--		Option 1-Project: 3
Thesis	--	6	Option 2-Thesis: 6
Electives	6*	5**	Option 1 (Project): 8 Option 2 (Thesis): 5***
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>

Considering the currently offered electives (of 3 credits each elective course):

\*Two extra credits of electives are to be taken on top of the four credits required for the HMP concentrators and three credits are to be taken on top of the three credits required for the EPBS and HPCH concentrators

\*\* One extra credit of elective is to be taken on top of the five credits of electives required for the MS-EPID program.

\*\*\* Two extra credits are to be taken on top of the 3 credits of free electives required for MS-EH students following the thesis track. Two extra credits are to be taken on top of the 6 credits of free electives required for MS-EH students following the project track.

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For further information, please contact: Ms. Stephanie Dib, FHS