Public Health is a very broad term covering a large number of areas of healthcare. Public Health refers to all efforts to protect health, prevent ill health and prolong life in the population. It is commonly separated into six areas although there is quite a bit of overlap between them.

**Health Improvement**
This mainly involves the impact on people’s lifestyles, such as smoking reduction, engaging in safer sexual behaviour or healthy eating and exercise.

**Health Protection**
This involves areas such as control of infectious diseases, vaccination programmes, food safety and protecting against various environmental hazards.

**Academic Public Health**
Conducting research into various areas of public health and/or teaching about public health.

**Health and Social Care Quality**
Investigating and improving the quality and standards of services which impact health.

**Strategy and Policy**
Creating policies, implementing them and measuring their impact.

**Public Health Intelligence**
The collection and analysis of data to impact the health of particular groups or the population as a whole.

How to decide what career to have in public health

There are various ways in which you can start to make a decision about your career in public health.

**The problem:**
Pick a public health issue you care about (such as sanitation, nutrition, infant mortality or a particular disease) and become an expert in that area. Within your career you may have different roles, but the common theme is that issue. For example, you might be interested in Malaria and start off managing a small project distributing bed nets in Uganda, move into monitoring and evaluating other projects in this field, followed by working on policies around malaria prevention.

**The role:**
There are many roles in public health. You could work (amongst many other things) as an epidemiologist, a medical statistician, a project manager, a fundraiser, a researcher, a laboratory technician, a clinical trials co-ordinator, workforce planner, monitoring and evaluation officer, health economist or even an accountant. Choose a role which fits your skills, abilities and qualifications.

The type of organisation:
Some people choose their career by the type of organisation they work for. There are many options and the working environments, as well as the types of jobs on offer are different in each. They include Charities, NGOs, Governments, Private sector companies (such as consultancy firms or pharmaceutical companies), National bodies (such as Public Health England or the NHS), international bodies, Think Tanks (policy and research work) and Universities (Research).

**The Location:**
Depending on your role, you could be working on health issues globally, or within a particular continent, region, country, or even a single town. It is possible to build expertise around the health issues within a location, although it is often useful to gain experience elsewhere as well, so that you can draw on best practice from other locations.

Where to find Public Health jobs
This list is not exhaustive. Make sure you search beyond this list when searching for jobs. People usually have more success if they speak to other professionals in their sector, network using LinkedIn and are generally proactive.

**NHS Jobs**
http://www.jobs.nhs.uk
Jobs within the NHS and Primary Care Trusts.

**List of Councils in the UK**
https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council
Councils are currently responsible for most public health provision within the UK.

**Jobs.ac.uk**
www.Jobs.ac.uk
Main website for jobs within academia.

**UK Civil Service**
https://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi
Jobs within the Civil Service including Public Health England and DFID.

**Research Gate**
http://www.researchgate.net/jobs
Jobs within Academia

**Guardian jobs**
http://jobs.theguardian.com/jobs/health
A variety of jobs advertised within Public Health.

**Health Service Journal Jobs**
http://www.hsjjobs.com
A variety of Jobs within Healthcare
Sign up to mailing lists such as Public Health JISCMAIL
https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=public-health

**Jobs in the Pharmaceutical sector**

Team 24
https://www.team24.co.uk/
This is mainly a recruitment agency for locum doctors and Nurses, but also advertises a few public Health roles.

PJ Careers
http://www.pjcareers.com
Jobs within Pharmaceutical industry

PSI
https://www.psiweb.org/careers/careers-home
Medical Statistics within Pharmaceutical industry

Wiley
http://www.wileyjobnetwork.com
Jobs in Healthcare, pharmaceutical industry and academia.

Pharmiweb
http://www.pharmiweb.com/careers/searchchoice.asp
Large pharmaceutical industry recruitment site

Pharma Consulting group
http://www.pharmaconsultinggroup.com/

Emed careers
http://www.emedcareers.com/jobs
Lots of medical, pharmaceutical and public health roles

**Medical Statistics and Epidemiology**

StatsLife
http://www.statslife.org.uk/jobs
Epidemiology and Medical Statistics

Stats Jobs
http://statsjobs.com
Jobs in Medical Statistics

Email sign up to ALLSTAT JISCMAIL
https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=ALLSTAT
Jobs in Medical Statistics

**Journals:**
Many jobs are advertised within specialist journals and publications, such as:

British Medical Journal
http://careers.bmj.com
Jobs within the British Medical Journal.

New Scientist
http://jobs.newscientist.com/en-gb/jobs
Jobs across all areas of public health.

**Global Health**
There is no single place to find job vacancies in global health. Many positions are not advertised at all. The following websites usually have a large number of vacancies, but make sure you are proactive and search beyond just these sites.

Third Sector
http://jobs.thirdsector.co.uk
Jobs and information on working in charities and NGOs.

World Service Enquiry
http://www.wse.org.uk
Advice and information on working in international development. Fairly old looking, but still has some useful information and links.

Charity Jobs
http://www.charityjob.co.uk
Jobs mainly in the UK

DeveX
https://www.deveX.com/en/jobs
A large website with many relevant vacancies.

ihipo
http://www.ihipo.com
Vacancies for internships. Sometimes includes internships with UN agencies.

**Some of the big employers:**
Action against Hunger
www.actionagainsthunger.org.uk

CAFOD
https://cafod.org.uk/Work-with-us

CARE
www.careinternational.org.uk

Caritas International
https://www.caritas.org/who-we-are/career/

Christian Aid
www.christianaid.org.uk/

Crown Agents
http://www.crownagents.com/

DFID
https://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk/csr/index.cgi

Emergency
http://www.emergency.it/work-with-us/job-vacancies.html

Goal
http://goal.ie/jobs/

International Crisis Group
https://www.crisisgroup.org/

Islamic Relief
www.islamic-relief.org.uk/

Marie Stopes
http://www.mariestopes.org.uk/

MEDAIR

Medicines Du Monde
www.medecinsdumonde.org or http://doctorsoftheworld.org/

Mind
http://www.mind.org.uk/
Public Health in the UK
Within the UK, the main responsibility for Public Health provision rests with councils (who are in charge of local provision and making sure that there is a joined up approach with local NHS services) and Public Health England who take a more national view.

There are also numerous charities who work in public health, most of which specialise in a particular area, such as Marie Stopes (sexual and reproductive health), addiction (drug addiction) or ASH (smoking) etc. Charities in this sector will do a variety of work including the delivery of frontline services, conducting research, raising public awareness and working on policies.

The Higher Education sector is a large employer of public health professionals. Mainly this consists of conducting research into public health, but can also involve teaching and lecturing.

In the private sector, public health related work mostly consists of drug/ development and testing as well as the insurance industry.

For an excellent breakdown of the roles and work in Public Health within the UK, go to the NHS’ Health Careers website: https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health

Do I need to do volunteering?
It is ironic that a sector which attempts to reduce inequality relies heavily on volunteers, and has an expectation that many people will volunteer when starting their careers.

In some ways it’s unsurprising. Organisations are looking for motivation to work in the sector and working for nothing is certainly good evidence for this. It costs a lot of money to fly someone halfway across the world and keep them there safely. Also, not everyone is suited to working in difficult places with an alien culture to their own. So before they commit to paying out a large amount of money, they want some certainty that you will not only stick with the project, but that you will do good work and make an impact while you are there.

Therefore, for many of the paid jobs in public health, a requirement is to have some “relevant” experience and motivation to work in this area. For your first bit of field work, a volunteering opportunity is usually the easiest to find and apply for.

Getting your first bit of paid experience can be tricky. There is competition for paid roles from good candidates from all over the world. However, there are many volunteering opportunities out there. Before you decide to take on a particular volunteering role it is worth thinking about the following questions:

Will this experience fill the gaps in my CV? (will you be given the right level of responsibility and take on work which could then lead to a paid job afterwards)

If it is definitely going to be beneficial for my career?

Can I afford to do it?

Is it actually volunteering? Many overseas “volunteers” (such as UNV) are given an allowance and have accommodation paid for, and some also have their flights and expenses (such as vaccinations) paid for. With the cost of living in many areas much lower than the UK, it can be possible to live comfortably with even a small allowance.

Could you do some fundraising to help pay for your flights and expenses? Some organisations help by providing ideas, tips and resources on fundraising. Other organisations provide grants for volunteers.

King’s CareerConnect
www.kcl.ac.uk/careerconnect
King’s CareerConnect is our exclusive online career portal enabling students and recent alumni to engage with our services. Once logged in, you can access our vacancy board and search hundreds of part-time roles, placements, internships and graduate-level opportunities, book one-to-one careers or application guidance appointments, apply for exclusive King’s Internships and view our full events calendar to book attendance at our many events throughout the year.

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Throughout our website there are links to websites whose content is outside our control. The inclusion of links on these