

1. When can I apply for a specialisation?

Occupational Health Specialisation:

- To inform Education Office (EO) by end of SPH5001.

For all other Specialisations:

- For Full-Time students, apply in second semester of study (in June/ July)
- For Part-Time students, apply in fourth semester of study (in June/ July)

2. Do I need to have obtained a minimum grade for the core/ elective courses to be considered as having fulfilled the requirements of my specialisation?

Effective from AY2022/2023 intake, a minimum grade of 'B' for all specialisation courses and SPH5005 Practicum is required to qualify for a specialisation.

3. Will the specialisation be reflected on my degree scroll?

No, it will only be noted on your transcript.

4. Can I drop my specialisation towards the end?

Yes, students must inform us via email no later than 3PM on the day of examination results release for Special Term Part II.

5. How do I know if I fulfilled the specialisation requirements?

Students should have completed/ are reading the required specialisation courses and a Practicum topic related to the specialisation. Students who are enrolled in a specialisation but do not enrol in the correct courses to meet the specialisation requirements will not be eligible for the specialisation.

6. I have an interest in 'XYZ', but I am not sure if I should specialise in 'XYZ'.

You may arrange for a discussion with the specialisation leads through EO.

7. Some courses have limited places. Would I have priority if the specialisation requires those courses as a core/ elective requirement?

Priority is generally given to students who will be completing their studies in the current academic year. The school will attempt to provide sufficient space within courses to meet demand.

8. Will I get help with finding a practicum topic/ supervisor in the area of my specialisation?

The Academic Advisors were assigned based on the students' expressed area of interest at the start of their candidature. Students can discuss with their Academic Advisor on possible practicum topics and if required, a separate Practicum Supervisor may be assigned. Students may also approach the EO for assistance.

9. Will the specialisation affect my GPA?

Courses read to complete the degree requirements will be computed in the GPA, including courses completed for the specialisation.

10. Would the specialisation increase my employability – how do employers view specialisation?

Specialisations may help employers differentiate suitable candidates for positions in different areas, as it indicates the candidates' areas of interest, as well as some knowledge or skills in desired areas as indicated by the grades obtained for the courses. It may however narrow your opportunities as employers may not consider you for other opportunities, as they may perceive the lack of knowledge or skills in other areas.

11. What are some of the advantages of reading a specialisation?

Specialisation provides students with the opportunity to learn more about a particular sub-discipline within their main discipline. It is very useful for students who plan to enter specific career tracks upon their graduation.

- If the specialisation is a match to the student's interest, the individual is likely to thrive better in it
- It allows employers to differentiate the student from other candidates in a segmented area of public health.
- Having a focus would be beneficial for course guidance

12. What are some of the cons of specialisation?

While skills and knowledge are applicable and transferable to other areas, employers may pigeonhole an individual based on their specialisation, thus narrowing their job opportunities, and limiting their contribution to the Public Health community according to the chosen specialisation.