

I have worked overseas – does this count towards my portfolio?

Yes, overseas work experience can contribute to your portfolio, provided it is relevant to public health practice. Evidence from overseas should be complemented by UK-based knowledge or experience to meet the Practitioner Standards. This ensures alignment with UKPHR's focus on protecting the public within the UK context.

What happens if I change jobs/roles whilst completing my portfolio?

Changing jobs or roles does not affect your ability to complete the portfolio, as long as you can continue to provide evidence that meets the required standards. If your new role is not directly related to public health, you may still use evidence from your previous role(s), provided it meets the standards and remains relevant within the portfolio timeframe (at least 50% of evidence must be from the last five years).

It is important to ensure compliance with GDPR and your organisational policies when using documents from previous employers. This includes adhering to contractual agreements, particularly regarding the confidentiality of data and intellectual property. Saving work-related documents to personal systems before leaving a role should be avoided unless explicitly permitted by your organisation.

Additionally, if your job change affects your ability to access colleagues for testimonials, ensure you plan for this by obtaining testimonials while still in the role or discussing alternative arrangements with your scheme coordinator. Inform your scheme coordinator about any job changes so they can provide support tailored to your circumstances.

I have an MPH/MSc – does this make me automatically eligible to join the scheme?

An MPH or MSc may support your application, particularly in demonstrating knowledge. However, registration is based on demonstrated competence in practice rather than academic qualifications alone. You will need to compile a portfolio of evidence to meet the Practitioner Standards and show how you have applied your learning in a public health role. You will need the detailed module information (e.g. learning outcomes or course outline/ contents) as well as the certification and transcript from your study. Practitioners are expected to have at least two years of autonomous public health practice before applying. Discuss your circumstances with your local scheme coordinator to assess your readiness for the scheme.

I work in a clinical/academic role, with years of experience – is this suitable?

Clinical or academic roles can provide relevant experience for the portfolio, as long as they include public health functions and demonstrate autonomous practice. For example, activities related to population health improvement, addressing health inequalities, or applying public health knowledge could be included. The portfolio must clearly link your work to the Practitioner Standards.

I am on a temporary contract – can I still join the scheme?

Yes, being on a temporary contract does not prevent you from joining the scheme. However, you must ensure that you can complete your portfolio within the required timeline and provide appropriate references or testimonials from your public health role to support your application. Evidence should reflect your work in public health, regardless of the type of contract.

It is important to comply with organisational policies, including those relating to confidentiality, data protection, and intellectual property, when using evidence from your role. Ensure you follow your employer's guidelines for handling documents and avoid saving work-related materials to personal systems without explicit permission.

If you anticipate challenges, such as accessing colleagues for references or testimonials after your contract ends, consider planning ahead to obtain the necessary documents while you are still in the role.

I have been in my role for a year/18 months but believe I have enough experience – am I still eligible to apply?

Practitioners are expected to have at least two years of autonomous public health practice before applying. Discuss your circumstances with your local scheme coordinator to assess your readiness for the scheme.