

# Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	<b>Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers</b>
2. Module code:	EPM105
3. Institution:	Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Keppel Street London WC1E 7HT <a href="http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/eph/">http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/eph/</a>
4. Module Organisers:	Elizabeth Breeze, Lucy Pembrey (Elizabeth Breeze, Heidi Larson , Pauline Brocard from Sept11)
5. Mode of study:	Distance learning
6. Type:	Core module
7. Duration and dates:	<p>Deadlines if taken as part of a formal award:</p> <p>Application deadline: 30 June each year</p> <p>Registration deadline: 31 August each year</p> <p>Course registration duration: Up to 5 years</p> <p>Course starts: 1 October each year</p> <p>Assessment submission by: 31 May or 31 August each year</p> <p>Deadlines if taken as an individual module (i.e. not registered for formal award):</p> <p>Application deadline: 31 August each year</p> <p>Registration deadline: 30 November each year</p> <p>Registration duration: 2 years</p> <p>Module study starts: 1 October each year</p> <p>Assessment submission by: 31 May or 31 August each year.</p>
8. Credit points:	15 credit points will be awarded on successful completion of this module at Masters level (Level 7).
9. Notional Learning Hours (NLH):	<p>The module should take about 150 hours to complete. On average students will divide these learning hours as follows:</p> <p>Directed self-study 60 hours</p> <p>Self-directed learning 40 hours</p> <p>Assessment, review and revision 50 hours.</p>
10. Aim:	The module aims to provide basic skills for writing epidemiological research papers and searching and evaluating the scientific literature.
11. Learning objectives:	<p>By the end of this module students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. outline strategies for writing good-quality epidemiological research papers</li> <li>2. search and manage the literature and other sources of information in preparation for addressing a specific research question as part of study design, writing a paper, or undertaking a review</li> <li>3. specify the principles of systematic reviews and the importance of conducting them, and describe the concept of evidence-based medicine</li> <li>4. critically appraise research papers and other sources of information by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– checking the scientific clarity and reproducibility</li> <li>– evaluating the methodological quality</li> <li>– assessing the quality of the presentation</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. demonstrate the main skills required to act as a referee for a research paper once s/he has the topic and epidemiological knowledge</li> <li>6. write a draft of a research paper with appropriate contents and format to</li> </ol>

	demonstrate understanding of the quality and structure required for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.
12. Content:	<p>Module content is structured around the self-study sessions listed below:</p> <p>Session 1 Overview of an epidemiological paper  Session 2 Searching the biomedical &amp; epidemiological literature  Session 3 Evaluating the biomedical &amp; epidemiological literature  Session 4 Critical evaluation of original papers  Session 5 Systematic reviews and evidence-based medicine  Session 6 Peer review of epidemiological papers  Session 7 Writing an outline of an epidemiological research paper  Session 8 Writing the first draft  Session 9 Revising drafts and preparing the final manuscript  Session 10 Dealing with the journal.</p>
13. Learning methods:	<p>Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. The key learning methods are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reading and reflecting on paper-based materials which introduce, explain and apply the principles and methods covered in the module.</li> <li>- Accessing academic support which is available from the module tutors through the web-based discussion forum in which students are encouraged to participate.</li> <li>- Completing formative assignment(s) and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors</li> <li>- Completing the assessed assignment and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors.</li> </ul>
14. Study resources provided:	<p>EPM105 Writing &amp; Reviewing Epidemiological Papers, Study Guide &amp; Reader.</p> <p><u>Textbooks:</u>  The Pocket Guide to Critical Appraisal (Crombie)  Winning the Publications Game (Albert) – available as an e-book only.</p> <p>Registered students have access to the School's online library resources.</p>
15. Assessment procedures:	You will be assessed wholly by the assessed assignment, consisting of two written exercises.
16. Prerequisites:	<p>Students should have completed EPM101, EPM102 and EPM103 or have equivalent experience.</p> <p>Those wishing to study this module must be able to access the internet on average at least once a week to benefit from library facilities, participate in web-based conference discussions and submit assignments.</p> <p>Students must meet the standard of English required to study this course. See <a href="http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/english.html">http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/english.html</a>.</p>
17. Attendance:	No maximum number
18. Selection, if applicable:	This module is compulsory for students registered on the <u>PG Certificate/PG Diploma/MSc Epidemiology</u> courses; alternatively, it can be taken as an Individual Module.
19. Fees:	For current schedule of fees see <a href="http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees/schedules/lshtm.pdf">http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees/schedules/lshtm.pdf</a> .
20. Scholarships:	None available
21. External accreditation:	None
22. Application process:	Applications are managed by the University of London International Programmes (website: <a href="http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/">http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/</a> ).
23. Further enquiries:	Enquiries may be emailed to <a href="mailto:distance@lshtm.ac.uk">distance@lshtm.ac.uk</a> .

