

Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	Epidemiology of Communicable Diseases
2. Module code:	EPM301
3. Institution:	Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Keppel Street London WC1E 7HT http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/eph/
4. Module Organisers:	Paul Milligan, Alison Wringe, Susana Scott
5. Mode of study:	Distance learning
6. Type:	Elective
7. Duration and dates:	<p>Deadlines if taken as part of a formal award:</p> <p>Application deadline: 30 June each year Registration deadline: 31 August each year Course registration duration: Up to 5 years Course starts: 1 October each year Examination takes place: Usually June each year (date to be confirmed)</p> <p>Deadlines if taken as an individual module (i.e. not registered for formal award):</p> <p>Application deadline: 31 August each year Registration deadline: 30 November each year Registration duration: 2 years Module study starts: 1 October each year Examination takes place: Usually June each year (date to be confirmed)</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 70 hours Self-directed learning 40 hours Assessment, review and revision 40 hours.</p>
10. Aim:	This module aims to provide students with an in-depth knowledge of important concepts in communicable disease epidemiology, and many of the skills to apply these concepts in practice.
11. Learning objectives:	<p>On completing of this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify factors that suggest a disease has an infectious cause, • describe the factors determining the spatial, temporal and social distributions of communicable diseases, • explain how to measure transmissibility of infections, • design, carry out, analyse, interpret and report an outbreak investigation, • explain the principles underlying mathematical models of communicable diseases, • compare and contrast methods for the evaluation of vaccine efficacy, • demonstrate practical applications of epidemiological methods through the study of research papers on specific diseases, • appraise key epidemiological concepts in the study of three infectious diseases of global health importance: HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

12. Content:	<p>Module content is structured around the self-study sessions listed below:</p> <p>EC01 Introduction EC02 Is the disease infectious? EC03 Measuring transmissibility EC04 Investigating an outbreak EC05 A simulated outbreak investigation, followed by a 6 week practical exercise EC06 Modelling infectious diseases EC07 Vaccine efficacy EC08 Summary EC09 Introduction to the epidemiology of infectious diseases: HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (<i>optional</i>)</p> <p>These sessions are followed by an optional mini-module <i>Molecular epidemiology of infectious diseases</i> structured around the self-study sessions listed below :</p> <p>EC10 Introduction to <i>Molecular epidemiology of infectious diseases</i> EC11 Introduction to genetics, molecular epidemiology methods and phylogenetics EC12 Molecular epidemiology: geographical studies EC13 Molecular epidemiology: transmission studies EC14 Molecular epidemiology: pathogenicity studies.</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"> - Reading and reflecting on CAL (computer-assisted learning) materials which introduce, explain and apply the principles and methods covered in the module. - Reading and reflecting on paper-based materials which support the learning in the CAL sessions. - Participating in a real-time group-based exercise. This is a large proportion of the study time and is spent on an outbreak investigation exercise leading to the assessed assignment report. During this time, students work with a small group of fellow students over a six week period using an assigned discussion group on the web-based discussion forum. - Accessing academic support which is available from the module tutors through the web-based discussion forum in which students are encouraged to participate.
14. Study resources provided:	<p>CD-Rom - EPM301 EPM301 Epidemiology of Communicable Diseases Study Guide & Reader.</p> <p><u>Software:</u> Stata Mappa.</p> <p><u>Textbook</u> Control of Communicable Diseases Manual (Heymann)</p> <p>Registered students have access to the School's online library resources.</p> <p>Students who are taking this as an individual module or as part of the MSc CT course also have online access to the MSc EP core electronic study materials (this access will exclude tutor support and associated textbooks).</p>
15. Assessment procedures:	<p>Formal assessment of the module consists of the group-work report (30%) and by a two-hour unseen written examination (70%). Prospective students should note that this module includes assessment based on a group exercise.</p>

	<p>Examinations are normally held in a student's country of residence, in one of over 650 examination centres worldwide. They are arranged mainly through Ministries of Education or the British Council. A local fee will be payable. A list of examination centres can be found at http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/current_students/general_resources/exams/exam_centres/index.shtml.</p> <p>If students fail an examination at the first entry they will be allowed one further attempt, the following year.</p>
16. Prerequisites:	<p>Students should have completed EPM101, EPM102 and EPM103 or have equivalent experience.</p> <p>Clinical Trials students must ensure that they have studied CTM207 <i>Design and Analysis of Epidemiological Studies</i> before studying this module or must obtain Course Director approval before registration.</p> <p>The material is at an advanced level and includes some interpretation of mathematical formulae.</p> <p>Those wishing to study this module must have regular access to the internet to benefit from library facilities, participate in web-based conference discussions and submit assignments. Those wishing to study this module must be able to access the internet on average at least once a week, and at least 3 times per week for a 6-week period between November and March for the assessed assignment.</p> <p>Students must meet the standard of English required to study this course. See http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/english.html.</p>
17. Attendance:	No maximum number
18. Selection, if applicable:	This module is available only to those registered for the MSc Epidemiology or Clinical Trials courses; alternatively, it can be taken as an Individual Module. It can also be taken by those studying the PG Diploma Epidemiology and Clinical Trials courses under the credit framework scheme.
19. Fees:	For current schedule of fees see http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees/schedules/lshtm.pdf .
20. Scholarships:	None available
21. External accreditation:	None
22. Application process:	Applications are managed by the University of London International Programmes (website: http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/).
23. Further enquiries:	Enquiries may be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk .