

Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	Epidemiology of Non-communicable Diseases						
2. Module code:	EPM303						
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:	Shah Ebrahim, Tauseef Khan						
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> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Directed self-study</td> <td>50 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Self-directed learning</td> <td>30 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assessment, review and revision</td> <td>70 hours.</td> </tr> </table>	Directed self-study	50 hours	Self-directed learning	30 hours	Assessment, review and revision	70 hours.
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10. Aim:	This module aims to provide an introduction to the key areas and methods in epidemiology of non-communicable diseases.						
11. Learning objectives:	<p>On completion of this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • define the scope of non-communicable diseases epidemiology and appreciate the changing importance of non-communicable diseases as a major public health burden in different parts of the world, • describe the aims and role of epidemiology of reproductive outcomes and be familiar with the most common methodological issues in this area, • explain the rationale for a life-course approach to the aetiology of non-communicable diseases, • interpret socio-economic inequalities in health, • appraise the value and limitations of molecular biomarkers in measuring exposure, susceptibility and disease outcomes in epidemiological studies of non-communicable diseases, • explain how functional genetic variant associations with common chronic diseases can provide robust estimates of the effects of environmental 						

	<p>exposures on these diseases,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe the role of infectious agents in the aetiology of non-communicable diseases, • distinguish between determinants of disease at an individual level and at a population level, • explain the concept of screening for disease control and how it can be used as a tool in public health, • discuss the importance of non-communicable diseases in low and middle income countries.
12. Content:	<p>Module content is structured around the self-study sessions listed below:</p> <p>EN01 Introduction to epidemiology of non-communicable diseases EN02 Epidemiology of reproductive outcomes EN03 Life-course approach to non-communicable diseases EN04 Measuring inequalities in health EN05 Molecular epidemiology: use of biological markers EN06 Mendelian randomization: understanding environmental causes of diseases EN07 Infectious agents and non-communicable diseases EN08 High-risk individual vs. population strategies for prevention EN09 Population-based screening programmes EN10 Non-communicable diseases in low and middle income countries.</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. - Accessing academic support which is available from the module tutors through the web-based discussion forum in which students are encouraged to participate. - Completing the formative assignment and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors. - Completing the assessed assignment and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors.
14. Study resources provided:	<p>CD-Rom - EPM303 EPM303 Epidemiology of Non-Communicable Diseases Study Guide & Reader.</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 one assessed assignment (30%) and by a two-hour unseen written examination (70%).</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>

	If students fail an examination at the first entry they will be allowed one further attempt, the following year.
16. Prerequisites:	<p>Students should have completed EPM101, EPM102, EPM103 and EPM105 (core modules) or have equivalent experience. Clinical Trials students must ensure that they have studied CTM207 <i>Design and Analysis of Epidemiological Studies</i> before studying this module.</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.</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 to those registered for the <u>MSc Epidemiology</u> or <u>Clinical Trials</u> courses; alternatively, it can be taken as an Individual Module. It is also available to those studying for 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/lshhtm.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 .