

Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	Biology of Infectious Diseases
2. Module code:	IDM103
3. Institution:	Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Keppel Street London WC1E 7HT http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/itd/
4. Module Organiser:	Professor Francis Cox
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>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</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>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):	On average the module should take about 150 hours to complete, consisting of the following: Directed self study: 75 hours Assessment, review and revision: 50 hours Self-directed Learning: 25 hours.
10. Aim:	This module introduces students to the way pathogens (viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, helminths) invade, establish, cause disease and evade the immune response in the vertebrate host.
11. Learning objectives:	On completing this module students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish between the different relationships that exist between pathogens and their human hosts. • Give examples of pathogenic viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa and helminth worms that cause the most important communicable diseases in humans especially in the tropics and subtropics. • Give examples of arthropods involved in the transmission of pathogens. • Discuss the concept of vectors with particular reference to insects and

	<p>acarines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how pathogens cause disease. • Explain how humans respond to infections. • Assess the ways in which knowledge of pathogens and their vectors and an understanding of relationships with their hosts can be used to reduce the global burden of communicable diseases.
12. Content:	<p>This module consists of six sections of varying length:</p> <p>Section 1 The first section consists of a single introductory session that sets the scene for what is to come and describes some of the important concepts that students will need to know about such as the nature of parasitism.</p> <p>Section 2 Section 2 is a large one consisting of seven sessions, six of which are divided into two parts and one into three parts, which first introduce students to the major groups of pathogens and describe what infectious diseases are and then considers in a bit more detail the viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, helminth worms and arthropods responsible for the most important infectious diseases.</p> <p>Section 3 The third section describes how infectious organisms enter their hosts, locate their final position within the host and spread throughout the body.</p> <p>Section 4 Section 4 is concerned with the relationships that exist between pathogens and their hosts, the ways in which infectious organisms evade the host's immune responses and the pathology and immunopathology of infectious diseases.</p> <p>Section 5 The fifth section takes the form of a number of case studies that take students from the theoretical aspects of the earlier material into the real world of clinical disease.</p> <p>Section 6 The sixth and final section will give students an opportunity to revise everything they have learned in a comprehensive and structured way.</p>
13. Learning methods:	<p>Learning is self-directed against a set of learning objectives, using the materials provided.</p> <p>Student support is available from the module tutors via a web-based discussion forum in which students are encouraged to participate. In addition, module tutors provide written feedback on the submitted assessed assignment.</p>
14. Study resources provided:	<p>Study Guide: Paper version.</p> <p>Reader (folder containing associated journal articles).</p> <p>Textbooks: Goering, R., et al (2007) <i>Mims' Medical Microbiology</i>. 4th Ed. Mosby.</p>

	<p>ISBN: 9780323044752. Service, M., (2008) <i>Medical Entomology for Students</i>. 4th Ed. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9780521709286. Microscopy of Tropical Diseases (Learning Bench Aids Series 1-9), 4th Ed. (2010) Tropical Health Technology.</p> <p>Registered students have access to the School's online library resources.</p>
15. Assessment procedures:	<p>Optional formative assignments are available to help students practice some of the principles discussed, and obtain tutor feedback.</p> <p>Formal assessment of this module includes a two-hour unseen written paper (100%). The examination paper may consist of a choice of essay and short answer questions.</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>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. 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 on the MSc, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate <u>Infectious Diseases</u> courses; alternatively, it can be taken as an Individual Module.
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 .