

# Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	<b>Viral Infections</b>
2. Module code:	IDM204
3. Institution:	Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Keppel Street London WC1E 7HT <a href="http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/itd/">http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/itd/</a>
4. Module Organiser:	Dr Mario Forzan
5. Mode of study:	Distance Learning
6. Type:	Elective module
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):	On average the module should take about 150 hours to complete, consisting of the following: Directed self-study: 75 hours Self-directed Learning: 25 hours Assessment, review and revision: 50 hours.
10. Aim:	This module aims to undertake a systematic overview of the important viruses causing infections in humans. Students will explore the molecular biology of the different types of viruses, the different strategies that are involved in their replication and the ways in which they cause disease. Consideration is given to the prevention, treatment and control of virus infections. Prior knowledge of basic biochemistry, cell biology, genetics and immunology from core modules or elsewhere is expected.
11. Learning objectives:	<p>On completing this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguish the different classes of viruses on the basis on their genome and identify the main features of each virus.</li> <li>• Describe the mechanisms used by viruses to infect the cells and discuss clearly each step of virus replication.</li> <li>• Discuss the pathological aspects of virus infection related to specific virus families.</li> <li>• Recognise the role and the impact that some viruses have on public health</li> </ul>

	<p>(i.e. HBV, HIV-1 and oncogenes).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the different approaches used for the prevention and treatment of viral infection including vaccines and antiviral chemotherapies.</li> </ul>
12. Content:	<p><b>Section 1 Introduction to viruses</b>  Section 1 provides the scientific background essential for the understanding of the biology of viruses. It is aimed at students who have a command of cell biology, molecular biology and immunology. Supplementary reading is provided for those without the necessary background. The biology of viruses is set in the context of their interactions with humans both as individuals and populations. In this section students will also receive basic information regarding virus classification and different aspects of their life cycle. Important issues such as cancer development and host resistance are also discussed.</p> <p><b>Section 2 Pathogenic viruses</b>  Section 2 describes the biology of individual viruses and the diseases they cause. Where the information is available, an indication is given as to numbers of people infected. The organization of this module reflects current understanding of viruses and the way in which they are studied. Their importance as pathogens is indicated but there is no direct link between the extent of the knowledge about a virus and its significance as a pathogen. The ability to investigate a virus is limited by technical considerations.</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><b>Study Guide:</b> Paper version.</p> <p><b>Reader</b> (folder containing associated journal articles).</p> <p><b>Textbooks:</b>  Collier, L., &amp; Oxford, J., (2006) <i>Human Virology</i>. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0198566603.  Cann, A., (2005). <i>Principles of Molecular Virology</i>. 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Academic Press. ISBN: 978-0120887873.</p> <p>Registered students have access to the School's online library resources. Students who are taking this as an individual module will also have online access to the MSc ID core study materials (this access will exclude tutor support and associated textbooks).</p>
15. Assessment procedures:	<p>Formal assessment of this module includes an assessed assignment (30% of the total grade for the module) and a 2-hour unseen written examination (70% of the total grade for the module). 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 <a href="http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/current_students/general_resources/exams/exam_centres/index.shtml">http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/current_students/general_resources/exams/exam_centres/index.shtml</a>.</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. 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:	<p>This module is available only to those registered for the <u>MSc Infectious Diseases</u> course; alternatively, it can be taken as an Individual Module. Those studying for the PG Diploma Infectious Diseases course under the credit framework scheme may also study this module.</p> <p>Those who wish to study this module as an Individual Module should note that the study material may refer to ID core modules (IDM101, IDM102, IDM103 and IDM104) which they may not have studied. <b>In particular, students should have a prior knowledge of basic biochemistry, cell biology, genetics and immunology in order to be able to work through and benefit fully from this module.</b> (See section 14 above.)</p>
19. Fees:	<p>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>.</p>
20. Scholarships:	None available
21. External accreditation:	None
22. Application process:	<p>Applications are managed by University of London International Programmes (website: <a href="http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/">http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/</a>).</p>
23. Further enquiries:	Enquiries may be emailed to <a href="mailto:distance@lshtm.ac.uk">distance@lshtm.ac.uk</a> .