

Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	HIV/AIDS
2. Module code:	IDM501
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:	Dr Michael Brown
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: 100 hours Self-directed Learning: 25 hours Assessment, review and revision: 25 hours.
10. Aim:	The main aim of this module is to give students a broad understanding of the HIV epidemic, and to equip them to analyse the appropriateness of alternative therapeutic and preventive intervention strategies in different settings.
11. Learning objectives:	<p>On completing this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the structure and behaviour of the virus, and its pathogenesis. • Describe the immune response to infection, and analyse the prospects for the development of an effective vaccine. • Review the approaches to diagnosis and the use of alternative case definitions of AIDS. • Compare the natural history of HIV and AIDS in different geographical settings. • Evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of prophylactic and therapeutic drug treatments in different settings, including the use of combination antiretroviral therapy. • Describe the modes of transmission of the virus, and characterize the regional epidemics of HIV in different parts of the world.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the risk factors for HIV infection. • Analyse how social, cultural, behavioural and biological factors interact to determine the transmission of the virus. • Evaluate the effectiveness of alternative strategies of HIV prevention. • Devise and implement effective HIV control programmes that are tailored to the local context.
12. Content:	<p>This module consists of three sections:</p> <p>Section 1 Virology, immunology and diagnosis of HIV infection The first section focuses on the 'basic science' of HIV, including its evolution, virology and pathogenesis, the immune response to HIV, diagnostic methods and the prospects for a vaccine.</p> <p>Section 2 Clinical aspects of HIV infection The second section examines the natural history and clinical manifestations of HIV in different geographical settings, prophylactic and therapeutic treatments for HIV and its associated opportunistic infections, the clinical aspects of HIV infection in children, and access to HIV care in developing countries.</p> <p>Section 3 Epidemiology and control of HIV infection The third section describes the global and regional epidemics, surveillance methods for HIV, and the demographic and social impact of the epidemic. It goes on to examine the epidemiology and control of each of the main modes of HIV transmission: sexual, mother-to-child, and parenteral. Finally, it discusses the broader social and political context of the epidemic and reviews issues in the planning and implementation of control programmes.</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: Interactive CD-ROM.</p> <p>Reader (folder containing associated journal articles).</p> <p>Textbooks: UNAIDS Report on the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic, 2010. Green, A., (2007). <i>An Introduction to Health Planning in Developing Health Systems</i>. 3rd Ed. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0198571348. Goering, R., et al (2007) <i>Medical Microbiology</i>. 4th Ed. Mosby. ISBN: 0323044751</p> <p>Registered students have access to the School's online library resources. Students who are taking this as an individual module or as part of MSc PH, MSc GHP or MSc EP 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</p>

	<p>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. See http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/english.html.</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> (ID), <u>Epidemiology</u> (EP), <u>Global Health Policy</u> (GHP) or <u>Public Health</u> (PH) courses; alternatively, it can be taken as an Individual Module. Those studying for the PG Diploma ID, GHP or PH courses under the credit framework scheme may also study this module.</p> <p>Those who wish to study this module as an Individual Module or as part of an EP, GHP or PH course should note that the study material may refer to ID core modules (IDM101, IDM102, IDM103 and IDM104) which they may not have studied. 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. (See section 14 above.)</p>
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 .