

Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	Basic Epidemiology
2. Module code:	PHM101
3. Institution:	Faculty of Public Health and Policy London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Keppel Street London WC1E 7HT http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/
4. Module Organiser:	Natasha Howard
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 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:	10 credit points will be awarded on successful completion of this module at Masters level (Level 7).
9. Notional Learning Hours (NLH):	<p>On average, the module should take about 100 hours to complete, consisting of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • core reading and web-based discussion forum participation: 60 hours • additional reading materials and exercises: 10 hours • assignments and exam preparation: 30 hours
10. Aim:	This module aims to improve students' understanding of essential epidemiological methods and their use in public health.
11. Learning objectives:	<p>On completing this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • calculate and interpret basic measures of frequency (e.g. prevalence, incidence, rate standardisation, SMR), association (e.g. relative and attributable risk), and test validity, reliability and predictive value; • describe and compare basic features and uses of epidemiological study designs (e.g. ecological, cross-sectional, case-control, cohort, intervention); • interpret study results by considering bias, confounding, chance, and causality; • assess basic advantages and limitations of using routine and surveillance data and compare risk reduction and prevention strategies.

12. Content:	This module provides students with an introduction to the basic concepts and methods of epidemiology to help them understand, interpret and apply basic epidemiological methods. Students will be introduced to basic principles underlying different study designs; approaches to interpreting epidemiological data; and their relationship to public health preventive strategies and will also be offered a brief introduction to more advanced epidemiological and statistical concepts.
13. Learning methods:	<p>The main module textbook is <i>Introduction to Epidemiology</i> by Lucianne Bailey, Katerina Vardulaki, Julia Langham, Daniel Chandramohan from the Open University Press.</p> <p>Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives identified at the start of each chapter of the module textbook, which offers focused reading and various learning activities.</p> <p>Additional learning materials include: a brief guide to the study module, recommended articles reading from the peer-reviewed literature, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and suggested relevant websites.</p> <p>Student support is available from the module tutors through the web-based discussion forums and regularly scheduled 1hr 'live-chat' sessions on specific topics. Module tutors provide asynchronous feedback for all students on the web-based discussion forum and offer individual feedback on a formative (non-assessed) assignment submitted by the student.</p>
14. Assessment procedures:	<p>Formal assessment of the module will consist of a two-hour unseen written examination, which will account for 100% of the student's final mark.</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>
15. Prerequisites:	<p>Those wishing to study this module should have regular access to the internet to benefit from library facilities, participate in web-based 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>
16. Attendance:	No maximum number
17. Selection, if applicable:	<p>This module is available to students registered for the PG Certificate/PG Diploma/MSc in <u>Public Health</u> courses; alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module.</p> <p>This module is compulsory for all students studying the Environment and Health, Health Promotion, Health Services and General streams of the MSc Public Health course.</p>
18. Fees:	For current schedule of fees see http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees/schedules/lshtm.pdf .
19. Scholarships:	None available
20. External accreditation:	None
21. Application process:	Applications are managed by the University of London International Programmes (website: http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/).
22. Further enquiries:	Enquiries may be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk .