

Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	Introduction to Health Economics
2. Module code:	PHM103
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:	Lorna Guinness
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"> • Main reading and WebBoard participation: 60 hours • Additional reading materials and exercises: 10 hours • Assignments and exam preparation: 30 hours.
10. Aim:	This module aims to introduce students to economic approaches used in public health and the scope and contribution of health economics.
11. Learning objectives:	<p>On completing this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe economic techniques that are commonly used in public health; • Discuss specific features that distinguish demand and supply for health care from demand and supply for other goods and services; • Explain the economic methods being used to promote public health policies, analyse health care delivery and shape health sector reforms; • Use information on the economic evaluation of health care interventions; • Understand the strategic debates on use of market elements to improve health service performance and use of financial strategies to promote the health of the public.

12. Content:	This module introduces concepts of supply and demand and their interaction in markets and describes the relevance of markets and issues of equity to health care provision and the promotion of good health. The module offers descriptions of the advantages and disadvantages of different approaches to financing health services and paying providers. Students will also be introduced to the main methods of economic evaluation (cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis) and offered examples of their potential application in health care decision making. Using an applied approach, the module aims to provide basic knowledge sufficient to understand the main contribution of health economics. The module also provides the basis for the advanced health economic study modules, for students who are interested in more in-depth knowledge.
13. Learning methods:	<p>The main textbook is <i>Introduction to Health Economics</i> edited by L Guinness and V Wiseman.</p> <p>Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives that are identified at the start of each chapter of the module textbook, which also offers focused reading and various learning activities.</p> <p>Additional learning materials include: a brief guide to the study module, recommended reading from text books and 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 forum. Module tutors provide written 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.</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/Diploma/MSc in <u>Public Health</u> courses; alternatively, it may also be taken as an individual module.</p> <p>This module is compulsory for all students studying Environment and Health, Health Promotion, Health Services or General stream of the Public Health MSc.</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 .