

# Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	<b>Principles of Social Research</b>
2. Module code:	PHM104
3. Institution:	Faculty of Public Health and Policy London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Keppel Street London WC1E 7HT <a href="http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/">http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/</a>
4. Module Organiser:	Maria Roura
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:	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> <p>a) Main reading and web-based conference participation: 60 hours</p> <p>b) Additional reading materials and exercises: 10 hours</p> <p>c) Assignments and exam preparation: 30 hours.</p>
10. Aim:	This module aims to introduce the basic principles of social research practice and theory as applied to health.
11. Learning objectives:	<p>On completing this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss how social science research methods can contribute to the understanding of public health and health management problems.</li> <li>• Formulate social science research questions and identify the most suitable methodological approaches to answer these.</li> <li>• Distinguish concepts, variables and indicators in research.</li> <li>• Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different study designs including experiments, surveys and observational designs.</li> <li>• Identify the main aims of qualitative research, the most important skills required for asking questions and listening to answers, as well as the key practical issues to consider when planning participatory group discussions.</li> <li>• Design qualitative topic guidelines and undertake a basic thematic analysis of qualitative data.</li> <li>• Apply the key principles of good questionnaire design and assess the</li> </ul>

	<p>strengths and weaknesses of different sampling strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate reliability and validity in both qualitative and quantitative research.</li> <li>• Describe the core concepts of applied medical anthropology and the history of health and assess the complementary role played by different disciplines in health research.</li> </ul>
12. Content:	The module introduces students to key concepts in qualitative and quantitative methodology; the main data collection methods used in social research for health, and perspectives from some of the social science disciplines that have contributed to public health, including psychology, sociology, medical anthropology and history of medicine. The focus is on providing a broad introduction for those who will need to read, appraise or commission social research for public health.
13. Learning methods:	<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. The main textbook is <i>Principles of Social Research</i> by Judith Green &amp; John Brown.</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 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, which accounts for 100% of the 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 <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>
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 <a href="http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/english.html">http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospectus/english.html</a>.</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 Environment and Health, Health Promotion, Health Services or General stream of the Public Health MSc.</p>
18. Fees:	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> .
19. Scholarships:	None available
20. External accreditation:	None

21. Application process:	Applications are managed by the University of London International Programmes (website: <a href="http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/">http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/</a> ).
22. Further enquiries:	Enquiries may be emailed to <a href="mailto:distance@lshtm.ac.uk">distance@lshtm.ac.uk</a> .