

Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	Issues in Public Health
2. Module code:	PHM105
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:	Alison Krentel
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 web-based discussion forum participation: 60 hours • Additional reading materials and exercises: 10 hours • Assignments and exam preparation: 30 hours.
10. Aim:	This module is designed to answer the question “What is public health?” and to introduce the main concepts, principles, and practises of public health.
11. Learning objectives:	<p>On completing this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the historical evolution of public health and its influence on modern public health; • Use basic data on populations and mortality and calculate mortality rates; • Cite the methods used to estimate the burden of disease and assess the factors which contribute to it; • Express the extent to which health care contributes to population health; • Assess the effect of other sectors’ policies on health; • Address inequalities in health and understand where they come from; • Describe the issues and challenges surrounding tobacco use and control globally; • Explain the development of nutrition and health and the impact of public policy; • Consider the public health implications of managing the environment.

12. Content:	<p>This module is designed for students who want to consider the question 'What is public health?' It focuses on activities that societies undertake to enhance the health of populations. Although health care is a common focus of attention in this module, it does not focus specifically on the interaction between the health professional and the individual patient. Rather, this module looks at how societies organise health care to make it accessible to all. It also addresses global and influential health issues like smoking, obesity and the changing nature of infectious diseases. The module will discuss how much of modern public health today is about tackling strongly vested interests (tobacco companies, alcohol industry, etc.). The module also examines the importance of empowering people, so that they can make healthy decisions. Finally, this module confronts explicitly the political nature of public health. Much disease and ill health has its origins in the way that we organise our society, in deciding how much income to redistribute, how resources, such as education, transport and housing, should be provided, and who pays for what. This module raises the political question about how to address current public health dilemmas.</p>
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 module textbook is <i>Issues in Public Health</i> by Joceline Pomerleau and Martin McKee.</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 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 General stream of the Public Health MSc and recommended for students studying the Environment and Health stream.</p>
18. Fees:	<p>For current schedule of fees see http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees/schedules/lshtm.pdf.</p>

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 .