

# Module Specification (Distance Learning)

In collaboration with University of London International Programmes



1. Title:	<b>Health Services</b>
2. Module code:	PHM108
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:	Nick Black
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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main reading and web-based discussion forum participation: 60 hours</li> <li>• Additional reading materials and exercises: 10 hours</li> <li>• Assignments and exam preparation: 30 hours.</li> </ul>
10. Aim:	This module provides students with a range of ways of thinking about health services and health systems.
11. Learning objectives:	<p>On completing this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe the basic functions of health services and outline the reasons why services have developed in the way they have;</li> <li>• explain how different disciplines contribute unique insights to understanding how a health service functions;</li> <li>• describe and give examples of the inputs, processes and outcomes of health services;</li> <li>• critically examine responses to challenges to health care in different countries;</li> <li>• analyse key, persistent and widespread problems in providing health services and suggest approaches to resolving these problems.</li> </ul>
12. Content:	The module focuses on the need for a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding health services and the contributions that medicine, sociology, economics, history and epidemiology make. It shows how it is necessary to consider health care at three key levels: the micro-level of the individual

	<p>patient and their experiences; the meso-level of how health care organisations such as health centres and hospitals work; and the macro-level of regional and national institutions such as governments and health insurance.</p> <p>It first considers inputs to health care (diseases and medical knowledge; staff and the challenge of professionalism; funding) and the activities that take place (need, demand and use; staff-patient interactions; public as consumers and policy makers) before considering outcomes. It then looks at the way services are organised before considering how the quality of services can be defined, assessed and improved.</p>
13. Learning methods:	<p>The module textbook is <i>Understanding Health Services</i> by Nick Black and Reinhold Gruen.</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 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 <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:	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. It is compulsory for those choosing to study the Health Services Management stream of the MSc Public Health.
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> .

