# Module Specification

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This module specification applies for the academic year 2018-19  
**Last revised** 25 June, 2018 by Lucy Platt  
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel St., London WC1E 7HT.  
[www.lshtm.ac.uk](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>1457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Organisers</td>
<td>Dr Mary Alison Durand and Dr Lucy Platt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mary-Alison.Durand@lshtm.ac.uk">Mary-Alison.Durand@lshtm.ac.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:Lucy.Platt@lshtm.ac.uk">Lucy.Platt@lshtm.ac.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Faculty</td>
<td>Public Health and Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>15 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Not currently accredited by any other body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>International / global, Research (in general), Epidemiology (incl. surveillance), Health Policy (incl. advocacy), Disease prevention &amp; control, Non-communicable diseases (in general), Mental health problems, Behavioural aspects (in general), Smoking, Drugs, Vulnerable groups (in general), Communicable diseases (in general), HIV/AIDS</td>
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## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

**Overall aim**  
To develop understanding of the importance of drug use to public health, and to gain an appreciation of current tobacco, alcohol and other drug research, policy and intervention issues, specifically from an evidence-based public health perspective.

**Intended learning outcomes**  
By the end of this module, students should be able to:  
- Describe and compare the burden of harms from different drugs and patterns of use  
- Identify public health objectives in relation to drug use and differentiate these from other influences on public policy formation  
- Assess a wide range of interventions in terms of their contributions to reducing drug-related harm, from individually targeted approaches to international regulatory measures  
- Evaluate the evidential content of current policy debates on drug use;  
- Analyse issues involved in researching drug, alcohol and tobacco use in public health and critique the resulting evidence
### Target audience

This module is aimed at students on the MSc Public Health. This will also be useful for other students in PHP and elsewhere who already have or wish to develop an interest in this topic. N.B. This is not a clinical module.

### CONTENT

#### Session content

There are 10 lectures, 9 seminars, 3 facilitated groupwork sessions, plus additional groupwork sessions as required and a team presentation.

Usual lecture titles are as follows: Introduction to drugs, alcohol & tobacco; Public health approaches to alcohol, tobacco & other drugs; Why some substances are legal and others are not; Alcohol epidemiology and policy issues; Injecting drug use epidemiology and policy issues; Tobacco epidemiology and policy issues; Preventing drug use and harms; Emerging trends in drug use; The social contexts of drug use; Drugs, alcohol and tobacco policy approaches compared. The seminars are related to the lectures which broadly address tobacco, alcohol and injecting drug use together.

Groupwork addresses tobacco, alcohol or injecting drug use in depth with students able to select from a choice of one topic in each area, as numbers allow. The form of typical learning outcomes for the groupwork are as follows:

- To collate and summarise existing background epidemiological data
- To identify available policy measures
- To evaluate the evidence base on their effectiveness
- To collate and summarise existing data in the topic area
- To identify needs for further research
- To develop skills in team working, and presentation, which maximise the participation of all

Groupwork leads to a formatively assessed presentation. Recent topics, for indicative purposes only, have been: Use of e-cigarettes in the UK; Brief interventions to identify and reduce alcohol problems; Chemsex in gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM) in the UK: Developing competent harm reduction services. Students may complete the module assessment in relation to lecture or groupwork material or both.

### TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

#### Study resources provided or required

Module Information can be found on the Virtual Learning Environment (MOODLE) containing information about each session and key references for the module. Additional readings and PowerPoint slides are made available electronically via Moodle.

#### Teaching and learning methods

Lectures, seminars, group work, presentations, debates and individual study.

#### Assessment details

Students will write a 2,000-word essay on a public health approach to a policy debate or on a research issue (worth 100% of the module grade). Groupwork is formatively assessed only and does not contribute towards the final module grade.

Resit/deferred/new attempts - The task will be a written essay, as above.
| Assessment dates | The assessment will be due on **13 February 2019**. Resit/deferred/new attempts - the next assessment deadline will be during mid/late September of the current academic year. |
| Language of study and assessment | English (please see 'English language requirements' below regarding the standard required for entry). |

**TIMING AND MODE OF STUDY**

| Duration | 5 weeks at 2.5 days per week |
| Dates | Monday morning to Wednesday lunchtime |
| Timetable slot | Term 2 - slot C1 |
| Mode of Study | The module is taught face-to-face in London. Both full-time and part-time students follow the same schedule. |
| Learning time | The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of:  
- Contact time ≈ 35 hours  
- Directed self-study ≈ 45 hours  
- Self-directed learning ≈ 12 hours  
- Assessment, review and revision ≈ 58 hours |

**APPLICATION AND ADMISSION**

| Pre-requisites | None |
| English language requirements | A strong command of the English language is necessary to benefit from studying the module. Applicants whose first language is not English or whose prior university studies have not been conducted wholly in English must fulfil LSHTM’s [English language requirements](#). |
| Student numbers | 10-20 (numbers may be capped due to limitations in facilities or staffing) |
| Student selection | Preference will be given to LSHTM MSc students and LSHTM research degree students. Other applicants meeting the entry criteria will usually be offered a place in the order applications are received, until any cap on numbers is reached. Applicants may be placed on a waiting list and given priority the next time the module is run.  
Partial Registration (partial participation) by LSHTM research degree students is allowed for this module. |