# Module Specification

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>EPM105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module Organiser(s)</td>
<td>Lucy Pembrey, Suzanne Penfold, Helen Owen</td>
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<td>Contact email</td>
<td>The LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with the University of London. Enquiries may be made via their Student Advice Centre at: <a href="https://london.ac.uk/contact-us">https://london.ac.uk/contact-us</a> (Enquiries from London-based LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to <a href="mailto:distance@lshtm.ac.uk">distance@lshtm.ac.uk</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Faculty</td>
<td>Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health</td>
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<td></td>
<td>London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/eph/">http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/eph/</a></td>
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<td>Level</td>
<td>This module is at Level 7 (postgraduate Masters level) of the QAA <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/">Framework for Higher Education Qualifications</a> in England, Wales &amp; Northern Ireland (FHEQ).</td>
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<td>Credit</td>
<td>LSHTM award 15 credits on successful completion of this module.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Not currently accredited by any other body.</td>
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<td>Keywords</td>
<td>Research methods, Epidemiology, Communicable diseases (in general), Non-communicable diseases (in general), Values / Human rights / (bio)Ethics, Communication (oral, written), Team-work (including interdisciplinary, interprofessional), systematic reviews.</td>
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## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

### Overall aim

The module aims to provide basic skills for writing epidemiological research papers and searching and evaluating the scientific literature.

### Intended learning outcomes

By the end of this module, students should be able to:

- critically appraise epidemiological research papers and other sources of information by:
  - checking the scientific clarity and reproducibility
  - evaluating the methodological quality
  - assessing the quality of the presentation
- demonstrate the main skills required to act as a referee for an epidemiological research paper
- write a draft of an epidemiological research paper with appropriate contents and format to demonstrate understanding of the quality and structure required for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

### Target audience

**Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers** is a core module for all students on the DL PG Certificate/PG Diploma and MSc Epidemiology programmes and an elective module for students on the DL PG Diploma/MSc Demography & Health programmes.
## CONTENT

### Session content
The module includes sessions addressing the following topics:
- Overview of an epidemiological paper
- Searching the medical literature
- Evaluating the epidemiological literature
- Critical evaluation of original papers
- The principles of systematic reviews and an introduction to evidence-based medicine
- Peer review of epidemiological research papers
- Writing an outline of an epidemiological research paper
- Writing the first draft
- Revising drafts and preparing the final manuscript
- Dealing with the journal.

## TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

### Study resources provided or required
The following materials are provided to students after registration for this module once a year from October:
- EPM105 Writing & Reviewing Epidemiological Papers Study Guide & Reader.

**Textbooks:**
- *The Pocket Guide to Critical Appraisal* (Crombie)
- *Winning the Publications Game* (Albert) – available as an e-book only.

In addition to the materials above, students are given access (from early October) to:
1. The LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle, which contains the key EPM105 learning material in the form of Computer Assisted Learning (CAL) sessions as well as resources such as discussion forums and supplementary programme materials, and
2. The LSHTM online library.

### Teaching and learning methods
Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. The key learning methods are:
- Reading and reflecting on the CAL online materials and other resources which introduce, explain and apply the principles and methods covered in the module.
- Accessing academic support which is available from the module tutors through the online discussion forums and real-time sessions (using Collaborate Ultra) in which students are encouraged to participate.
- Completing formative assignment(s) and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors.
- Completing the assessed assignment and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors.

### Assessment details
Formal assessment of this module is through an assessed assignment comprising of two written papers (100%).
If students fail the module overall, they are allowed one further attempt at the assignment.

### Assessment dates
Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than 31 August and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.
### Language of study and assessment

English (please see 'English language requirements' below regarding the standard required for entry).

### TIMING AND MODE OF STUDY

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<th>Duration</th>
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<td>Students may start their studies at any time from receipt of study materials (made available annually usually in October, depending on date of registration) and work through the material until Assessed Assignment submission at the end of August (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed). Students registering after September (continuing and individual module students only) should note that introductory messages, and some online activities (for example discussion forums and/or real-time welcome sessions) may have already taken place before they get access to the Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle). All such messages and recordings (where applicable) will be available to access throughout the study year.</td>
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<th>Dates</th>
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<td>Tutorial support for this module is available from the beginning of January through to the Assessed Assignment submission at the end of August. Formative Assignments (FAs) must be submitted by 30 June.</td>
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<th>Mode of study</th>
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<td>By distance learning.</td>
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<th>Learning time</th>
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| The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of:  
  - **Directed self-study** (reading and working through the provided module material) ≈ 85 hours  
  - **Self-directed learning** (general reading around the subject, library, Moodle discussion forums) ≈ 15 hours  
  - **Assessment, review and revision** ≈ 50 hours |

### APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND FEES

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<th>Pre-requisites</th>
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| Epidemiology and Demography & Health students should have studied and have an understanding of EPM101 *Fundamentals of Epidemiology* and EPM102 *Statistics with Computing* (from 2018-19 this module is entitled Statistics for Epidemiology), and are also recommended to have studied EPM103 *Practical Epidemiology* prior to studying this module.  
  
  **Students studying this module as an individual module** must have basic epidemiological knowledge and skills equivalent to EPM101 *Fundamentals of Epidemiology* and EPM102 *Statistics with Computing* (from 2018-19 this module is entitled Statistics for Epidemiology) and are recommended to have equivalent knowledge and skills to EPM103 *Practical Epidemiology*.  
  
  Those wishing to study this module **must have regular access to the internet** to access learning resources, participate in module-specific discussions on Moodle, benefit from online library facilities and submit assignments. |

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<th>English language requirements</th>
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<td>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 <a href="#">English language requirements</a>, with an acceptable score in an approved test taken in the two years prior to entry. Applicants may be asked to take a test even if the standard conditions have been met.</td>
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<th>Student numbers</th>
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<td>There is no cap on the number of students who can register for this distance learning module. The number of students actively studying this module varies, but typically approx. 200 students register for the module per year.</td>
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Student selection

This module is compulsory for students registered on the DL PG Certificate/PG Diploma/MSc Epidemiology programmes, and an elective module for students on the DL PG Diploma/MSc Demography & Health programmes. Alternatively, students may register for this as an "individual module". This module is also open to LSHTM research degree students.

Fees

The current schedule of fees can be viewed at https://london.ac.uk/applications/costs-your-course/course-fees (click on the Postgraduate Fees link).

Scholarships

Scholarships are not available for individual modules. Some potential sources of funding are detailed on the LSHTM website.

Admission deadlines

Applications for LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are managed by the University of London. To apply to take either a formal award (i.e. PG Certificate, PG Diploma or MSc) or an individual module, please see here: https://london.ac.uk/courses/epidemiology

Key deadlines are as follows:

- Application deadline: 31 August
- Registration deadline: 30 September (new students)
- Registration deadline: 31 October (continuing students and those registering to study the module as an individual module)

Please note: The academic year starts 1 October. Students who register after 1 October should note that module welcome and Collaborate sessions held in October are recorded, but they cannot request an extension to assignment submission deadlines or apply for an examination extenuating circumstance as a result of registering later than 1 October.

(In-house LSHTM research students wishing to study this module should self-enrol on the module’s Moodle area.)

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This module specification applies for the academic year 2018-19

Last revised/approved: 11/04/18, by Lucy Pembrey

Further revisions revised: [Date / Month / Year], by [Name]

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel St., London WC1E 7HT. www.lshtm.ac.uk