## Module Specification

### GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>Study Design: Writing a Grant Application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>EPM20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Organiser(s)</td>
<td>Seyi Soremekun, Natalie Friend-du Preez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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 London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine <a href="http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/eph/">http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/eph/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>This module is at Level 7 (postgraduate Masters level) of the QAA <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/framework">Framework for Higher Education Qualifications</a> in England, Wales &amp; Northern Ireland (FHEQ)</td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>Research methods; Epidemiology; Statistics; Quantitative methods; Planning and programming (including budgeting and evaluation); Values/Human rights/(bio)Ethics; Grant application writing.</td>
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### AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

**Overall aim**
The module aims to provide students with experience in designing an epidemiological research study and preparing a grant application suitable for submission to a funding agency.

**Intended learning outcomes**
By the end of this module, students should be able to:
- Critique the existing evidence on a research topic, understanding the value of a systematic review in this process.
- Define a research question and formulate study objectives by using existing evidence to inform the need for the study.
- Choose an appropriate and ethical epidemiological study design to answer your research question.
- Demonstrate an understanding of key methodological issues: including an appropriate method of sample selection, performing a sample size calculation, and describing suitable methods to analyse your outcomes.
- Plan appropriate field procedures: including data collection methods and blinding as required.
- Propose appropriate logistical procedures: including a study time schedule, a budget, and plans for obtaining necessary ethical approvals.
- Prepare a detailed study protocol encompassing the above.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Target audience</th>
<th>Study Design: Writing a Grant Application is a compulsory module for those studying the DL PG Diploma/MSc in Epidemiology.</th>
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<tr>
<td>CONTENT</td>
<td>In the paper-based sessions students will learn about the main issues that need to be considered when preparing a grant application. The sessions discuss how to choose the most appropriate funding body for their research project, how to plan the costs of the study, how to write good, well-presented applications that meet the funder’s requirements, and how the final grant application will be assessed. Module content is structured around the self-study sessions listed below:</td>
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| Session content| Session 1  Elements of a good proposal  
|               | Session 2  The cost of doing research  
|               | Appendix 1  Choosing your funding body  
|               | Appendix 2  The assessment procedure. |
| TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT | The following materials are provided to students after registration for this module once a year from October:  
| Study resources provided or required | EPM201 Study Design: Writing a Grant Application Study Guide & Reader  
|                                      | **Software:**  
|                                      | Stata  
|                                      | EpiData  
|                                      | **Textbooks:** (provided as an e-books only)  
|                                      | How To Write a Grant Application (Hackshaw, Allan)  
|                                      | Field Trials of Health Interventions in Developing Countries - A Toolbox (Smith, Morrow and Ross).  
|                                      | In addition to the materials above, students are given access to  
|                                      | i) the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle, which contains the key EPM201 learning material in the form of Computer Assisted Learning (CAL) sessions as well as resources such as discussion forums and supplementary course materials, and  
|                                      | ii) 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 paper-based materials 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 in which students are encouraged to participate.  
|                                      | • Completing the grant outline and assessed assignment and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors. |
| Assessment details | Formal assessment of this module is on the basis of the completed EPM201 Grant Application Form (100%).  
|                    | If students fail the module overall, they are allowed one further attempt at the failed element (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

**Duration**  
Tutoring support and assessment details are available from the beginning of January through to the Assessed Assignment submission at the end of August (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed).

**Dates**  
The grant outline must be submitted by 30th April, while the deadline for the Assessed Assignment is 31st August.

**Mode of study**  
By distance learning.

**Learning time**  
The notional learning time for the module 150 hours, consisting of:
- **Directed self-study** (reading and working through the provided module material) ≈ 60 hours
- **Self-directed learning** (general reading around the subject, library, Moodle discussion forums) ≈ 40 hours
- **Assessment, review and revision** ≈ 50 hours

### APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND FEES

**Pre-requisites**  
- **Epidemiology students** must have passed EPM101 *Fundamentals of Epidemiology* and EPM102 *Statistics with Computing*, and should have studied and have an understanding of EPM103 *Practical Epidemiology* and EPM105 *Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers* prior to studying this module.
- **Demography & Health students** should have studied and have an understanding of EPM101 *Fundamentals of Epidemiology*, EPM102 *Statistics with Computing*, EPM103 *Practical Epidemiology* and EPM105 *Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers* 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*, EPM102 *Statistics with Computing*, EPM103 *Practical Epidemiology* and EPM105 *Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers*.
- 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.

**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](#), 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.

**Student numbers**  
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. 135 students register for the module per year.

**Student selection**  
This module is a compulsory module for those studying for the DL PG Diploma and MSc Epidemiology programmes.
Alternatively, students may register for this as an “individual module”. This module is also open to students registered on the School’s London-based MSc programmes (subject to programme-specific limitations) and research degree students.

**Fees**
The current schedule of fees can be viewed at [https://london.ac.uk/applications/costs-your-course/course-fees](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](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 taking 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 can self-enrol on the module’s Moodle area. In-house LSHTM MSc students wishing to study this module should note information given in the mixed mode study option link.)

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**ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT**

This module specification applies for the academic year 2018-19

Last revised/approved 24/03/18, by S Soremekun

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