# Module Specification

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>HIV</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>IDM501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Organiser(s)</td>
<td>Prof Rashida Ferrand, Dr Katharina Kranzer, Dr Vicky Johnston (maternity leave)</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 face-to-face i.e. 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 Infectious &amp; Tropical Diseases London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine <a href="https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/faculties/itd/">https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/faculties/itd/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>This module is at Level 7 (postgraduate Masters ‘M’ level) of the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Not currently accredited by any other body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>HIV, AIDS, infection, pathogenesis, transmission, therapy, control programmes</td>
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## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

### Overall aim

The main aim of this module is to give students a broad understanding of the HIV epidemic, and to equip them to analyse the appropriateness of alternative therapeutic and preventive intervention strategies in different settings.

### Intended learning outcomes

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

- Understand the structure and behaviour of the virus, and its pathogenesis.
- Describe the immune response to infection, and analyse the prospects for the development of an effective vaccine.
- Review the approaches to diagnosis and the use of alternative case definitions of HIV/AIDS.
- Compare the natural history of HIV and AIDS in different geographical settings.
- Evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of prophylactic and therapeutic drug treatments in different settings, including the use of antiretroviral therapy.
- Describe the modes of transmission of the virus, and characterize the regional epidemics of HIV in different parts of the world.
- Understand the risk factors for HIV infection, and analyse how social, cultural, behavioural and biological factors interact to determine the transmission of the virus.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of alternative strategies of HIV prevention.
- Devise and implement effective HIV control programmes that are tailored to the local context.

**Target audience**

This module is intended for those who wish to understand HIV, the disease, and aspects of its prevention, treatment and control.

**CONTENT**

**Session content**

The module is expected to include sections addressing the following topics:

**Section 1 Virology, immunology and diagnosis of HIV infection**

The first section focuses on the ‘basic science’ of HIV, including its evolution, virology and pathogenesis, the immune response to HIV, diagnostic methods and the prospects for a vaccine.

**Section 2 Clinical aspects of HIV infection**

The second section examines the natural history and clinical manifestations of HIV in different geographical settings, prophylactic and therapeutic treatments for HIV and its associated opportunistic infections, the clinical aspects of HIV infection in children, and access to HIV care in developing countries.

**Section 3 Epidemiology and control of HIV infection**

The third section describes the global and regional epidemics, surveillance methods for HIV, and the demographic and social impact of the epidemic. It goes on to examine the epidemiology and control of each of the main modes of HIV transmission: sexual, mother-to-child, and parenteral. Finally, it discusses the broader social and political context of the epidemic and reviews issues in the planning and implementation of control programmes.

**TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT**

**Study resources provided or required**

The following materials are provided to students after registration for this module once a year in September or October:

- **Study Guide**: Interactive CD-ROM.
- **Reader** (folder containing associated journal articles).
- **Textbooks**:

  In addition to the materials above, students are given access to the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle (for web-based discussions forums etc.) and the LSHTM online library resources.

  Audio-recordings of on-campus lectures are available for this module.

**Teaching and learning methods**

Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussion forums available on Moodle to obtain tutor support, and to make use of LSHTM online library resources. In addition, written feedback is provided on submitted assignments.
### Assessment details

Formal assessment of this module includes a two-hour unseen written paper examination with 15 minutes' additional reading/planning time (70%) and an assessed assignment (30%). The assessed assignment comprises a 2500 word report modelled on a funding application for a project to tackle HIV in a specified country.

If students fail the module overall, they are allowed one further attempt at the failed element (examination and/or assignment).

### Assessment dates

Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than 31st March and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Unseen written examinations for DL modules are held once a year, in June (including resits).

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 list of examination centres can be found at [https://london.ac.uk/current-students/examinations/examination-centres](https://london.ac.uk/current-students/examinations/examination-centres).

A local fee will be payable direct to the examination centre. This fee is in addition to the programme/module fee and is set by, and paid directly to, the individual examination centres. The level of local examination centre fees varies across the world and neither the University of London nor the LSHTM have any control over the fee amount.

### Language of study and assessment

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

### TIMING AND MODE OF STUDY

**Duration**

Distance learning module studies begin in early October. Students may start their studies at any time from receipt of study materials and work through the material until the start of the June examinations (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed).

**Dates**

Tutorial support for distance learning modules is available from the beginning of October through to the end of May.

**Mode of Study**

By distance learning.

**Learning time**

The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of:

- Directed self-study (reading and working through the provided module material) ≈ 125 hours
- Self-directed learning (general reading around the subject, library, Moodle discussion forums) ≈ 10 hours
- Assessment, review and revision ≈ 15 hours

### APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND FEES

**Pre-requisites**

Those who wish to study this module as an individual module or as part of another programme should have [a prior knowledge of basic biochemistry, cell biology, genetics and immunology in order to be able to work through and benefit fully from this module.](#)

Those wishing to study this module must have regular access to the internet to 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. 110 students register for the module per year.

**Student selection**

This module is available to be studied by students on the following distance learning programmes:

- MSc or PG Dip Infectious Diseases (ID), Clinical Trials (CT), Global Health Policy (GHP) or Public Health (PH) programmes or MSc Epidemiology (EP).
- Alternatively, students may register for this as an “individual module”.
- This module is also open to students registered on LSHTM face-to-face (i.e. London-based) MSc programmes (subject to programme-specific limitations) and research degree students.

**Fees**

For the current [schedule of fees](#) click on the LSHTM course 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, click the relevant link on the right hand side of the page at [https://london.ac.uk/courses/infectious-diseases](https://london.ac.uk/courses/infectious-diseases)

Key deadlines are as follows:

- Application deadline: 31 August each year
- Registration deadline (new students and those registering for the project module, IDM600): 30 September each year
- Registration deadline (continuing students, with the exception of those registering for the project module IDM600, and those taking individual modules): 31 October.

**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.

( LSHTM research students wishing to study this module should note information given in the [mixed mode study option](#) document.)

### ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

**This module specification applies for the academic year** 2019/20.

**Last revised/approved,** by M. Bridge on 17/01/19 and by V. Johnston 26/2/19

Further revisions revised

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