# Module Specification

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>Issues in Public Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>PHM105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Organiser(s)</td>
<td>Alison Krentel</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="http://www.london.ac.uk/contact-us">www.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 Public Health and Policy London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine <a href="http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/">http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/</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="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/">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 10 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>Burden of disease; measuring health status; equity; smoking; climate; demography; international.</td>
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## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

| Overall aim | This module is designed to answer the question "What is public health?" and to introduce the main concepts, principles, and practises of public health. |
| Intended learning outcomes | By the end of this module, students should be able to:  
  - understand the historical evolution of public health and its influence on modern public health;  
  - use basic data on populations and mortality and calculate mortality rates;  
  - cite the methods used to estimate the burden of disease and assess the factors which contribute to it;  
  - express the extent to which health care contributes to population health;  
  - assess the effect of other sectors’ policies on health;  
  - address inequalities in health and understand where they come from;  
  - describe the issues and challenges surrounding tobacco use and control globally;  
  - recognise contemporary determinants of health: human rights, armed conflict, emerging infectious diseases and genetics;  
  - explain the development of nutrition and health and the impact of public policy;  
  - consider the public health implications of climate change and managing the environment. |
**Target audience**

This module is available to students registered for the DL MSc/PGDip and PGCert Public Health programmes; alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module.

This module is compulsory for all students studying the General stream of the Public Health MSc and recommended for students studying the Environment and Health stream.

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<tr>
<th>CONTENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Session content</strong></td>
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This module is designed for students who want to consider the question ‘What is public health?’ It focuses on activities that societies undertake to enhance the health of populations. Although health care is a common focus of attention in this module, it does not focus specifically on the interaction between the health professional and the individual patient. Rather, this module looks at how societies organise health care to make it accessible to all. It also addresses global and influential health issues like smoking, obesity, climate change and the changing nature of infectious diseases.

The module will discuss how much of modern public health today is about tackling strongly vested interests (tobacco companies, alcohol industry, food producers, etc.). Furthering that discussion, the programme confronts explicitly the political nature of public health and considers how to address current public health dilemmas in that context.

Much disease and ill health has its origins in the way that we organise our society, in deciding how much income to redistribute, how resources, such as education, transport and housing, should be provided, and who pays for what. We discuss how these determinants affect public health. Finally, in this context of modern public health, we examine the importance of empowering people and creating empowering environments, so that people can make healthy decisions.

Click on the link below to view the content of the module textbook: [http://www.amazon.co.uk/Issues-Public-Health-Understanding/dp/033524422X/](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Issues-Public-Health-Understanding/dp/033524422X/)

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<th>TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Study resources provided or required</strong></td>
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The following materials are provided to students after registration for this module once a year in September/October:

- A brief guide to studying the module.
- A reading list including details of both required and optional reading and links to selected papers.
- A list of useful websites.
- Access to the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) - Moodle, where students can access a range of materials, including the materials listed above (with the exception of the textbook); participate in module-specific discussion forums, access self-assessment quizzes, attend live Collaborate sessions and access the LSHTM online library resources.

Please note the textbook will be sent to students. All other materials may be accessed via the LSHTM VLE – Moodle.
| **Teaching and learning methods** | 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.  
Additional learning materials for this programme include:  
- A brief guide to the study module  
- Self-assessment quizzes  
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
- Links to a selection of recorded London-based Issues in Public Health module are available as an optional resource for DL students.  
- Series of Collaborate sessions held throughout the academic year to provide mini-lectures as well as an opportunity to discuss and review module material in a live setting  
- Office hours for students  
- An online discussion forum, including up-to-date programme information and interactive thematic discussion forums.  
- Recommended reading from the peer-reviewed literature  
- Suggested relevant websites  
- Use of the LSHTM online library resources.  
It is strongly recommended that students participate in Moodle on a regular basis in order to access the full range of learning materials as well as the discussion forums and live and recorded sessions.  
Tutors provide written feedback for all students through the online discussion forum and offer individual feedback on a formative (non-assessed) assignment submitted by the student. |
|---|---|
| **Assessment details** | Optional formative assignment.  
Formal assessment of this module includes a two-hour 15 minute unseen written examination (100%). Students are advised to spend the first 15 minutes reading the paper and planning responses.  
If students fail the module examination, they are allowed one further attempt. |
| **Assessment dates** | Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than 31 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 re-sits). Examinations are normally taken in a student’s country of residence, in one of over 650 examination centres worldwide (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. The textbook that supports the module will be dispatched to registered students in early autumn once fees have been paid. All other module materials will be made available on Moodle. Students may start their studies at any time from the beginning of October 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 only 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 100 hours, consisting of:  
- Directed self-study (reading and working through the provided module material) and self-directed learning (general reading around the subject, library, Moodle discussion forums) ≈ 70 hours  
- Assessment, review and revision ≈ 30 hours. |

## APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND FEES

| **Pre-requisites** | Those wishing to study this module must have regular access to the internet and should register on the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle). The Module Organisers and tutors use Moodle as their primary means of communication with students and use it to make available a range of materials for studying the module. Students are also encouraged to participate in module-specific discussions on Moodle; make use of the online library facilities and will be required to submit assignments via an on-line assignment management system. |
| **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 approximately 250 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 / PGDip / PGCert Public Health. It is compulsory for all students studying the General stream of the Public Health MSc and recommended for students studying the Environment and Health stream. 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](https://london.ac.uk/applications/costs-your-course/course-fees) (click on the Postgraduate Fees link). |
| **Scholarships** | Scholarships are not available for individual modules. Potential sources of funding will be 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, see [https://london.ac.uk/courses/public-health](https://london.ac.uk/courses/public-health).

Key deadlines are as follows:

- Application deadline: 31 August
- Registration deadline: 30 September (new students and those registering for the project module, PHM305)
- Registration deadline: 31 October (continuing students, with the exception of those registering for the project module PHM305, and those taking individual modules).

*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: March 2017 by Alison Krentel

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

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel St., London WC1E 7HT.  

[www.lshtm.ac.uk](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk)