## Module Specification

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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<th>Module name</th>
<th>Environmental Health Policy</th>
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<td>Module code</td>
<td>PHM206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module Organiser(s)</td>
<td>James Milner</td>
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**Contact email**

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: [www.london.ac.uk/contact-us](http://www.london.ac.uk/contact-us).

(Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk.)

**Home Faculty**

Faculty of Public Health and Policy
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
[http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/php/)

**Level**

This module is at Level 7 (postgraduate Masters level) of the QAA [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](http://www.framework.ac.uk/) in England, Wales & Northern Ireland (FHEQ).

**Credit**

LSHTM award 15 credits on successful completion of this module.

**Accreditation**

Not currently accredited by any other body.

**Keywords**

Health policy, Health economics, Quantitative methods, Statistics, Toxic agents, Environmental hazards, Health risk assessment.

### AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

**Overall aim**

This module aims to introduce students to a range of key methodological tools for assessing and controlling environmental risks to health.

**Intended learning outcomes**

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

- describe the four stages of quantitative risk assessment: hazard identification, dose-response, exposure assessment and risk characterisation;
- demonstrate how risk assessment is translated into practice in the control of toxic chemicals, radiological and other environmental hazards;
- explain how economic techniques, such as cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses, can help environmental policy makers;
- explain the role of key actors in the creation and control of environmental health risks;
- describe the application of environmental, social and health impact assessment and priority setting to major environmental health risks;
- compare alternative theories of risk, discuss risk perception and evaluate risk communication techniques in the context of environmental health decision making; and
- critically evaluate the application of the precautionary principle in the context of environmental health policy making.
### Target audience
This module is available to students registered for the MSc in Public Health, where it is compulsory module for students studying the Environment and Health stream of the MSc Public Health and recommended for students studying the Health Promotion and General streams.

### CONTENT

**Session content**
This module focuses on a range of key methodological tools for assessing and controlling environmental risks to health. These include: risk assessment as a structured method to estimate quantitative health impacts, especially for chemicals; environmental economics as a tool to help assess and compare heterogeneous health impacts and costs; and risk management as a framework for assessing and controlling risks.

In this module students will consider the roles of scientific, socio-cultural, historical, economic and political factors in influencing the management of environmental risks. Students will explore the complex interplay of these contexts and the key actors and methodological tools in a number of important environmental health policy scenarios, such as radiation, agriculture, transport, occupational, food and water-related health risks. Consideration will be given to global and local issues and examples will be drawn from developing and developed countries. Students will learn through reading the text and examples and then applying your skills through exercises and discussion points provided in each section. Students will also be offered optional additional reading to supplement information provided in the module textbook.

Click on the link below to view the content of the module textbook: [http://www.amazon.co.uk/Environmental-Health-Policy-Understanding-Public/dp/0335218431](http://www.amazon.co.uk/Environmental-Health-Policy-Understanding-Public/dp/0335218431)

### TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

**Study resources provided or required**
All materials, apart from the textbook, will be made available via the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle.

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.
- The textbook: *Environmental Health Policy* by David Ball.
- A reading list including details of both required and optional reading and links to selected papers.
- A list of useful websites.
- Module specific discussion forums.
- Collaborate sessions (live discussion sessions which focus on selected topics) at key points in the study year.

Access to the LSHTM online library. The textbook will be made available in e-format or hard copy 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 include: a brief guide to the study module, recommended reading from the peer-reviewed literature, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and suggested relevant websites.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussions and real-time tutorials 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 15 minute unseen written examination (70%) and an assessed assignment (30%). Details of the maximum word limit permitted and what to include in the word count are provided in the Assignment Instructions document. Students are required to keep within the word limit detailed in the Assignment Instructions.

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 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 resits). 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 made available in e-format or hard copy 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 150 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) ≈ 110 hours
- Assessment, review and revision ≈ 40 hours.
**Pre-requisites**

It is helpful but not essential to have taken the module *Environment, Health & Sustainable Development* (PHM106). *Environmental Health Policy* is complementary in content to the module *Environmental Epidemiology* (PHM205).

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, to make use of the online library facilities and will be required to submit assignments via an online assignment management system.

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

**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 75 students register for the module per year.

**Student selection**

This module is available to students registered for the MSc in Public Health, where it is compulsory module for students studying the Environment and Health stream of the MSc Public Health and recommended for students studying the Health Promotion and General streams. It can also be taken by those studying for the PG Diploma Public Health, PG Diploma/MSc Clinical Trials and Global Health Policy programmes, and the MSc Epidemiology programme. Alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module.

**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 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.)