## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>History and Health</th>
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<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>PHM215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module Organiser(s)</td>
<td>Martin Gorsky</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 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**

Public health history, Sexual & reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, Health systems, Drugs, Tropical medicine, Sanitation.

## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

**Overall aim**

The aim of this module is to enable students to employ historical perspectives in the fields of public health and health services.

**Intended learning outcomes**

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

- evaluate the historical dimensions of ongoing public health issues;
- understand the historical context of public health and health services, in both the advanced industrial economies and the global South;
- recognize the nature of historical debate and the contested status of historical claims; and
- analyse original documents so as to be able to assess a significant historical question.

**Target audience**

This module is recommended for students with an interest in applying knowledge and understanding of the past to present-day issues in public health and health services. It is useful but not essential for students to have had some background in social science disciplines.

This module is recommended for students studying the Environment and Health, Health Promotion and General streams of the Public Health MSc.
The subject of the module is the history of public health, broadly defined to encompass environmental interventions, health systems and curative services. Exercises aim to develop the student’s ability to assess evidence and produce historical analysis, and ultimately to consider policy implications which arise from this. The module is expected to include sessions addressing the following topics:

The module begins with an introduction to the discipline of history, which traces its development, outlines some leading approaches and discusses its sources and methods. These themes are traced over the period of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with the progression of the module reflecting the changing conceptualisation of public health through time, both with respect to how it was defined and its range of activities. The geographical focus is both on Western countries in which industrialisation was first to occur, and on the global South, much of which was subject to colonial dominance until the mid-twentieth century. Some sections, such as those on health professions and twentieth-century public health make particular use of the UK as their case study.

The first main section of the module deals with developments in the nineteenth century, when public health emerged as a body of law and practice to address health risks associated with rapid industrialisation and urbanisation. Environmental and sanitary reforms and the formation of the modern medical profession are discussed, against the context of the period in which germ theory was articulated and only gradually accepted. Next tropical medicine is introduced, investigating the importance of colonial economic interests and imperial attitudes to the early struggle against vector-borne diseases. The central section of the module provides detailed case studies. These include both diseases, such as malaria and sexually transmitted infections, and activities, like the consumption of tobacco, alcohol and drugs, which have come to be seen within a public health framework.

The final part of the module covers the twentieth century, first bringing into view the emergence of health systems within Western welfare states. Changes to public health as discipline and practice are then discussed: first its transition from environmentalism to education and personal hygiene, and then its emphasis since 1945 on evidence-based medicine and on strategies towards diseases associated with individual behaviour and lifestyle. Next, international public health in the global South during and after decolonization is covered, examining approaches to disease control and famine, and the activities of non-governmental and supranational organisations. The module ends with an exploration of the uses of history in present-day policy and practice.

Click on the link below to view the content of the module textbook:
http://www.amazon.co.uk/Public-Health-History-Understanding/dp/0335242642

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 main textbook: Public Health in History by Virginia Berridge, Martin Gorsky and Alex Mold.
- 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 some of the materials listed above; participate in module-specific discussion forums and 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. There will be a number of Collaborate sessions, including an introduction to the module, a discussion of the assignment and briefing for exam revision.

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 unseen written paper 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.

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 October 1st onwards and work through the material until the start of the June examinations (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed).
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Tutorial support for distance learning modules is available only from the beginning of October through to the end of May.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mode of study</td>
<td>By distance learning.</td>
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<td>Learning time</td>
<td>The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of:</td>
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<td>- Directed self-study (reading and working through the provided module material) and self-directed learning (general reading around the subject, library, Moodle discussion forums) ≈ 120 hours</td>
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<td>- Assessment, review and revision ≈ 30 hours</td>
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**APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND FEES**

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<th>Pre-requisites</th>
<th>It is useful but certainly not essential for students to have had some background in social science disciplines. 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.</th>
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<tr>
<td>English language</td>
<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 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student numbers</td>
<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 approximately 50 students register for the module per year.</td>
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<td>Student selection</td>
<td>This module is available only to those registered for the MSc Public Health programme where it is recommended for students studying the Environment and Health, Health Promotion and General streams. It can also be taken as an individual module and by those studying for the PG Diploma Public Health, PG Diploma/MSc Clinical Trials, PG Diploma/MSc Global Health Policy and MSc Epidemiology programmes.</td>
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<td>Fees</td>
<td>The current schedule of fees can be viewed at <a href="https://london.ac.uk/applications/costs-your-course/course-fees">https://london.ac.uk/applications/costs-your-course/course-fees</a> (click on the Postgraduate Fees link).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>Scholarships are not available for individual modules. Some potential sources of funding are detailed on the LSHTM website.</td>
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| 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. 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](#).)