# Module Specification

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>Sexual Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>PHM216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Organiser(s)</td>
<td>Annik Sorhaindo and Martine Collumbien</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>
</tr>
<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 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>Vulnerable groups; Sexual &amp; reproductive health; Disease prevention &amp; control; Behavioural aspects; Access to health information; Sexuality; Human rights; Gender &amp; health; Sociology (including socio-cultural aspects); Research (in general); International/global.</td>
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## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

### Overall aim

This module aims to acquaint students with the theoretical and empirical aspects of the study of sexual health, and their application to public health practice.

### Intended learning outcomes

By the end of this module, students should be able to:
- define sexual health and its key components;
- describe who is most at risk of poor sexual health and why;
- demonstrate understanding of social, cultural and historical influences on sexual behaviour and their implications;
- evaluate the impact of specific issues relating to the classification and measurement of sexual attitudes and behaviour, including political, ethical and research issues;
- appraise a range of interventions designed to improve sexual health, including broad spectrum and community based approaches.

### Target audience

The module is recommended for students interested in studying sexual health from a public health perspective. It is recommended that students have some prior knowledge of research methods and health promotion. PH students are therefore advised to take Principles of Social Research (PHM104) and Foundations for Health Promotion (PHM107) prior to taking this module and it is recommended that non-PH students have knowledge of the topics covered by these modules.
## CONTENT

### Session content

The module covers five key areas:

- Conceptual and theoretical aspects of sexual health;
- Risk and vulnerability;
- Interventions to improve sexual health;
- Measuring and assessing sexual health status.

A number of topics cut across these themes:

Understanding sexual behaviour (theoretical, conceptual and empirical issues); the regulation of sexual conduct; historical, cultural, psychological, biological, political and technological influences on sexual attitudes and behaviour; trends in sexual mores and their implications for public health; implications of stigma, sensitivities and taboos for practice of sexual health interventions; pitfalls and possibilities for intervention, research and evaluation.

Click on the link below to view the content of the module textbook:

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0335244815/ref=pd_lpo_k2_dp_sr_1?pf_rd_p=103612307&pf_rd_s=lpo-top-stripe&pf_rd_t=201&pf_rd_i=0199558582&pf_rd_m=A3P5ROKL54L5W4&pf_rd_r=1VCMP7TDJ3CM66962WE](http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/0335244815/ref=pd_lpo_k2_dp_sr_1?pf_rd_p=103612307&pf_rd_s=lpo-top-stripe&pf_rd_t=201&pf_rd_i=0199558582&pf_rd_m=A3P5ROKL54L5W4&pf_rd_r=1VCMP7TDJ3CM66962WE)

## 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/October:

- *Sexual Health: A Public Health Perspective* by Kaye Wellings, Kirstin Mitchell and Martine Collumbien.
- The textbook is accompanied by a DVD which guides students through the module and contains eight themed interactive sessions. The DVD also contains key readings and useful websites.
- Additional relevant materials including selected peer-reviewed articles.
- 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.

The textbook and DVD will be sent to students. All other materials may be accessed via the LSHTM VLE - Moodle.

### Teaching and learning methods

The module textbook is *Sexual Health: A Public Health Perspective* by Kaye Wellings, Kirstin Mitchell and Martine Collumbien.

Learning is self-directed and organised into eight sessions, each focusing on a separate theme in sexual health. Each session involves reading one or more chapters from the textbook, then completing a learning activity on the DVD.

Additional learning materials include: a brief guide to the module, recommended reading from the peer-reviewed literature, and suggested relevant websites.

Students are required to participate in two compulsory Moodle-based activities (a content analysis of a sexual health website and a journal club) over the course of the year. Students are also 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 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 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 and DVD 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 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) ≈ 120 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 online assignment management system.

The module is recommended for students interested in studying sexual health from a public health perspective. It is recommended that students have some prior knowledge of research methods and health promotion. Students are therefore advised to take Principles of Social Research (PHM104) and Foundations for Health Promotion (PHM107) prior to taking this module, and it is recommended than non-PH students have knowledge of the topics covered by these modules.
### 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 90 students register for the module per year.

### Student selection
This module is available to students registered for the MSc in Public Health (recommended for those taking the Health Promotion and General subject streams). It can also be taken by those studying for the PG Diploma Public Health, PG Diploma/MSc Clinical Trials and MSc Epidemiology programmes, and 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.)

### ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

**This module specification applies for the academic year** 2018-19

**Last revised/approved** July 2018 by Annik Sorhaindo

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

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