# Module Specification

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>Applied Communicable Disease Control</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>PHM218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Organiser(s)</td>
<td>James Rudge, Malwina Carrion</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</td>
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<td>London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine</td>
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<td><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 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>
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<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Not currently accredited by any other body.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>Communicable diseases, viruses, HIV/AIDS, bacterial, TB, zoonotic diseases, parasitic, vulnerable groups, sexual &amp; reproductive health, health in emergencies, outbreaks, health systems, disease prevention &amp; control, health policy, tropical medicine, behavioural aspects, sexuality, globalisation, values/human rights/(bio)ethics, health legislation, disease vectors, pathogens, food, water, sanitation, climate, epidemiology, planning and programming, teaching, communication, team-work, management /leadership, local / regional, international / global, rural, urban, health policy.</td>
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## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

**Overall aim**
To explore the core knowledge and skills necessary for the application of communicable disease control activities in a variety of settings and populations.

**Intended learning outcomes**
By the end of this module students should be able to:
- differentiate between key mechanisms of communicable disease transmission and propose realistic public health prevention & control strategies;
- apply and evaluate the principles of surveillance and the characteristics of different surveillance systems, their strengths and weaknesses, their usefulness, and their application to disease control;
- evaluate policies and programmes used in the prevention and control of important infectious diseases, and the issues involved in their implementation and evaluation;
- apply basic epidemiological methods in the investigation and management of outbreaks;
- examine issues involved in managing and evaluating vaccination programmes;
- question the appropriateness of standard communicable disease control strategies for vulnerable, marginalised, and at-risk populations, and to propose alternative strategies;
- evaluate communicable disease control strategies using ethical frameworks;
- understand the importance of key biological, clinical, epidemiological and contextual (e.g. socio-economic and health system) factors for the design of appropriate strategies for communicable disease surveillance, prevention, and control.

**Target audience**

This module is recommended for students studying the Environment and Health, Health Promotion, and General streams of the DL MSc Public Health programme.

**CONTENT**

**Session content**

This module seeks to prepare students for the practice of communicable disease control (CDC) and related public policy, using a variety of teaching and learning strategies. Students will first be presented to the core concepts of CDC through a series of self-directed readings, collaborate sessions, and virtual group discussions. Topics include:

- A brief history of the development of communicable disease control
- Concepts in communicable disease causation
- The chain of infection and modes of transmission
- Surveillance
- Vaccination
- Prevention
- Outbreak response
- Communications and communicable disease control
- Ethics and communicable disease control
- Health systems and communicable disease control
- Emerging trends, challenges and opportunities in communicable disease control.

**TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT**

**Study resources provided or required**

The primary resource for this module will be the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – Moodle. Here, students can access a range of resources; participate in module-specific discussion forums and Collaborate sessions and access the LSHTM online library resources.

The following specific elements are provided to students after registration for this module once a year in September/October:

- A brief guide to studying the module.
- The textbook - *Applied Communicable Disease Control*. The textbook is currently with the publishers. A hard copy will be sent to all students once published. If the final publication date is after Oct 1, pre-publication chapters will be made available on the VLE up until textbooks have been dispatched.
- A reading list including details of both required and optional reading and links to selected papers.
- A list of useful websites.
## Teaching and learning methods
Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives that are identified for each topic. Students are expected to access a range of module-specific materials and to participate in module-specific discussions and Collaborate sessions on Moodle.

Student support is available from the module tutors via Moodle, through the online discussion forums. Students are strongly encouraged to use Moodle to obtain tutor support and participate in the module-specific discussions and real-time tutorials, and to make use of LSHTM online library resources. In addition, individual written feedback is provided on an assessed assignment submitted by the student.

## 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 instruction 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 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.

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 (currently in press) will be sent to all registered students. If the publication date is after Oct 1 2018, prepublication chapters will be made available on the VLE up until the textbooks have been published and dispatched. All other module materials will be made available on Moodle which opens early October. Students may start their studies at any time from the beginning of October 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).

### 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.

### APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND FEES

#### Pre-requisites

Those wishing to study this module must have regular access to the internet and must 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.

#### 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 160 students register for the module per year.

#### Student selection

This module is available to students who are registered for the PG Diploma/MSc Public Health programmes and also to those on the PG Diploma/MSc Clinical Trials, Global Health Policy and Infectious Diseases programmes.

This module is a replacement to PHM202 Communicable Disease Control and therefore students who have already completed the PHM202 module are **not** allowed to register for this module. This module is also **not** available to those who have completed module IDM701 (ex-HS307) Introduction to Public Health and Control of Infectious Diseases.

This module is 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

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. 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, 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].)