# Module Specification

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Module name</strong></th>
<th>Evaluation of Public Health Interventions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module code</strong></td>
<td>PHM219</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module Organiser(s)</strong></td>
<td>Josephine Borghi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact email</strong></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><strong>Home Faculty</strong></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><strong>Level</strong></td>
<td>This module is at Level 7 (postgraduate Masters level) of the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Credit</strong></td>
<td>LSHTM award 15 credits on successful completion of this module.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accreditation</strong></td>
<td>Not currently accredited by any other body.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Keywords</strong></td>
<td>Impact evaluation; public health interventions; process evaluation; theories of change.</td>
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## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

### Overall aim

This module aims to help students understand what evaluation is and when it can be used and also provide students with the knowledge and skills to design an evaluation of a public health programme or policy tailored to the specific research question and contextual factors at play. The module illustrates how logic models can be used to design an evaluation and goes on to illustrate the various approaches to estimating the causal effects of programmes and policies. The module will highlight the specificities of policy/programme evaluation and the potential methodological adjustments to address these. The module highlights the importance of integrated/mixed evaluation methods in order to open the ‘black box’ by measuring implementation, processes and pathways to outcomes and relevant contextual factors. The module emphasis is on evaluation design, however, an overview of analytical methods will also be provided.

### Intended learning outcomes

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

- Understand what impact evaluation is and the types of questions it can answer;
- Assess when it is appropriate to use impact evaluation methods;
- Understand key concepts of causal inference;
- Identify and state the key considerations in the design of an impact evaluation;
- Describe the principles and evaluate the relative merits and limitations of different study designs for the evaluation of outcomes and processes of change;
• Select an appropriate study design to address specific evaluation questions in different contexts;
• Identify quantitative and qualitative analytical methods for use with specific evaluation study designs;
• Report on, appraise and interpret impact evaluations.

**Target audience**
Elective module for all students on DL MSc/PGDip Public Health programme. It can also be taken as an individual module.

**CONTENT**

**Session content**
The module includes sessions addressing the following topics:
• An introduction to what impact evaluation is and when it can be used and the types of interventions that will be considered in this module.
• Developing and using a logic model
• Cluster randomised control trials and their application to real life policies and programmes.
• Quasi-experimental designs.
• Process evaluation.

**TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT**

**Study resources provided or required**
The materials for this module will be made available in electronic format only and can be accessed via the LSHTM's Virtual Learning Environment – Moodle. Materials will include the following:
• A brief guide to studying the module.
• Study materials/sessions in a range of formats including video recordings, screencasts and session transcripts.
• A reading list including details of both required and optional reading and links to selected papers.
• On-line exercises.
Students will also be provided with access to discussion fora via the Moodle VLE, collaborate sessions and the LSHTM online library resources.

**Teaching and learning methods**
Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives that are identified at the start of each session, which also offers focused reading and various learning activities.

Additional learning materials include: a set of video recordings discussing key module material, a set of exercises, a brief guide to the module, recommended reading from the peer-reviewed literature, suggested relevant websites and online LSHTM library resources.

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 paper examination (70%) and an assessed assignment (30%). 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. 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). |
| 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 | The module will require some familiarity with basic epidemiological and statistical concepts. Therefore, we recommend that the module prerequisites include a statistics module (e.g. Basic Statistics), and an epidemiology module (e.g. Basic Epidemiology). Those wishing to study this module must also have regular access to the internet to both access the study materials and participate in the module-specific discussions. The Module Organisers and tutors use Moodle as their primary means of communication with students. Note: all the materials for this module will be made available in electronic format via the LSHTM’s VLE - Moodle. Students are 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. It is expected that the number of students actively studying this module will vary, but we would expect between 70 – 100 students per year.

**Student selection**

This module is available to be studied by students on the following distance learning programmes: MSc / PGDip Public Health. The module is especially recommended for students studying: Public Health - General, Health Promotion and Health Services Management streams. Students registered on the DL MSc Epidemiology can also take this module. Alternatively, students may register for this as an “individual module”.

This module is also open to LSHTM in-house MSc 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](https://london.ac.uk/courses/public-health).)

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**ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT**

**This module specification applies for the academic year** 2019-20

**Last revised/approved** March 2019 by Bernadette Hensen and Paul Mee

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

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