

Module Specification

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This module specification applies for the academic year 2017-18

Last revised 1 August 2017 by Hannah Blencowe and Véronique Filippi

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel St., London WC1E 7HT. www.lshtm.ac.uk

GENERAL INFORMATION

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| Module name | Current Issues in Maternal & Perinatal Health |
| Module code | 2459 |
| Module Organiser | Dr Véronique Filippi and Hannah Blencowe |
| Contact email | veronique.filippi@lshtm.ac.uk or hannah.blencowe@lshtm.ac.uk |
| Home Faculty | Epidemiology & Population Health |
| Level | Level 7 (postgraduate Masters 'M' level) of the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales & Northern Ireland (FHEQ) |
| Credit | 15 credits |
| Accreditation | Not currently accredited by any other body |
| Keywords | Maternal mortality, Perinatal mortality, Safe motherhood, Neonatal mortality, Maternal health, Perinatal health, Neonatal health, Evidence based interventions, Programmatic Options, Low Income Countries |

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

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| Overall aim | To explore the nature and determinants of ill-health in pregnant women and babies, and to demonstrate the contribution of methods drawn from epidemiology, demography and the social sciences to problem identification and to the design and evaluation of strategies to improve the health of pregnant women and babies in low income countries. |
| Intended learning outcomes | By the end of this module, students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate advanced knowledge of contemporary issues in safe motherhood and perinatal health in low income countries• Appraise evidence critically on what has been shown to work/not to work in safe motherhood and perinatal health• Propose programmatic options for dealing with maternal and perinatal health problems in specific settings or populations in low income countries• Assess critically the relative merits of the different options |
| Target audience | This module is open to anyone with an interest in the public health problems of pregnant women and babies in low-income countries. Experience of working in a low-income setting is desirable. |

| CONTENT | |
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| Session content | <p>The module is expected to include sessions addressing the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public health problems facing pregnant women and babies and the complex of factors which contribute to these problems • Indicators of levels of maternal and perinatal health and sources of information • Methods and techniques from different disciplines which can contribute to documenting and resolving health problems of pregnant women and babies • Current supply-side and demand-side strategies for the improvement of maternal and perinatal health • Links between the health of women and babies |
| TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT | |
| Study resources provided or required | Module Information can be found on the Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle) containing information about each session and key references for the module. References lists are provided for students who wish to get deeper into issues raised during classes. Module organisers also provide free materials, such as Lancet series, when these are available and suitable. |
| Teaching and learning methods | This module combines taught-based and problem-based approaches. Lectures are organised around broad themes, to cover general themes in maternal and perinatal health. At the beginning of week 2, participants are offered a choice of a problem topic to work on. Participants are divided into groups of about 6-7 members and spend the remainder of the module working as a group on their particular problem, alongside the taught-based lectures. Each group is allocated a staff facilitator who is available for consultation. During the last week of the module, each group makes a presentation of their findings to the rest of the class. |
| Assessment details | <p>Participants are assessed based on their group's poster presentation during the final week of the module and of an individual mark for a short scientific editorial for a medical journal. The individual assessments contribute 60% and group assessments 40% of the final mark</p> <p>Resit/deferred/new attempts - The task will be to write a scientific editorial on a paper suggested by Module Organiser.</p> |
| Assessment dates | <p>Assessments will take place or be due during the last two days of the module.</p> <p>Resit/deferred/new attempts - the next assessment deadline will be during mid/late September of the current academic year.</p> |
| Language of study and assessment | English (please see 'English language requirements' below regarding the standard required for entry). |
| TIMING AND MODE OF STUDY | |
| Duration | 5 weeks at 2.5 days per week |
| Dates | Monday morning and Wednesday lunchtime |
| Timetable slot | Term 2 - slot D1 |

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| Mode of Study | The module is taught face-to-face in London. Both full-time and part-time students follow the same schedule. |
| Learning time | The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact time ≈ 40 hours • Directed self-study ≈ 40 hours • Self-directed learning ≈ 20 hours • Assessment, review and revision ≈ 50 hours |
| APPLICATION AND ADMISSION | |
| Pre-requisites | None |
| 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 . |
| Student numbers | 35 (numbers may be capped due to limitations in facilities or staffing) |
| Student selection | Preference will be given to LSHTM MSc students and LSHTM research degree students. Other applicants meeting the entry criteria will usually be offered a place in the order applications are received, until any cap on numbers is reached. Applicants may be placed on a waiting list and given priority the next time the module is run. Full Registration (full participation) by LSHTM research degree students is required for this module. |