# Module Specification

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This module specification applies for the academic year 2018-19  
**Last revised** 21 August 2014 by Georges Reniers; 26 September 2017 by Craig Higgins

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel St., London WC1E 7HT.  
[www.lshtm.ac.uk](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>Demographic Methods</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>2057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Organiser</td>
<td>Dr Georges Reniers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:georges.reniers@lshtm.ac.uk">georges.reniers@lshtm.ac.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Faculty</td>
<td>Epidemiology &amp; Population Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Level 7 (postgraduate Masters 'M' 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>15 credits, within the larger 60-credit Term 1 super-module for each MSc programme. Credits are not awarded for this module individually, but only for successful completion of the Term 1 super-module.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Not currently accredited by any other body</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>Quantitative methods; Demography</td>
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## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

### Overall aim

To enable students to understand and apply basic techniques of demographic analysis relevant to the study of population and health and, in the second half of the module, enable students to understand how demographic data are collected and introduce slightly more advanced methods of demographic analysis.

### Intended learning outcomes

By the end of the first half of this module, students should be able to:
- Demonstrate an understanding of some key techniques used in demographic analysis for the measurement of fertility and mortality
- Identify the key steps in interpreting basic demographic data
- Explain the usefulness of a demographic approach for the study of population and health issues

By the end of the whole module students should additionally be able to:
- Demonstrate a wider understanding of techniques used in demographic analysis for the measurement of fertility, mortality, migration, and population structure and change
- Appreciate how different types of demographic information may be collected and used
**Target audience**

This module is compulsory for students on the MSc Demography and Health and is essential for those wishing to take the Population Dynamics & Projections (2429) module. This module is useful for students who want to learn about population data and basic methods of demographic analysis.

**CONTENT**

**Session content**

The module is expected to include sessions addressing the following topics:

- Analysis of the structure of a population
- Basic measures of fertility, mortality (morbidity) and migration
- Period and cohort approaches to demographic estimation
- Age standardisation
- Life table analysis
- How demographic data are collected and used

**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. A recommended reading list is also provided but additional reading is not required to complete this module. Lecture notes, reading lists, computer practical resources will all be available in Moodle.

**Teaching and learning methods**

The first half of the module comprises five half-day sessions on Thursday mornings. Each session consists of a lecture and a practical session. Several practical sessions will be computer based, introducing the Excel spreadsheet as a utility for demographic analysis (students may also use Stata). The second half of the module is taught on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings and also uses a format of lectures mixed with practicals.

**Assessment details**

MSc Demography and Health students have a formative assessment consisting of short answer and multiple-choice questions at the end of the module and are formally assessed by written examinations. For students who are required to resit, or granted a deferral or new attempt, the tasks will be a written exam.

**Assessment dates**

Written examinations will take place during the summer term in late/early/mid June. Resit/deferred/new attempts at examinations will take place during the summer term in late/early/mid June in the following academic year.

**Language of study and assessment**

English (please see ‘English language requirements’ below regarding the standard required for entry).

**TIMING AND MODE OF STUDY**

**Duration**

10 weeks at 1 day per week

**Dates**

Thursday mornings during weeks 1-5 and Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings during weeks 7-11.

**Timetable slot**

Term 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Mode of Study</strong></th>
<th>The module is taught face-to-face in London. Both full-time and part-time students follow the same schedule.</th>
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</table>
| **Learning time** | The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of:  
• Contact time ≈ 45 hours  
• Directed self-study ≈ 30 hours  
• Self-directed learning ≈ 30 hours  
• Assessment, review and revision ≈ 45 hours |

**APPLICATION AND ADMISSION**

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<tr>
<th><strong>Pre-requisites</strong></th>
<th>No statistical expertise is assumed but basic numeracy is required.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>English language requirements</strong></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 <a href="#">English language requirements</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Student numbers</strong></td>
<td>40 (numbers may be capped due to limitations in facilities or staffing)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Student selection** | This module is compulsory for students on the MSc Demography and Health.  
Full Registration (full participation) by LSHTM research degree students is required for this module. LSHTM research degree students may register for either the first half of the module only or the entire module in full.  
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. |