

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

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Dear DrPH candidate,

Congratulations on your acceptance as a research degree student at LSHTM and welcome to the programme. Like other students, you will probably find it challenging as well as inspiring. We hope you will also enjoy yourself, make new friends and learn new skills during your time at the School.

When you arrive in London and meet your supervisor and other staff here, you will learn more about the School and the programme of study you will be following. To help you prepare, this letter and the enclosed documents provide some key information about the first term.

First, please note, the DrPH taught component starts immediately after orientation week. Unlike some other research degree programmes (where students can ease into the autumn term), you will need to be focused on your studies right away. This is important, because the grades you receive for your first term assessments will count towards your degree. Please, therefore, make sure you give yourself enough time to organise living arrangements and other practicalities before the start of term. If you have questions related to living in London, please contact: <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/student-services/student-advice-counselling-service>).

The first DrPH-specific session you need to attend is the DrPH induction session, which will take place from 1-5 pm on Wednesday 26 September at LSHTM's site at 15-17 Tavistock Place (room Jerry Morris "A"). At this session we will tell you more about how the programme is structured, you will meet the first term module organisers and your fellow DrPH students from the different faculties. Your supervisor is also invited to attend, so please encourage her/him to come with you, especially if they are new to DrPH supervision.

You should also attend other Research Degree Student sessions occurring during orientation week, including the full-day session for all Research Degree Students on Tuesday 25 September and the session on "Life and Work at LSHTM" which takes place on the morning of Wednesday 26 September. Registry will let you know about all relevant sessions and information will also be available on the LSHTM web site.

The International Students Welcome will take place on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 September and will provide an opportunity to meet fellow students, find out about life at the School and living in London, and other practical matters such as UK healthcare and bank accounts. The event is aimed at international students but UK students are also welcome to attend. Further details are available via the applicants' web pages.

DrPH classes start on Monday 1 October, with the two core modules running in parallel throughout the winter term. Written assessments for these modules are due in early January 2019. During the first term the module “Evidence Based Public Health Policy” (EBPHP) is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday each week while the other module, “Understanding Leadership, Management & Organisations” (ULMO) runs on Thursdays and Fridays. Although face-to-face sessions will not take up five full days each week, for planning purposes students should consider Mondays and Tuesdays as their EBPHP study days and Thursday and Friday as their ULMO study days. This is to allow sufficient time for reading and preparation for face-to-face sessions. Note also that some teaching sessions will also be scheduled on a Wednesday, although these are exceptional, and in general Wednesday should be considered a private study day.

Part-time students should work out a schedule of study with their supervisor during induction week. Both core modules are compulsory and part-time students may choose to either (a) complete one module in the first year and the other in the second year, or (b) take both taught components in full-time mode in year one before reverting to part-time study from January. This choice has implications for timetabling the rest of your studies so if you would like additional advice on this matter please free to get in touch with me. It is particularly important that part-time students who are taking only one module in 2018 keep the study days for the relevant module clear of other commitments as full participation in the taught modules is a requirement of the programme.

Please note that the ULMO module incorporates a three-day residential personal development retreat focused on assessing and developing your own leadership skills. This takes place outside London and is scheduled for Wednesday 17 to Friday 19 October.

Outline information and suggested preparatory readings for EBPHP and ULMO are included in the module guides enclosed with this letter and you will learn more about these modules at the DrPH induction session.

Whether you are a full- or part-time student, your first term will be busy and, we hope, exciting. When you arrive and meet with LSHTM staff in the last week of September, you will receive all the information you need to start your studies.

I look forward to meeting you when you arrive and wish you the very best with your studies.

Best wishes,



Nicki Thorogood
DrPH Programme Director

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