

September 2020

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.

During Welcome Week you will meet the DrPH team, your supervisors and other staff here, as well as learning more about the School and the programme of study you will be following. To help you prepare, this letter provides key information about the first term.

First, please note, the DrPH taught component starts immediately after Welcome 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 familiarise yourself with the key aspects of our virtual delivery platforms. I am pleased to say that as soon as you have been formally registered by Registry you will be able to access the DrPH 2020-21 Moodle site and begin the Programme.

Moodle will be our 'home' for the duration of the Programme and will be especially important during the taught modules – this is where all the information and notices will be uploaded about each aspect of the Programme. As well as areas for all the formal elements of the Programme, there is also a virtual 'student social space' open 24/7, where you and other DrPHers can meet up at any time, either by arrangement or in passing.

Also on the Moodle site is a short Welcome to the Programme from me, Nicki Thorogood, the Programme Director and within each module section, a short introductory video from the Module Organisers:

Please have a look at the Moodle site as soon as you can as you will also find here **your first task: posting something about yourself on the padlet wall**. If you're not able to access Moodle yet, you can access the Padlet wall via the link below:

<https://padlet.com/drphadmin/nc3ssp3dldv74ybe>

Here we would like you to briefly introduce yourself to your fellow students and tutors. We suggest that you:-

- Explain a little about yourself or what you are looking forward to most in the programme.
- Add a photo of yourself and perhaps of where you are, or somewhere you like
- Post a favourite recipe or meal, or maybe add a favourite piece of music to the DrPH Spotify playlist (see link below).

We're inviting all new students to get into the collaborative spirit by sharing a favourite song or piece of music on the DrPH Spotify playlist, which you can find here:  
[https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3SdP4YqKKURy7OFQgZ4hE7?si=SptzZM2lRjio-42Pr\\_HZfg](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3SdP4YqKKURy7OFQgZ4hE7?si=SptzZM2lRjio-42Pr_HZfg)

We'd like you to do this before our meeting as a whole group on  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September – 12noon – 12.30 BST.**

In this first short meeting, we will have a chance to all meet each other just to say hello. The DrPH specific induction session will be on **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September from 12noon – 3.15pm BST.** All session links are available on the DrPH Moodle page.

During this session we will cover the following (all times are BST):

- Run through the key aspects of the Programme (12.00 – 13.00)
- Break for groupwork/refreshments (13.00 – 14.00)
- Introduce you to the Admin team (14.00 – 14.15)
- Session wrap-up/break (14.15 – 14.30)
- EBPHP Module Organisers will introduce their Module (14.30 – 15.15)

DrPH classes start on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September**, with the two core modules running in parallel throughout the winter term. Written assessments for these modules are due in early January 2020.

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 live synchronous sessions will not take up 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 the live sessions.

There will also be a variety of sessions taking place on Wednesdays. When there are no scheduled sessions, Wednesday should be considered a private study day.

Part-time students should work out a schedule of study with their supervisor during Welcome Week. Both core modules are compulsory and part-time students can 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 in January or March.

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 2020 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.

Outline information and suggested preparatory readings for EBPHP and ULMO are included in the module guides are available here:

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/new-students/msc-research-students/pre-course-information/research-degrees>

You will learn more about these modules at the DrPH induction session on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Whether you are a full- or part-time student, your first term will be busy and, we hope, exciting. I look forward to meeting you all at the start of term and wish you the very best with your studies.

Best wishes,



Nicki Thorogood  
DrPH Programme Director

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