

# Programme Specification 2018-19

## Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene

LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE



For prospectus details about this Programme, please see <http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/stmh.html>

### AWARD DETAILS

#### Title and name of final award(s):

Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (DTM&H)

#### Level of the programme:

All components and the award offered on this postgraduate professional development programme are at Level 7 (also known as 'M' Masters level) of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales & Northern Ireland (FHEQ). No academic credit is awarded with the Professional Diploma.

For further information, please see

[www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Framework-Higher-Education-Qualifications-08.pdf](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Framework-Higher-Education-Qualifications-08.pdf)

**Relevant QAA subject benchmark:** Not applicable

For more information on subject benchmarking, please see

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements>

**Awarding body:** The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

- **Registering body:** LSHTM
- **Examination body:** LSHTM

For more information on LSHTM and the University of London, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk) and [www.lon.ac.uk](http://www.lon.ac.uk)

#### Accreditation by professional or statutory body (if applicable)

The Accreditation Committee of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) has approved the curriculum of the DTM&H programme as suitable for doctors training in clinical tropical medicine and travellers' health in the USA. Completion of an accredited course and examination is a required part of this training. In addition, the programme received 150 points accreditation from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). See more at: [www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/stmh.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/stmh.html)

For further information about the ASTMH, please see [www.astmh.org](http://www.astmh.org)

#### Language of study and assessment

English

Please see 'English language requirements' further below regarding the standard required for entry.

### ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

#### General entrance requirements

The DTM&H is open to doctors who hold a medical qualification from a recognised medical school in any country and are registered to practice medicine by their national regulatory authority. Preference will normally be given to doctors who have several years' experience in clinical practice.

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the procedures and deadlines given in the prospectus or on the LSHTM website.

For further information, please see

[www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/howto/short\\_course\\_frequently\\_asked\\_questions\\_doc.pdf](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/howto/short_course_frequently_asked_questions_doc.pdf)

### **English language requirements**

It is essential to have an excellent command of the English language to benefit from studying for the programme. All students will be required to obtain an acceptable score in an approved English language test if their first language is not English or if their studies at university have not been conducted wholly in the medium of English. Any English language tests must have been taken no more than two years before the date a student commences the programme. LSHTM may also request that an applicant take a test even if the above conditions have been met.

For up-to-date information on language requirements, please see

[www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/newstudents/internationalstudents/english\\_language\\_requirements.pdf](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/newstudents/internationalstudents/english_language_requirements.pdf)

For further information, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/faq/english\\_requirements.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/faq/english_requirements.html)

### **Financial requirements**

The current fee can be found on the programme webpage. The fee covers participation in the programme and the programme materials. It does not include travel costs, accommodation or meals. Applicants must pay the full programme fee, or provide a letter guaranteeing funding from their sponsor, in order to secure their place on the programme. Guidance on the cost of living in London may be obtained on request from the School.

Up-to-date information on fees are on the programme website: <http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/stmh.html>

### **Scholarships**

A small number of School scholarships are normally available each year, details of which can be obtained from our funding pages (<http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/funding/fundingshortcourses.html>). Overseas students should ask their local British Council Office and their own government education department for details of scholarships and grants available. It should be noted that in the past most of the candidates attending this programme have funded themselves. The deadline for accepting scholarship applications is at least 8 months before the start of the programme, with names of successful candidates forwarded to LSHTM Registry at least 4 months before the start.

Please see further information on funding given at [www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/funding/index.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/funding/index.html)

### **Intake quota**

The annual intake is strictly limited to 70.

For information about potential sources of funding and scholarships, please see

[www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/funding/index.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/funding/index.html)

### **Students with disabilities (including dyslexia and mental health issues)**

LSHTM welcomes applications from students with disabilities – which may include sensory impairment (visual/hearing), mobility or dexterity impairment, chronic medical conditions (e.g. diabetes, HIV, epilepsy, asthma) or chronic pain/fatigue, mental health difficulties, specific learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia or dyspraxia), Asperger Syndrome and other autism spectrum disorders, or any other condition which has a long-term and adverse effect on studying.

The School aims to offer as much appropriate assistance as possible to accommodate individual needs, and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that both the application procedure and the programme itself are organised and delivered to offer all students the opportunity to participate fully.

Applicants are encouraged to disclose any specific disability at the time of application (via the 'Equal

Opportunities' and 'Investigating Access' forms), and let the Registry know if anything further can be done to make the application and selection process as accessible as possible. This helps the School to ensure that applicants' specialist needs can be understood, and any obstacles minimised, throughout the application and admission process.

Once registered, the School can provide specific support to students with disabilities throughout their studies. Students are encouraged to disclose any disability from as early as possible; the Student Adviser can answer queries and provide confidential advice at any point. Any special arrangements, for example regarding examinations, may be made via the Student Adviser.

Please see further information [www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/support/disability/index.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/support/disability/index.html). Applicants should e-mail [registry@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:registry@lshtm.ac.uk) with any specific queries. Registered students should contact [disability@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:disability@lshtm.ac.uk)

## PROGRAMME AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### Educational aims of the programme

The programme aims to teach doctors the skills required to understand, diagnose, treat and prevent diseases that are especially prevalent in tropical and developing countries where resources may be limited. The programme has a strong epidemiological base but the scientific basis of infectious diseases is also given priority. A particular feature of the programme is the diversity of students who attend. Among the 70 students who take the diploma programme each year, more than 25 different countries are usually represented. Students range in experience from recently qualified doctors (though usually no earlier than 3 years post-graduation) to specialist infectious disease physicians and surgeons with many years of experience working in tropical and developing countries.

The course is continually updated in response to changing needs, new developments in knowledge and technology, and student feedback. It has remained highly popular with students throughout its history which spans over 100 years.

For further information, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/stmh.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/stmh.html)

### Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Much of the programme is devoted to seminars, in which a multi-disciplinary team of experts from within and outside the School covers a particular disease or group of diseases in depth. Lectures cover the causative organisms, epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical features, diagnosis, management and prevention of these diseases. Time is set aside after each lecture for discussion. Implications for travel medicine are discussed where appropriate. Other seminars focus on aspects of community public health. These include an introduction to epidemiological methods used in the study of communicable diseases, and lectures on water supply, sanitation and nutrition. Seminars are also held on maternal and child health, non-communicable disease, population and reproductive health and health in emergencies. The equivalent of one full day per week is devoted to parasitology teaching. Lectures are followed by practicals in which the laboratory diagnosis of all the major parasitic diseases is taught. One day a week entails clinical teaching, often at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases.

Clinical activities include problem-based teaching, small group discussions, and, because the number of clinical cases in the Hospital is often limited, case presentations of "paper cases" derived from recent cases seen at the Hospital. The programme is intensive, without much free time during the three months. Sessions start at 09.00 most mornings and teaching continues most days until 17.00. See more at: [www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/stmh.html#sthash.Fw2sNbVd.dpuf](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/stmh.html#sthash.Fw2sNbVd.dpuf)

The examination, which runs over two days, consists of a best-of-five format multiple-choice question paper, short note public health questions and a parasitology practical. See more at: [www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/stmh.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/stmh.html)

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the programme, students will be expected to achieve the following learning outcomes – drawing on material taught across different elements and assessed in a variety of ways.

<b><u>Learning outcome</u></b>	<b><u>Programme element</u></b> <i>(described further below)</i>	<b><u>Assessment methods</u></b> <i>(described further below)</i>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>
Compare and contrast the management of infectious diseases in different contexts	Themed half-day seminars (usually 4-5 lectures per session, 6 half-day seminars per week), small-group teaching (2 sessions per week)	Final exam – best of five questions and short answer papers	
Critically evaluate the evidence for public health interventions in resource-limited settings	Themed half-day seminars (usually 4-5 lectures per session, 6 half-day seminars per week), small-group teaching (2 sessions per week)	Final exam –short answer paper	
Prepare and examine biological specimens for identification of common parasitic and bacterial pathogens and associated vectors	Weekly paired lecture-based seminar and laboratory practical sessions (total 2 sessions per week)	Final exam – laboratory practical exam	Includes preparation of blood films and stool microscopy; also entomology

For further information, please see the programme handbook.

## Distinctive features of the programme

The DTM&H delivers exceptionally high quality teaching by international experts. Most of this is face-to-face offering students unique access to leaders in global health and tropical medicine. The interaction with clinical experts in small-group teaching provides ample opportunity for personalized tuition. Parasitology teaching pairs introductory lectures with complementary wet lab practical training on the same day.

For further information, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/stmh.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/stmh.html)

## MODE OF STUDY AND LEARNING TIME

### Mode of study and duration of study

The DTM&H may be taken on a full-time basis only. It runs annually, from approximately late-September to mid-December. Students study full time for 12 weeks (three months), comprising 600 notional learning hours. This is normally made up of 11 weeks of intensive study, and a final week of revision and examinations.

For specific programme dates, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/eadtmh.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/eadtmh.html)

### Estimated number of study hours

This intensive programme comprises a total of 600 notional learning hours, based on a mix of contact teaching time, directed study, and self-directed study time plus assessment. This breaks down roughly as follows:

Clinical and practical work	150 hours
Large group lectures	150 hours
Small group seminars	150 hours
Private study	150 hours

For further guidance on study patterns, please see the programme handbook.

## CREDIT AND ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

### Credit scheme

The programme is a Professional Diploma and as such does not attract any academic credits.

### Assessment

Assessment is based on LSHTM's standard policies, which include double-marking of all assessments that contribute to the final award. Grades are given on a grade point scale, running from 5 (excellent) to 0 (very poor fail) and with a pass threshold of 2 (satisfactory). Grades from the equally weighted assessed components of the programme are combined, to calculate an overall grade point average (GPA) – used to determine who has passed, and to distinguish classifications of Pass or Distinction.

To be awarded the Professional Diploma, a student must have gained a programme GPA of at least 2.0 (the pass threshold). Satisfactory attendance on the programme is also a requirement for the award to be made.

Candidates shall not be permitted to gain the award if they:

- fail any assessment component with a GPA of below 1; or
- fail two assessment components with a GPA of between 1 and 2;
- fail to attain an overall programme GPA of at least 2.0.

Details of how certificate GPA is calculated and awards determined are given in the detailed award scheme for the programme at [www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/currentstudents/studentregulations/taughtcourse regulations/index.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/currentstudents/studentregulations/taughtcourse regulations/index.html)

### Re-sits

DTM&H students follow LSHTM's policy on re-sits of modules, examinations and project reports.

If a student has failed a component and the other grades do not permit them to gain the award via compensation, they are allowed one re-sit attempt at each failed component, after which their results may be re-considered by the Exam Board. The LSHTM Re-sits Policy will apply.

Components which have been passed may not be re-sat; and if a component was itself made up of different sub-components, only the failed sub-components may be re-sat.

The maximum GPA achievable for a re-sat component will be capped at 3.0. Where a component is failed on a re-sit attempt, the best grade achieved shall be used in consideration by the Exam Board.

The School's re-sits policy is available at [www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/taughtcourses/exams\\_assmt\\_staff/resits\\_policy.pdf](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/taughtcourses/exams_assmt_staff/resits_policy.pdf)

## CALENDAR AND CURRICULUM

The programme will run annually from late September to mid-December during term 1 of the academic year, commencing September 2017. The curriculum is as per programme handbook.

More detailed guidance and deadlines are given in the programme handbook.

## STUDENT SUPPORT, GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES

### Student charter

Students on the DTM&H are registered with LSHTM. Students and prospective students are encouraged to read LSHTM's student charter, which summarises the standards of service the School expects and aspires to offer students, as well as the standards of conduct which students should expect and aspire to follow in turn.

The LSHTM student charter is available at [www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/qualityassurance/student\\_charter.pdf](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/qualityassurance/student_charter.pdf). LSHTM student support services are described at [www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/usefulinfo/services-support](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/usefulinfo/services-support)

### **The student community**

Students on the programme elect representatives to liaise with staff and help communicate student views, as well as to help arrange social activities.

All students on the programme are also formally members of the LSHTM Student Representative Council (SRC). While it is not expected that there will be substantial liaison between the London-based SRC and students taking the DTM&H because of the short nature of the programme, programme reps or individual students are welcome to contact the SRC about any matters of interest or concern.

For further information, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/src/index.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/src/index.html)

### **Student advice and counselling**

The Student Advice & Counselling Service offers advice and support for any practical or emotional issues students may experience during their time at LSHTM. The Student Adviser can offer impartial advice on a range of issues including accommodation, financial concerns and immigration. The Counsellor is available to talk to any student who is experiencing anxiety or stress, study-related or otherwise.

All appointments with the Student Adviser or Counsellor are strictly confidential, and no information volunteered by a student will be passed on to anyone else without permission.

For further information, please see <https://intra.lshtm.ac.uk/Teaching-and-Support/Student-Advice-and-Counselling/index>

### **Healthcare**

LSHTM students can usually register with the Gower Street Medical Centre at 20 Gower Street, which offers an NHS GP (general practitioner) medical service. Alternatively, students can also register with a local NHS GP near their home address.

For further information about the postcodes covered by the Gower Street Medical Centre, please see [intra.lshtm.ac.uk/studentadvice/healthcare/index.html](http://intra.lshtm.ac.uk/studentadvice/healthcare/index.html). For further information about finding a GP near your home address, please see [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### **Learning resources and facilities**

Students on the programme have access to comprehensive library and IT (computing) resources and facilities, as well as many other standard facilities such as the Refectory, common rooms, etc.

For further information, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/library](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/library) (Library) and [www.lshtm.ac.uk/its](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/its) (IT Services)

### **English language support**

While all students are required to demonstrate English language proficiency in line with the School's minimum requirements in order to be accepted on the programme, LSHTM provides free 'English for Academic Purposes' classes aimed at students whose first language is not English and who would like further support in adjusting to the demanding standards of postgraduate university study in Britain.

For further information, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/english.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/english.html)

### **Further learning support**

LSHTM also provides a range of free on-line Study Skills materials and links to further resources, covering topics such as:

- Writing and referencing – including English language resources as mentioned above, and an 'Academic Writing' handbook.

- Maths and numeracy – including an interactive ‘basic maths refresher’ package, with self-assessment and immediate feedback, which may be useful in preparing for units covering epidemiology and statistics.
- Library and research skills – inc. literature searching and use of databases, using the internet,
- Other skills, including IT/computing, groupwork, presentation skills, etc.

For further information, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/studyskills.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/studyskills.html) . Please also see earlier sub-section on ‘Students with disabilities’ regarding disability support.

## PROGRAMME QUALITY

### Quality evaluation and enhancement

The programme is subject to LSHTM’s rigorous quality assurance processes, including both standard annual monitoring and an extensive special review every five years.

As students reach the end of the programme, they are asked to give specific feedback both via class discussion sessions and an end-of-programme survey. Feedback on other topics, including the content of specific modules as well as more general issues like Library facilities, will also be sought at intervals throughout the period of study. Such feedback is anonymised, analysed, discussed and followed up by appropriate committees and functions within the School.

Operation of the programme itself is overseen by a dedicated committee. A range of further LSHTM committees and functions are responsible for identifying and resolving any problems, improving programme quality and enhancing the student experience on an ongoing basis.

For further information, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/qualityassurance](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/qualityassurance)

### External Examiner

Students enrolled in the MSc in Tropical Medicine and International Health (TMIH) will take the DTM&H programme as Term 1. For this reason, the DTM&H exam board is a sub-group of the MSc TMIH Exam Board and will have the same External Examiner.

A list of current External Examiners to the School is available at [www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/qualityassurance/external\\_examiners\\_list.pdf](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/qualityassurance/external_examiners_list.pdf)

The standard of awards is scrutinised by the above External Examiner(s), according to LSHTM policies and procedures consistent with UK national best practice. External Examiners are senior academics from other institutions or subject experts, who provide independent scrutiny of both the setting and marking of assessments. They provide annual reports which are scrutinised both at programme level and centrally, and are publicly available via [www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/qualityassurance/annualmonitoring.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/qualityassurance/annualmonitoring.html).

## AFTER GRADUATION

### Possible routes to further study

While this is primarily a vocational/professional programme, it may also inspire students to continue their studies via an appropriate Master’s degree – such as the MSc in Tropical Medicine & International Health at LSHTM – or to take a higher degree, such as a PhD, DrPH or MPhil. Such studies may be undertaken at LSHTM or elsewhere. Certain Master’s programmes may consider the DTM&H award for Recognition of Prior Learning and consequently exempt students from some elements of the master’s degree. To make an enquiry, contact the MSc programme in which you are interested, via the contact details on its web pages.

For further information on postgraduate study at LSHTM, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/study](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study)

### **Possible graduate employment routes**

The programme is suitable for those wishing to do further research in epidemiology, parasite immunology, or joined field research programmes; or for those aiming for a career with international organisations concerned with health care delivery or disaster relief; or for those who wish to return to academic or medical positions in developing country institutions.

It may be noted that LSHTM has links with the World Health Organisation (WHO Collaborating Centre), UK Department of Health, UK National Health Service and NHS Graduate Scheme, UN High Commission on Refugees, International Committee of the Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières, Oxfam, GOAL, Merlin, International SOS, Save the Children, Malaria Consortium, Action Against Hunger, International Medical Corps, DOCS International, Emergency, Medair, Médecins Du Monde, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Clinton Foundation HIV/Aids Initiative, Public Health England, UK National Institute for Health & Clinical Excellence, UK Office for National Statistics, Public Health Resource Unit, UK Civil Service Fast Stream, and amongst many other organisations.

For further information, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni/survey/alumni\\_case\\_studies.html](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni/survey/alumni_case_studies.html) and [www.lshtm.ac.uk/careers/onlinecareerresources/grad\\_data\\_june\\_2011\\_update.pdf](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/careers/onlinecareerresources/grad_data_june_2011_update.pdf)

### **Careers advice and resources**

The School's Careers Service can provide confidential advice and guidance appropriate to the diverse needs of students at the School, from those with established careers who wish to change direction to those who have come from their first degree and are looking to establish a career. Advisers can assist on an individual basis (including help with career planning, CV writing and interview technique), in small groups, or through School-wide events (arranging regular careers fairs and forums, talks by speakers from relevant organisations, and workshops on essential career skills).

The on-site Careers Centre offers a central reference point for job vacancies, careers information and literature and employer information. The LSHTM Careers Service is also part of the Specialist Institutions' Careers Service (SICS) of the University of London Careers Group, and students can access their even more extensive resources.

For further information, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/careers](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/careers) and [www.careers.lon.ac.uk](http://www.careers.lon.ac.uk)

### **Alumni activities**

Membership of the LSHTM Alumni Association is free and open to all former students of LSHTM. This is a diverse community of over 15,000 alumni in more than 180 countries, including local chapters, and with regular events, communications and opportunities to meet fellow alumni in many different parts of the world. The Association aims to provide past students with lifelong links to the School and each other, and is keen to foster a vibrant and active alumni community. All alumni are encouraged to register their details and participate further.

For further information, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni) or email [alumni@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@lshtm.ac.uk)

### **ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT**

This Programme Specification has been developed in line with the nationally agreed reference points for assuring the quality and standards of higher education in the United Kingdom, known as the Academic Infrastructure. For further information, please see

[www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/Pages/default.aspx)

**Last revised:** DD/MM/YYYY by Name