# Module Specification

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This module specification applies for the academic year 2018-19

Last revised 18 July 2017, by Nick Black

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>Health Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>1107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Organiser</td>
<td>Professor Nick Black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nick.Black@lshtm.ac.uk">Nick.Black@lshtm.ac.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Faculty</td>
<td>Public Health &amp; Policy</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>10 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>Quality (including accessibility), Health facilities (hospitals), Health systems, Primary Health Care, Financing</td>
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## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

**Overall aim**

To provide students with a range of ways of thinking about health services and health systems. Drawing on epidemiology, history, medicine, economics and sociology, the module will help students understand how services function, the reasons services have developed in the way they have, the basis of some universal, persistent problems, and possible solutions to such difficulties.

**Intended learning outcomes**

By the end of this module, students should be able to:

- Describe some of the basic functions of health services and outline the reasons why services have developed in the way they have
- Explain how the disciplines of epidemiology, history, medicine, sociology and economics each contribute unique insights to understanding how a health service functions
- Describe and give examples of the inputs, processes and outcomes of health services
- Critically examine responses to challenges to health services in different countries
- Analyse key, persistent and widespread problems in providing health services and suggest approaches to resolving these problems

**Target audience**
This module is aimed at those intending to purchase, plan, manage, regulate or evaluate health services. It will take examples from high, middle and low income countries.

**CONTENT**

**Session content**
The module includes sessions addressing the following topics:
- Inputs to health services
- Diseases and medical knowledge
- Health professionals
- Sources of finance
- Historical influences
- Need, demand and use
- Paying providers
- Staff-patient interaction
- Quality assessment
- Quality improvement

**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.

**Teaching and learning methods**
The format is a one-hour lecture and an accompanying seminar of one and a half hours one week later. Seminar groups focus either on high income countries or on low/middle income countries.

**Assessment details**
A short progress test, comprising five short answer questions on key topics and lasting 30 minutes, is held in the last seminar. This is followed by a group discussion of the questions and answers (60 minutes) with the seminar leader.
Formal assessment of this module is by written examination.

**Assessment dates**
The short progress test will take place in **December 2018**.
Written examinations will take place during the summer term in late May/early June.
Resit/deferred/new attempts at examinations will take place during the summer term in late May/early 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**
9 weeks at 0.5 days per week

**Dates**
Friday mornings
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Timetable slot</strong></th>
<th>Term 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mode of Study</strong></td>
<td>The module is taught face-to-face in London. Both full-time and part-time students follow the same schedule.</td>
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</table>
| **Learning time**  | The notional learning time for the module totals 100 hours, consisting of:  
  - Contact time ≈ 27 hours  
  - Directed self-study ≈ 20 hours  
  - Self-directed learning ≈ 23 hours  
  - Assessment, review and revision ≈ 30 hours |

**APPLICATION AND ADMISSION**

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<tr>
<th><strong>Pre-requisites</strong></th>
<th>None.</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>80 (numbers may be capped due to limitations in facilities or staffing)</td>
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</table>
| **Student selection** | It is compulsory for students taking the Health Services Management and Health Services Research streams of the MSc in Public Health.  
Partial Registration (partial participation) by LSHTM research degree students is allowed for this module.  
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. |