## Module Specification

### ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This module specification applies for the academic year 2018-19  
Last revised  13 August 2018  
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><strong>Module name</strong></th>
<th>Reviewing the Literature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Module code</strong></td>
<td>1701</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Module Organisers</strong></td>
<td>Andrew Hutchings and Matthew Egan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact email</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Andrew.Hutchings@lshtm.ac.uk">Andrew.Hutchings@lshtm.ac.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:Matt.Egan@lshtm.ac.uk">Matt.Egan@lshtm.ac.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Home Faculty</strong></td>
<td>Public Health &amp; Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Level</strong></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><strong>Credit</strong></td>
<td>15 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Accreditation</strong></td>
<td>Not currently accredited by any other body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Keywords</strong></td>
<td>Research, Quantitative methods, Qualitative methods</td>
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### AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

**Overall aim**  
This module aims to describe and illustrate the methods available for identifying and reviewing quantitative and qualitative literature.

**Intended learning outcomes**  
By the end of this module, students should be able to:  
- Carry out an appropriate, rigorous review of the literature  
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of different methods of identifying, assessing and synthesising literature

**Target audience**  
This module is intended for students interested in health services/systems and public health research in developed or developing countries.

### CONTENT

**Session content**  
The module is expected to include sessions addressing the following topics:  
- Planning the review: the role of the literature review and specification of the task  
- Identification of relevant literature, both published and unpublished: developing a search strategy and using bibliographic databases  
- Appraising the literature: methods for assessing the quality of quantitative and qualitative research
- Synthesising the evidence: integration of the evidence using both quantitative and qualitative methods; principles of meta-analysis
- Formulating recommendations and writing the review

### 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. Students will use electronic library resources (e.g. E-journals and databases) and STATA statistical software provided by LSHTM. For the assessment students may need to use other libraries to obtain articles.

#### Teaching and learning methods
The technical aspects of literature reviewing will be presented in lectures and computer practicals, using some of the databases available through the School's library. The format of the seminars will encourage both a practical application and critical appraisal of methods. Teaching is concentrated in the first three weeks of the module.

The assessment is an important part of the module. Students start working on their assessment in the first week. Students are strongly advised to consider possible topics and questions for their assessed literature review before they start of the module. Support for the assessment is provided in seminars and one-to-one advice sessions in the first four weeks of the module.

#### Assessment details
Each student will submit a literature review of up to 2500 words (plus appendices) undertaken during the module. Students choose their own review question and will work on their review throughout the module.

Resit/deferred/new attempts - The task will be to produce a review protocol for a topic provided by the module organisers.

#### Assessment dates
The assessment will be due on **Friday 29 March 2019**.  
Resit/deferred/new attempts - The next assessment deadline will be during mid/late September of the current 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
5 weeks at 2.5 days per week

#### Dates
Wednesday lunchtime to Friday afternoon

#### Timetable slot
Term 2 - slot D2

#### Mode of Study
The module is taught face-to-face in London. Both full-time and part-time students follow the same schedule.

#### Learning time
The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of:
- Contact time ≈ 29 hours
- Directed self-study ≈ 16 hours
- Self-directed learning ≈ 15 hours
- Assessment, review and revision ≈ 90 hours
<table>
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<tr>
<th>APPLICATION AND ADMISSION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-requisites</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Students who wish to take this module are required to take one of the Library's sessions on using bibliographical databases. There is some overlap between appraising the literature in the module and material covered in Qualitative Methodologies (1700) and Economic Evaluation (1501). There is also some overlap between using bibliographic databases in the module and some of the Library sessions on the use of bibliographic databases.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>English language requirements</strong></td>
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<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 English language requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Student numbers</strong></td>
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<td>25-40 (numbers may be capped due to limitations in facilities or staffing)</td>
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<td><strong>Student selection</strong></td>
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<td>Preference will be given to LSHTM MSc students for whom the module is compulsory or recommended 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. Full Registration (full participation) by LSHTM research degree students is required for this module, although the assessment for research degrees students is optional.</td>
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