MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year	2026-27
Module Code	EPM103
Module Title	Practical Epidemiology
Module Organiser(s)	Jayson Basera and Alison Price
Contact	For students studying University of London Awards (initial registration 2025/2026 and prior years: Enquiries may be made via their Student Advice Centre at: Student Advice Centre. For students studying LSHTM awards (registration in 2026/2027 and onwards): Enquiries should be emailed to: EPsupport@lshtm.ac.uk
Faculty	Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	**CATS** 15 **ECTS** 7.5
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through online materials via the Virtual Learning Environment
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	**Epidemiology** students should have studied and have an understanding of both EPM101 *Fundamentals of Epidemiology* and EPM102 *Statistics for Epidemiology* prior to studying this module. Students can register for all EPM1 modules in the same year but should first study the material for EPM101 and EPM102 as explained above. **Students studying this module as an individual module** must have basic epidemiological knowledge and skills equivalent to EPM101 *Fundamentals of Epidemiology* and EPM102 *Statistics for Epidemiology.*
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	Not currently accredited by any other body.
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	There is no cap on the number of students who can register for this distance learning module.
Target Audience	**Practical Epidemiology** is a core module for all students on the DL PG Certificate/PG Diploma/MSc Epidemiology programme.

Module Description	This module takes students step by step through the process of designing and conducting an epidemiological study. It covers many of the key practical elements necessary for planning and carrying out epidemiological research.
Duration	Students may start their studies at any time from access/receipt of study materials (made available annually usually in October, depending on date of registration) and work through the material until the start of the June assessments (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed). The "Virtual Ethics Committee" sessions are run three times a year, in November, January and February. Please note the textbook will be available in e-format. Students registering after September (continuing and individual module students only) should note that introductory messages, and some online activities (for example discussion forums and/or real-time welcome sessions) may have already taken place before they get access to the Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle). All such messages and recordings (where applicable) will be available to access throughout the study year.
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	March 2025

For students studying UoL awards (initial registration in 2025/2026 and prior years)

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
PGCert/PGDip/MSc Epidemiology (Distance Learning - University of London)	Compulsory

For students studying LSHTM awards (registration in 2026/2027 and onwards)

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
PGCert Epidemiology (Distance Learning)	Compulsory
PGDip Epidemiology (Distance Learning)	Compulsory
MSc Epidemiology (Distance Learning)	Compulsory

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: • provide students with a step-by-step guide to the practical stages involved in the planning and conduct of an epidemiological study.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to: 1. Apply basic concepts of epidemiology and statistics to practical situations; 2. Design procedures for identifying and selecting study participants; 3. Identify and employ appropriate methods for the collection and/or management of relevant data; 4. Identify ethical issues relevant to a given study outline. In addition, through its optional sessions, the module offers the opportunity to revise key concepts taught in EPM101 and EPM102, including, but not limited to, confounding and statistical inference.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

Session	**Title**
PE01	Module introduction and overview
PE02	Writing a study protocol
PE03	Ethical issues in epidemiological research
PE04	Introduction to sampling methods
PE05	More complex sampling methods
PE06	Sample size calculations and real-world challenges
PE07	Randomisation
PE08	Quantitative data collection 1: Questionnaires
PE09	Quantitative data collection 2: Other methods
PE10	Qualitative data collection
PE11	Field organisation and quality control
PE12	Data entry, validation and transfer
PE13	Data management

There are also two optional sessions:

PE14-15 offer an opportunity to revise key concepts in epidemiology and statistics that have been taught in EPM101 - EPM103. While sessions PE14-15 are optional, the key concepts they cover are fundamental to epidemiology and, as such, may be part of what is assessed within the EPM103 assessment.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	110	73
Self-directed learning	10	7
Assessment, review and revision	30	20
Total	**150**	**100**

Teaching and Learning Strategy
Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. The key learning methods are: • Reading and reflecting on CAL (computer-assisted learning) materials which introduce, explain and apply the principles and methods covered in the module. • Reading and reflecting on other resources which support the learning in the CAL sessions. • Participation in a group-based learning activity: the "Virtual Ethics Committee". • Accessing academic support, which is available from the module tutors through the online discussion forums and occasional online webinars in which students are encouraged to participate. • Completing formative assignment(s) and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors. • Completing self-assessed exercises and reflecting on performance against model answers.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy
Formal assessment of this module will be by a time-limited assessment in June contributing 100% of the final module grade. If students fail the module overall, they are allowed one further attempt at the assessment.

Summative Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Time-limited assessment	Assessment length: 1,500 per question	100	1 - 4

Time-limited assessments for DL modules are held once a year, mostly in June (including resits). but in 2026/27 they are likely to be accessed online. Please note that a separate assessment fee may be payable in addition to the module fee. Further details will be communicated as soon as the final decisions are known.

For students studying UoL awards (initial registration in 2025/2026 and prior years)
Assessments are held in accordance with University of London's annual guidance.

For students studying LSHTM awards (registration in 2026/2027 and onwards)
Assessments are held in accordance with Chapter 8b of the LSHTM Academic Manual.

Resitting assessment
Resits will accord with Chapter 8b of the LSHTM Academic Manual.

Assessment submission deadlines
The Formative Assignments must be submitted by 31st March. They can be submitted only once and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Resources

Indicative reading list

Textbooks

- *Essential Medical Statistics* (Kirkwood, Sterne) – provided as e-book
- *Principles of Exposure Measurement in Epidemiology* (White, Armstrong, Saracci) – provided as e-book
- *Field Trials of Health Interventions in Developing Countries - A Toolbox* (Smith, Morrow and Ross) – provided as e-book.

Other resources

The Moodle Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) contains the key materials and resources for EPM103 as follows:

- Interactive study material, referred to as Computer Assisted Learning (CAL), which is the key learning material for the module. The CAL sessions are accessible online and available to download also.
- Readings (via the LSHTM online library)
- Discussion forums
- Assignments and Exercises
- Past examination papers and examiner reports.

The following resources are also provided:

Software

- Statistical software will be provided to support students to progress through this module
- ODK Installation Instructions (online download).

Moodle can be accessed from the first week of October, after module registration.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the module learning materials, including a study guide and online reading list (containing both essential and recommended readings), and additional resources including supplementary exercises and optional lecture recordings. All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible (this includes an accessible printable version of each session). The LSHTM Moodle has been made accessible to the widest possible audience, using a VLE that allows for up to 300% zoom, permits navigation via keyboard and use of speech recognition software, and that allows listening through a screen reader. All students have access to "SensusAccess" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

For Students studying University of London Awards (initial registration 2025/2026 and prior years:
For students with special needs, reasonable adjustments and support can be arranged – details and how to request support can be found on the University of London Worldwide website at: Inclusive practice and Access arrangements | University of London

For Students Studying LSHTM awards (registration 2026/2027 and onwards):
For students who require learning or assessment adjustments and support this can be arranged through the Student Support Services – details and how to request support can be found on the LSHTM Disability Support pages.