MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year	2026-27
Module Code	EPM201
Module Title	Study Design: Writing a Grant Application
Module Organiser(s)	Seyi Soremekun, Natalie Friend-du Preez, Kate Gallagher, Sara Gilani
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** must have passed EPM101 *Fundamentals of Epidemiology* and EPM102 *Statistics for Epidemiology*, and should have studied and have an understanding of EPM103 *Practical Epidemiology* and EPM105 *Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers* prior to studying this module. **Students studying this module as an individual module** must have basic epidemiological knowledge and skills equivalent to EPM101 *Fundamentals of Epidemiology*, EPM102 *Statistics for Epidemiology*, EPM103 *Practical Epidemiology* and EPM105 *Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers*.
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	**Study Design: Writing a Grant Application** is a compulsory module for those studying the DL PG Diploma/MSc in Epidemiology.
Module Description	The aim of this module is for students to synthesise their learning from core MSc Epidemiology modules in the design of a research study and write it up in the form of a grant proposal. Students will be offered a choice of topics to use as the basis of their study. Students will be expected to demonstrate prior learning e.g. identifying gaps in the literature, selecting an appropriate study design, carrying out a sample size calculation. They will also have the chance to learn potentially new skills such as writing a budget and time schedule for their proposal and carrying out more complex study designs and sample size calculations. As well as the interactive Study Guide on Moodle, students may have the opportunity to take part in live-streamed face-to-face Study Design module sessions as well as several live Zoom sessions which focus on study design types, sample size calculations and a grant proposal game.
Duration	Tutoring support and assessment details are available from the beginning of January through to the Assessed Assignment submission at the end of August.
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 Worldwide)	Compulsory

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

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
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 experience in designing an epidemiological research study and preparing a grant application suitable for submission to a funding agency.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to: 1. Appraise the quality of epidemiologic research, identify research gaps, and develop a research question. 2. Apply key methodological considerations (e.g. sample size, random error, sampling, inclusion/exclusion criteria, data collection, systematic error, field procedures, outcome assessment) to the design of epidemiologic studies. 3. Apply key contextual considerations (e.g. ethics, timeline, budget, dissemination) to the design of epidemiologic studies.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The module Study Guide will offer students various interactive activities aligned with the different sections of their assessed assignment: 1. Getting Started: Identifying a research question 2. Choosing a study design 3. Study Design Methods 1: Study population and sampling 4. Study Design Methods 2: Data collection procedures 5. Plans for Analysis 6. Study budget, dissemination, and ethics 7. Unconscious bias in study design

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	**Number of Hours**	**Expressed as Percentage (%)**
Directed self-study	60	40
Self-directed learning	40	27
Assessment, review and revision	50	33
Total	**150**	**100**

Teaching and Learning Strategy
Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives supported by online study content and activities. The key learning methods are: • Participating in and reflecting on online (Moodle) activities which introduce, explain and apply the principles and methods covered in the module. • 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 the grant proposal outline and assessed assignment and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy
Formal assessment of this module is on the basis of the completed EPM201 Grant Application Form (100%). If students fail the module overall, they are allowed one further attempt at the failed element (assignment).

Summative Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	Title: 150 characters Abstract: 250 words Proposed Investigation: 3500 words References: 1800 words	100	1 – 3

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

Assessment submission deadlines
Choice of assessment topic (from a specified list) must be made no later than 31 January. A structured outline must be submitted by 30th April (early submissions are accepted from 31 March). The Assessed Assignment for this module can be submitted only once, no later than 31 August. Both the outline and the AA must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Resources

Indicative reading list

The following e-books are provided:

- *How To Write a Grant Application* (Hackshaw, Allan)
- *Field Trials of Health Interventions in Developing Countries - A Toolbox* (Smith, Morrow and Ross).

Other resources

The Moodle Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) contains the key materials and resources for EPM201 as follows:

- Interactive study sessions (Sessions 1-7)
- Readings (via the LSHTM online library)
- Discussion forums
- Links to online sessions as needed
- Assignment

Software

- Statistical software will be provided (if not already provided for core modules)

Study materials on Moodle are available from January.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the module learning materials, including interactive study sessions, an online reading list (containing both essential and recommended readings) and additional resources including optional lecture recordings. All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible. The LSHTM Moodle platform 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.