MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2026-27
Module Code	GHM103
Module Title	Environmental Change and Global Health Policy
Module Organiser(s)	Sue Campbell
Contact email	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: GHPsupport@lshtm.ac.uk
Faculty	Public Health & Policy
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	None
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None
Target Audience	This module is compulsory for the PGCert/PGDip/MSc Global Health Policy by Distance Learning, and can also be taken as a standalone module. Practitioners and researchers wishing to understand the links between health and environment/climate and the role of policy processes and actors in the quest for sustainable development.
Module Description	Environmental changes may undermine some of the scientific, technological and social progress that led to a large increase in global life expectancy observed in the 20th century. In this module, we discuss the links between human health and policies to address environmental change.

	Recognising and understanding the impact of the environment on people and that of people on the environment is crucial when developing actions and health policy responses at the local and global level.
Duration	Moodle is open to access from 1st October. Students then plan their own studies between October and June.
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	April 2026

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**
PGDip/MSc Global Health Policy (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 Global Health Policy (Distance Learning)	Compulsory
PGDip Global Health Policy (Distance Learning)	Compulsory
MSc Global Health Policy (Distance Learning)	Compulsory

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: • introduce students to basic principles in environment, health and sustainable development and the importance of the interaction between them for global health policy.
Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student should be able to: 1. demonstrate the links between health, environment and sustainable development; 2. explain equity and sustainability as central principles in environmental health; 3. describe the different forms of risk transition and differences in the pattern of risk factors and diseases within and between countries and over time; 4. identify the impact of environmental quality on health, including air, energy, urbanisation, and biodiversity; 5. evaluate global environmental changes in terms of health impacts and causes; 6. consider associated health policy responses and implications.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The module is expected to cover the following topics: Section 1 The links between health, environment and sustainable development, and equity and sustainability as central principles in environmental change. This section introduces the concepts of: • Environment • Health • Sustainable development • Planetary health and global health policy Section 2 The different forms of risk transition and the impact of environmental quality on health, including: • How environmental quality affects health • How human activity impacts environmental quality, focusing on key topics including energy, biodiversity, the urban environment and outdoor air pollution. Section 3 Global environmental changes, planetary health and the context of sustainable development and global health policy implications, including: • The challenges of sustainable development and environmental health at global, national and local levels • The causes and impact of environmental issues • Analysis of the associated policy considerations.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	72	48
Self-directed learning	28	19
Assessment, review and revision	50	33
Total	**150**	**100**

Teaching and Learning Strategy
Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. Module tutors provide asynchronous support for students by replying to students' questions in open online discussion forums and facilitating discussion. Students are also strongly encouraged to participate in live webinars available on Moodle to obtain tutor support, and to make use of LSHTM online library resources. In addition, written feedback is provided on submitted formative assignments.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy
Formal assessment of this module includes two Assessed Assignments - an 'editorial' assignment where students write an academic journal-style editorial on any relevant environmental health topic of their choice (Assessed Assignment 1 - 40%). Assessed Assignment 2 is a report worth 60% of the overall module grade. This will involve the development of a project plan on a environmental health topic. The assessment tasks give students an opportunity to consolidate their learning by applying key concepts from across the whole of the module to specific global environmental health contexts. Along with constructive feedback given after each assessed assignment, assessment preparation sessions are run before both assessments to strengthen critical analysis and writing skills.

Summative Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed assignment 1: Editorial	800 words	40	1 and 2
Assessed assignment 2: Report	1,500 words	60	2-6

Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually.

The submission deadline for the Assessed Assignment 1 is 14 February.

The submission deadline for the Assessed Assignment 2 is 12 May.

All assignments must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Resitting assessment
Resits will accord with Chapter 8b of the LSHTM Academic Manual. The Resit assessment will be the same assessment type as the first attempt (see previous table). Where a module is assessed by two or more elements of time-limited assessment and/or one or more assessed assignment(s), each element will require a minimum mark of 1.00 to pass the module. If you fail both elements you may have to resit one or both elements depending on whether the elements are compensatable or not (see Chapter 2 of the LSHTM Academic Manual). If you pass one element but not the other, you may only resit the failed element.

Resources

Indicative reading list

Hutchinson E, Kovats S, eds. (2016) *Environment, Health and Sustainable Development*. Second edition. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Walt G, Shiffman J, Schneider H, Murray S, Brugha R, Gilson L. (2008) "Doing" health policy analysis: methodological and conceptual reflections and challenges. *Health Policy Plan* 23(5): 308-317.

IISD (2022). Health in the Global Environmental Agenda: A policy guide. https://www.iisd.org/publications/health-global-environment-agenda-policy-guide Accessed 21 Jan. 2025.

Buse, Chris G., et al. "Public Health Guide to Field Developments Linking Ecosystems, Environments and Health in the Anthropocene." Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health (1979-), vol. 72, no. 5, 2018, pp. 420–25. JSTOR, https://www.jstor.org/stable/26896202. Accessed 5 Nov. 2023.

Andy Haines, Kirk R Smith, Dennis Anderson, Paul R Epstein, Anthony J McMichael, Ian Roberts, Paul Wilkinson, James Woodcock, Jeremy Woods (2007). Policies for accelerating access to clean energy, improving health, advancing development, and mitigating climate change. The Lancet, Volume 370, Issue 9594, 1264-1281, https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(07)61257-4.

CBD, 2021a. 'Biodiversity and Health. CBD/SBSTTA/24/9'. Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice, Convention of Biological Diversity. Item 9 of the provisional agenda https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-24UN (2022). The sustainable development goals report 2022

Other resources

A full list of essential, recommended and further reading is given for each session.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the majority of the module learning materials, including a study guide and online reading list (detailing both essential and recommended readings), and additional resources including supplementary exercises and optional lecture recordings. In some cases, module materials include a text book that is made available to students in e-format. All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible. 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.