MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2026-2027
Module Code	GHM204
Module Title	Law and Global Health Policy
Module Organiser(s)	Rachel Hammonds
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	PGDip/MSc Global Health Policy students taking this module need to have successfully completed at least three of the core GHP modules – GHM101, 102, 103 or 104. Individual module students, intensive MSc students or research degree students wishing to take this module are expected to have working understanding of materials and key concepts covered in GHM102, The Politics of Global Health Policy.
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None
Target Audience	Elective module for students on DL MSc/PGDip Global Health Policy programme. The module is also available as a stand-

	alone individual module for anyone interested in developing a critical understanding of the relationship between law and public health, and how law can be used as a tool to protect and promote public health.
Module Description	This module introduces students to the role of law, both national and international, as a tool of global health policy. It focuses on developing understanding of the relationship between law and global health policy. It examines how law is employed to address key global health policy challenges and equips students to assess how law can positively or negatively affect health.
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)	June 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**
PGDip/MSc Global Health Policy (Distance Learning - University of London)	Elective

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

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
PGDip Global Health Policy (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Global Health Policy (Distance Learning)	Elective

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: • introduce students to the role of law, both national and international, as a tool of global health policy enabling them to assess; how and when law can advance global health policy goals, and its impact on global power imbalances.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student should be able to: 1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of national and international law, including its sources and implementation in a variety of contexts; 2. Critically assess the role of national and international law in protecting and promoting or negatively affecting health; 3. Compare diverse legal/regulatory frameworks relating to health; 4. Critically discuss the relationship between global health policy issues and diverse legal/regulatory frameworks.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The module is expected to cover the following topics: • Introduction to law and global health policy; • Introduction to national law; • Introduction to international law; • National law and healthcare; • National law and the determinants of health (other than health care); • National law and infectious disease control (national 'public health law'); • International law and infectious disease control (the International Health Regulations); • International law and the determinants of health I (the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control); • International law and the determinants of health II (the Framework Convention on Climate Change); • International law and healthcare I (the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights); • International law and healthcare II (The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	66	44
Self-directed learning	34	23
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 assessed assignments.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy
Formal assessment of this module includes a written (2000 word) assessed assignment (AA) (30%) and a time-limited assessment (70%). AA questions require students to focus on exploring the interaction between national law and global health policy or law. The AA focuses on Learning Outcomes 1 and 2 (with the main focus on national law). Written feedback is provided for the AA, allowing students to build on the skills and knowledge that is tested in the AA for the time-limited assessment. For the time-limited assessment the students focus on international law and global health policy. The assessment focuses on Intended Learning Outcomes 3 and 4 but requires the student to apply their learning across the whole of the module.

Summative Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	2000 words	30	1,2
Time-limited assessment	2 questions, word limit of 2,000 words per question	70	3,4

The assessed assignment for this module can be submitted only once annually. The submission deadline for the assessed assignment is **31 March**. The assessed assignment must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Time-limited assessments for DL modules are held once a year, usually in June (including resits). 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. 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

Bodansky, D., Brunnée, J., & Rajamani, L. (2017). *International climate change law*. Oxford University Press.

Bueno de Mesquita J., Lougarre, C., Montel, L., Sekalala, S. (2023) Lodestar in the Time of Coronavirus? Interpreting International Obligations to Realise the Right to Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic, *Human Rights Law Review*, 23 (1).

Davies, S. E., Kamradt-Scott, A., & Rushton, S. (2015). *Disease diplomacy: International norms and global health security*. JHU Press.

Dietz, W. H., Benken, D. E., & Hunter, A. S. (2009). Public health law and the prevention and control of obesity. *The Milbank Quarterly*, *87*(1), 215-227.

Gostin, L. O., & Wiley, L. F. (2016). *Public health law: power, duty, restraint (3rd edition)*. Univ of California Press. (Chapter 1: A Theory and Definition of Public Health Law).

Hassan, F., Abinader, L. G., & Kavanagh, M. M. (2025). Law and power in pandemic negotiations: Policymaking via contract in South Africa's dealings with COVID-19 vaccine companies. *Global Public Health*, *20*(1). Lencucha, R. et al. (2023). Addressing tobacco industry influence in tobacco-growing countries. Bulletin of the World Health Organization. (in pre-print Article ID: BLT.23.290219).

Mandela, N. (1994). *Long Walk to Freedom*. Little, Brown.

Ooms, G., & Hammonds, R. (2018). The Human Right to Health and Global Health Politics. In *The Oxford Handbook of Global Health Politics*. Oxford University Press.

Perehudoff, K., & 't Hoen, E. (2018) Human rights and intellectual property for universal access to new essential medicines. In: Equitable access to high-cost pharmaceuticals, Babar Z. (ed.). Elsevier Academic Press

Randall, M., & Venkatesh, V. (2015). The Right to No: The Crime of Marital Rape, Women's Human Rights, and International Law. *Brook. J. Int'l L.*, 41, 153.

Roemer, R., Taylor, A., & Lariviere, J. (2005). Origins of the WHO framework convention on tobacco control. *American Journal of Public Health*, *95*(6), 936-938.

Sekalala, S. (2017). Soft Law and Global Health Problems: Lessons from Responses to HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. Cambridge University Press.

Sekalala, S., & Rawson B. (2022) The Role of Civil Society in Mobilizing Human Rights Struggles for Essential Medicines: A Critique from HIV/AIDS to COVID-19. *Health and Human Rights Journal,* 24/2, December 2022, 177-189.

Verani, A. R., Emerson, C. N., Lederer, P., Lipke, G., Kapata, N., Lanje, S., ... & Miller, B. (2016). The role of the law in reducing tuberculosis transmission in Botswana, South Africa and Zambia. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, *94*(6), 415.

Wong, H. (2020) The case for compulsory licensing during COVID-19. J Glob Health, 10(1) 010358.

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.