



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year	2026-27
Module Code	IDM203
Module Title	Parasitology
Module Organiser(s)	Dr Nuha Mansour and Dr Tapan Bhattacharyya
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 IDsupport@lshtm.ac.uk.
Faculty	Infectious & Tropical Diseases
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS: 15 ECTS: 7.5
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through provided and online materials
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	Those who wish to study this module as an individual module or as part of another programme should have a prior knowledge of basic biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology and zoology in order to be able to work through and benefit fully from this module.
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None

Target Audience	This module is intended for those who wish to understand the principles of parasitism and the parasitic infections that are a threat to human health worldwide. The module will be of interest to those who wish to understand the biological diversity and complexity of these eukaryotic pathogens, their interactions with hosts and vectors, clinical aspects of the diseases they cause and the strategies available to control their infections in individuals and populations. The module is aimed at all students studying the lead and linked programmes.
Module Description	This module equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to understand the biology of parasites, their interactions with hosts and vectors, the ways in which they cause disease, and to critically evaluate how this informs measures to control transmission and prevent disease. The foundations for the module include an examination of the concept of parasitism and how it is distinct from other inter-species relationships. The helminth and protozoan parasite species that are responsible for the parasitic diseases with the greatest global burdens of morbidity and mortality then provide the main focus of study. Each species and disease, is examined in terms of parasite biology, life cycles, transmission routes, clinical features and pathogenesis, immune responses and their evasion, diagnosis, control, prevention and treatment. The balance of material across these areas varies between sections in line with medical and research priorities in each field.
Duration	Distance learning module studies begin in early October. Students may start their studies at any time from receipt of study materials and work through the material until the start of the June assessments (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed).
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	March 2026

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

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
PGDip/MSc Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health (General Stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Health and Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective

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

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
PGDip Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning)	Elective
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Public Health (Distance Learning)	Elective

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: • provide students with an understanding of the biology of parasites and the ways in which they can cause disease in humans.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate specialist knowledge by comparing and explaining details of the development and transmission of the major helminth and protozoan parasite pathogens;
2. Critically evaluate stage specific pathology and pathogenesis of disease during the course of infection, with reference to immune responses and evasion mechanisms;
3. Show a practical understanding of, and be able to evaluate, the various appropriate intervention tools to control parasitological infection, using evidence to support your analysis.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

The module is expected to cover the following topics:

- **Section 1 Parasites and parasitism:** gives an insight into the many and varied associations between species that we call parasitism.
- **Section 2 Parasitic Protozoa:** discusses the protozoa of medical importance. These are very diverse and include parasites responsible for major diseases such as malaria, trypanosomiasis and amoebiasis.
- **Section 3 Parasitic Helminths:** considers the worm (helminth) parasites causing diseases such as schistosomiasis, filariasis and river blindness.
- **Revision Section:** provides students with a collection of fact sheets which can be used to revise once they have completed the material in the other sections.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	75	50
Self-directed learning	25	17
Assessment review and revision	50	33
Total	150	100

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Learning is mostly self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. Students should make use of the LSHTM online library resources, and they are strongly encouraged to participate in the optional Formative Assignment and the module-specific discussion forums available on Moodle, in order to optimise tutor support.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Written feedback is provided to each student for both the Formative Assignment and the obligatory Assessed Assignment.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

An optional Formative Assignment is available, and this enables students to obtain written tutor feedback to help prepare for the Assessed Assignment. Formative Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than **15th December** and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System. Feedback will be provided in time for use towards the Assessed Assignment task.

Formal assessment of this module is by an Assessed Assignment comprising a 2500-word essay (100%).

Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	2500 words	100	1, 2, 3

All three ILOs are covered in the Assessed Assignment.

Formative Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than **15th December** and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Assessed Assignments for this module will be made available to students on 12th March and can be submitted only once annually, no later than **12th May** and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

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). (Note that for those resitting module assessments, a fee will be payable.)

Resitting assessment

- Prior to September 2026, students were required to sit a Time-Limited Assessment (TLA) (70% of module marks) and submit an assessed assignment (AA) (30% of module marks).
- Students who have been registered to this module prior to 1 September 2026 and have not submitted any element of the IDM203 assessment must move to the new mode of assessment.
- If a student registered for module IDM203 prior to 1 September 2026 and is required to sit the TLA or needs to or wishes to resit the TLA the last opportunity to take the TLA will be June 2028 after which all students requiring a sit the TLA will be transferred to the new mode of assessment and will be required to submit a new mode assessed assignment. The TLA's will usually be held in June.
- If a student registered for module IDM203 prior to 1 September 2026 has obtained a pass in the TLA prior to 1 September 2026 and have not submitted the AA they will still need to submit the old mode AA. The submission deadline is **31st March**

If a student has obtained a grade of between 1-1.99 for the AA it may be possible to compensate for this grade (note only one module grade of between 1.0-1.99 can be compensated for)

Resources

Indicative reading list

- Cheesbrough, M., (2020) *Tropical Medicine Point-of-Care Testing* Tropical Health Technology.
- Despommier, D.D, Griffin, D.O, Gwadz, R.W, Hotez P.J, Knirsch. C. A, (2019) *Parasitic Diseases* 8th Edition. Parasites Without Borders Inc. ISBN 978-0-9978400-9-4.
- Goering, R.V., Dockrell, H.M., Zuckerman, M. and Chiodini, P.L., (2024) *Mims' Medical Microbiology and Immunology*. 7th Ed. ISBN: 9780702071546.

Textbooks will be made available in e-format to registered students in early autumn.

Other resources

Study Guide: Available online, and to download, via the virtual learning environment.

Reader: On-line reading list via the virtual learning environment

In addition to the materials above, students are given access to the **LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment, (VLE; Moodle)** where they can access the study guide, reading list, web-based discussion forums, formative and assessed assignments, supplementary materials and the **LSHTM online library resources**.

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 (with accessible printable versions of sessions) and online reading list (containing essential readings), textbooks in e-format and additional resources including supplementary exercises.

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](#).