



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2026-27
Module Code	IDM215
Module Title	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Module Organiser(s)	Dr Ian Ross & Dr Katie Greenland
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 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 biology 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 water, sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions for public health in low-income settings.
Module Description	This module aims to equip the next generation of WASH professionals with the blend of skills necessary to understand the critical importance of WASH for health and will provide training to support a future career in WASH programming, research and evaluation.

Duration	Distance learning module studies begin in early October. Students may start their studies at any time from receipt of access to 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)	August 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 Option
PGDip/MSc Health in Humanitarian Crises (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health (General Stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health: Health and Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option

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 Health in Humanitarian Crises (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Health in Humanitarian Crises (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: • Enable students to understand the principles and practices that should underlie water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions, in order to maximise health and social benefits. The module also aims to equip students with the skills needed to contribute usefully to discussions with other professionals regarding health impacts, technology choice and policy aspects of water supply, excreta disposal and other environmental interventions affecting health, particularly in resource poor settings.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to: 1. Integrate the principles of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) interventions and recent insights to develop products, services and behaviour change programmes in complex and unpredictable settings; 2. Appraise methods of Health Impact Evaluation and justify their deployment in WASH strategy; 3. Critically evaluate the wider social, economic, institutional and environmental contexts of WASH strategies in resource poor settings; 4. Develop a range of approaches for the provision of sustainable and equitable WASH services in resource poor settings, and communicate your output to professional audiences.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The module is expected to cover the following topics: • Sections 1 and 2, provide an introduction to the full module and include sessions addressing the following topics: ○ History of WASH in the global context; ○ Health impact and health importance of WASH programmes; ○ Non-health /benefits of WASH programmes; ○ Equity, Inclusion and gender. • Sections 3 (Water), 4 (Sanitation) and 5 (Hygiene) provide an overview of WASH technology and intervention strategies. These sections explain how an understanding of preventive strategies can be put into operation. Students will learn about health and disease and also about the environment, economics, socio-cultural context, and the institutions involved as well as the technical aspects of the performance and supply of WASH products and services. These sections set out the principles and practices relevant to each of these areas so that a water supply and sanitation project can be devised and implemented successfully and sustainably.

Session Content
- Section 6 describes the evidence for the effectiveness of water, hygiene and sanitation interventions and methods and challenges in monitoring and evaluating these interventions. - Section 7 covers specific domains, such as WASH in health care facilities.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	85	56.7
Self-directed learning	25	16.7
Assessment, review and revision	40	26.7
Total	150	100

Teaching and Learning Strategy
Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussion forums available on Moodle, to obtain tutor support, and to make use of the LSHTM online library resources. In addition, written feedback is provided on submitted assignments. The teaching and learning strategy is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives identified at the start of each chapter on Moodle (or in the PDF study guide which has identical content). It is structured around a combination of a module content that students need to read and module-specific discussion forums, where students and tutors can interact. Students are directed to use the various online electronic resources and to read and work through activities in specific sections of the module. These activities will provide students the opportunity to test their session knowledge and understanding and to apply the concepts and methods covered by session content. Students are provided with detailed solutions to the exercises, enabling them to check their understanding of the material. Students will also have access to interactive case study sessions, allowing them to participate in live learning and discussion seminars with a teacher. Additional learning materials include: a brief guide to the study module, recommended articles and readings from the peer-reviewed scientific literature and suggested relevant websites. They can also find access to Recordings from select lectures chosen to complement the course from the LSHTM face to face module: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Health. Student support is available from the module tutors through the web-based discussion forums, including revision forums. Module tutors provide asynchronous feedback for all students on the web-based discussion forum. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussion forums available on Moodle, to clarify queries, to interact with other students, to obtain tutor support and to make use of the LSHTM online library resources. The assessment task, which comes at the end of the module, is the point at which students

Teaching and Learning Strategy

demonstrate a consolidation of their learning across the whole module, In addition, written feedback is provided on submitted assignments.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

Formal assessment of this module is through an assessed assignment comprising a 2500-word essay (100%).

For their assessment, students are given a case scenario of a WASH situation with a research task and will be asked to prepare a report answering the points provided in the task. The assessment task required students to demonstrate: the ability to understand the problem; the ability to present their task exercise in an appropriate way; and the ability to support their report in the light of the case scenario and research question. The assessment task thus gives students an opportunity to consolidate their learning and requires students to apply their learning across the whole module.

Assessment submission deadlines

Assessed Assignment submission deadline **12th May**

Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	2500 words	100	1-4

Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than **12 May** and 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). (Note that for those resitting module assessments, a fee will be payable.)

- 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).

Resitting assessment

- Students who were registered to this module prior to 1 September 2026 and have not submitted any element of the IDM215 assessment must move to the new mode of assessment.
- If a student registered for module IDM215 prior to 1 September 2026 and is required to sit the TLA. The TLA's will usually be held in June. The last opportunity to sit the TLA will be June 2028
- If a student registered for module IDM215 prior to 1 September 2026 has obtained a pass in the TLA prior to 1 September 2026 and has not submitted the AA they will still need to submit the AA. The submission deadline is **12th May**.

Resources

Indicative reading list

No textbooks are provided.

Other resources

Study Guide: Available online, and to download, via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE; Moodle).

Reader: Online reading list via the VLE

In addition to the materials above, students are given access to **the LSHTM** VLE (for web-based discussions forums etc.), assignments 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), 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](#).