MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2026-27
Module Code	IDM502
Module Title	Tuberculosis
Module Organiser(s)	John Day, Liz Corbett & Rachael Burke
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 and immunology 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 suitable for a wide audience, including biologists interested in the host-pathogen interaction in tuberculosis, clinical and non-clinical staff who are involved in TB control programs, and those involved in policy-making.
Module Description	This module equips students with the skills needed to understand important aspects of the biology, sociology, clinical and public health of tuberculosis. It is aimed at students who wish to acquire further skills relevant to the control of tuberculosis as a public health challenge. The

	student's broader understanding of tuberculosis is assessed through an assessed assignment and a written examination of selected areas from within the module.
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) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
PGDip/MSc Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
PGDip/MSc Global Health Policy (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) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
PGDip Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning)	Elective
PGDip Global Health Policy (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Global Health Policy (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: • give students a broad understanding of TB, with an emphasis on the interaction of the biology and pathology of tuberculosis, modern techniques of molecular biology and immunology and social determinants can be harnessed to combat this infection.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to demonstrate: 1. a systematic understanding of the biology of the tubercle bacillus and its interaction with its human host; 2. a critical awareness of the clinical features of tuberculosis, including its clinical manifestations, diagnosis and treatment among adults and children, including the effects of HIV and other complex presentations; 3. a critical awareness of the current approaches to tuberculosis control, and be able to apply this knowledge to appraise current problems in tuberculosis control; 4. The ability to critically evaluate the broader biological, social and ethical issues that relate to tuberculosis and measures to eliminate tuberculosis as a public health problem.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The module is expected to cover the following topics: • An introduction, detailing the history, current epidemiology, natural history and clinical presentation of tuberculosis. • **Biology** This section discusses the basic biology of the causative agent, *M. tuberculosis*, including how distinct strains can be identified by their genomic sequence, and how the pathogen interacts with the host immune system. • **Diagnosis** This section discusses the methodology underlying the main tests available to diagnose tuberculosis disease and infection with *M. tuberculosis*. It then covers how these tests are employed in clinical practice. • **Treatment** The mechanisms of action of the main first-line antibiotics are described, alongside the molecular mutations underlying drug resistance. The use of multi-drug treatment regimens to treat drug sensitive and drug-resistant TB is explained, including in children and in people living with HIV. • **Vaccination**

Session Content
This short section covers the BCG vaccine, how it was derived and how widely it is used today and explains the limitations of its efficacy. • **Global Epidemiology of TB** This substantial section covers current global epidemiology, including social epidemiology and social determinants including the impact of HIV, poverty, and epidemiology of Multi-Drug Resistance (MDR). • **Ending the TB epidemic** The broader context of the global policies to end TB are examined, explaining why an understanding of the social and ethical challenges people with TB (or HIV-TB) face is vital alongside a biomedical approach • **Research Priorities** This final section addresses the need for new tools if TB is going to be fully controlled and highlights current avenues of research.

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 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.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy
Formal assessment of this module is and an assessed assignment comprising a 2500-word report (100%). The assessments are designed to cover a broad range of the material from the different sections. It does however allow students to choose to focus on particular areas of interest.

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 **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.

- 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 were registered to this module prior to 1 September 2026 and have not submitted any element of the IDM502 assessment must move to the new mode of assessment.

- If a student registered for module IDM502 prior to 1 September 2023 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 assessed assignment.

- If a student registered for module IDM502 prior to 1 September 2026 and either wishes or must resit this component, they must submit a resit AA.

- If a student registered for module IDM502 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 AA.

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)

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.)

Resources

Indicative reading list

In addition to the study materials, recent reviews related to each section will be highlighted.

Other resources

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

Reader: Online reading list available 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, assignments, supplementary materials, activities 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 textbooks if available), 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.