



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2026-27
Module Code	IDM104
Module Title	Control of Infectious Diseases
Module Organiser(s)	Dr Emma Harding-Esch and Dr Lucy Paintain
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	None
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	Not currently accredited by any other body
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None
Target Audience	This module is intended for those with an interest in infectious diseases who wish to expand on a basic educational or professional background in biological sciences or public health.

Module Description	This module introduces students to public health, surveillance, control and designing disease control programmes, providing a broader, “bigger picture” of infectious disease control. It is aimed at students with an interest in public health, from basic scientists to “front line” staff. It is assessed through a final exam, with an optional formative assessment and participation in online discussion forums.
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)	
PGCert/PGDip/MSc Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
PGDip/MSc Health in Humanitarian Crises (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)	
PGCert Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning)	Compulsory
PGDip Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning)	Compulsory
MSc Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning)	Compulsory
PGDip Health in Humanitarian Crises (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Health in Humanitarian Crises (Distance Learning)	Elective

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: enable students to follow essential arguments in reports and articles written about issues in the areas of public health, methods for the control of infectious disease, surveillance methods and the design of disease control programmes, and to understand the principles for designing public health intervention programmes.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes

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

1. Critically evaluate key concepts in public health, including demonstrating a conceptual understanding of the evolutionary nature of public health problems;
2. Understand and compare the applicability and limitations of the various methods of surveillance and control of infectious diseases;
3. Demonstrate an ability to develop a control intervention, integrating the range of issues relevant to infectious disease control, justifying your reasoning.
- 4.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

The module includes sections addressing the following topics:

- **Section 1: Public Health**

This introductory section introduces some of the key concepts of public health to help guide you in your study of the control of infectious diseases. It contains three sessions. The first introduces general concepts useful in public health; the second provides a theoretical foundation for understanding how certain kinds of problems wind up being a concern for those working in public health in the first place; the third addresses ethical issues that can arise when working as a public health professional, particularly with regard to infectious disease control programmes.

- **Section 2: Surveillance**

In this second section you will be studying the important issue of surveillance, or how data about current trends in the prevalence and spread of infectious diseases can be collected and studied, so that control efforts can be based on the latest and best information about the threats at hand.

The section is composed of 7 sessions, broken down into two categories. The first 4 sessions concern surveillance methods themselves, the second half (Sessions 5 - 7) various issues or trends of contemporary interest in the spread of infectious diseases.

- **Section 3: Control**

In this third section you will get to the central topic of disease control. This section contains nine sessions. The sessions can be broken down into two categories: the first set dealing with aspects of the environment and the second set of sessions is centred around solutions that involve changing people's behaviour in some way.

- **Section 4: Designing Disease Control Programmes**

In the final section of this module, you will learn how to design a disease control programme in a real country setting using information that you have acquired throughout the previous three sections. Disease control programmes, initiatives or

Session Content

projects vary in scope, focus, structure and duration, but typically go through a common process of development. Going through this section, you will mirror the stages in this process in each session, thus learning how a virtual programme for a fictional situation becomes fully developed.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	100	67
Self-directed learning	25	17
Assessment, review and revision	25	17
Total	150	100

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. Activities are provided throughout the materials to enable students to apply their learning.

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.

A formative assignment is available to help students practise some of the principles discussed, and obtain tutor written feedback. Formative assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than **31st March**, and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System. The assignment concerns development of a programme strategy to deal with a realistic public health problem in a lower-income country, which requires the student to make use of skills developed during the module. It is couched in the context of developing a concept note for a client, which is a useful professional skill.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

An optional formative assignment is available to help students practise some of the principles discussed, and obtain tutor written feedback.

Summative assessment of this module includes a time-limited assessment (100%) in June. Questions in the assessment address the broad range of topics covered by the module in

Assessment Strategy

ways that require more than simple demonstration of information recall. Often, answers require an ability to use knowledge in novel ways or to apply it to specific contexts.

Assessment submission deadlines

Formative assignment submission deadline: **31st March**

Summative Assessment takes place in June

Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Time-Limited Assessment	3000 words	100%	1 – 3

Formative assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than **31st March** and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Time-limited assessments for DL modules are held once a year, mostly in June (including resits). Please note that a separate assessment fee may be payable in addition to the module fee.

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.)

Resources

Indicative reading list

- *Making Health Policy* (Buse, Mays & Walt) ISBN: 978-0335251681 [3rd edn]

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

Other resources

Study Guide: A set of bespoke written materials covering all module topics, with links to additional suggested readings. Available online, and to download, via the virtual learning environment.

Reader: A collection of online reading materials available via the virtual learning environment.

Online Sessions: To help support assessment preparation.

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 assignments, supplementary materials such as bespoke lectures and links to related LSHTM modules 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 the Study Guide (in accessible PDF format) and online Reader (containing both essential and recommended readings), and additional resources including supplementary exercises and online revision sessions.

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 virtual learning environment (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 also 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](#).