MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year	2026-27
Module Code	PHM201
Module Title	Health Decision Science
Module Organiser(s)	Andy Clark
Contact	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: PHsupport@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	Self-study, through the online Virtual Learning Environment
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	Students who undertake this module are expected to be familiar with Excel, and capable of carrying out basic functions (such as inserting formulae into cells, producing simple charts and tables, drawing box and arrow diagrams etc.). Students should be reasonably numerate and feel confident in basic mathematics (primarily arithmetic) and simple logic.
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None
Target Audience	This module is available to students registered for the MSc and PGDip in Public Health. For students who first registered for the MSc Public Health (UoL) prior to 2026/27 the it is recommended for students studying the MSc Public Health: Health Services Management stream. It can also be taken by those studying for the MSc Clinical Trials, MSc Global Health

	Policy and MSc Epidemiology programmes. Alternatively, it can be taken as an individual module.
Module Description	How are public and global health decisions made? Which options deserve consideration and what criteria should we use to appraise them? Who should be involved in the process? How can we estimate the benefits, harms, costs, cost-effectiveness, feasibility, equity, and acceptability of alternative options? How can we package the evidence and uncertainty in a coherent and transparent way? What methods can be used to appraise the options? How should we communicate the recommendations? This module will equip you to support people in making optimal choices in a world with scarce resources, limited information, and lives and economies at stake. You will examine the process, evidence, uncertainties, ethics, and value judgements that underpin health decision-making. Rather than being dominated by a single discipline, the module integrates evidence and approaches from multiple fields. The module will introduce you to different approaches to stakeholder engagement, disease modelling, health economic evaluation, health service planning, uncertainty analysis, deliberation, and communication. While the module does not provide expert-level training in any of the individual fields, it does provide an overview of the main approaches used within each field, and the situations in which they might be appropriate to use.
Duration	Studies for distance learning modules begin in early October. Once fees have been paid, all module materials will be made available on Moodle. Students may start their studies at any time from the beginning of October and work through the material at their own pace. However, students are encouraged to commence their studies in October and work steadily through the materials over the course of the academic year and must adhere to assessment deadlines.
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	May 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**
MSc Public Health (General stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	**Status**
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Economics (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip / MSc Global Health Policy (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	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 Public Health (Distance Learning)	Elective
MSc Public Health (Distance Learning)	Elective
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: • develop students' understanding of the roles, strengths, and weaknesses of different approaches to support health decision-making.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student should be able to: 1. recognise and explain key elements of the health decision-making process; 2. distinguish different decision-making approaches and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses in particular health situations; 3. choose decision-making approaches that are appropriate to particular health situations; and 4. design simple decision-making approaches and apply them to real-world or hypothetical health situations.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The lectures are the primary learning resource. Further reading will be outlined at the end of each lecture. The lectures will cover the following topics: a) introduction to health decision science; b) stakeholder engagement; c) disease modelling; d) health service planning; e) health economic evaluation; f) uncertainty; g) deliberation; and, h) communication.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	110	73.3%
Self-directed learning	0	0
Assessment, review and revision	40	26.6%
Total	**150**	**100%**

Teaching and Learning Strategy
Learning is through directed self-study. A guide to studying the module is provided, together with access to a range of study resources on Moodle. Each lecture will focus on a different aspect of health decision science. After each lecture students will be directed to content that can be used to provide more in-depth understanding of each topic. This content includes lecture slides, Excel practical exercises and suggested further reading e.g. published papers, sections of books, videos, web sites etc. Most of the lectures will be given via Zoom or via a similar platform, and some may involve breakout room discussions (a good opportunity to meet fellow students). Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the live lectures (for those unable to attend the live sessions recordings will be made available) and to make use of the LSHTM on-line library resources. Please see the Assessment Strategy section for details of the format of assessment. Student support is available from the module tutors through the online discussion forum. Module tutors provide written feedback (visible to all students) here and offer individual feedback on an assessed assignment submitted by the student.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy
This module is assessed via a summative assessed assignment (100%) to be submitted no later than May 31st (including resits).

Assessment Type	**Assessment Length**	**Weighting** (%)	**Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested**
Assessed Assignment	2000 words Note: details about what to include in the word count and the referencing style to be used are provided in the Assignment Instructions. Students should follow these instructions carefully.	100%	All

The summative assignment for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than **31 May** (including resits) and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Resitting assessment
Resits will accord with Chapter 8b of the LSHTM Academic Manual.

Resources

The following materials are provided to students after registration and fee payment for this module in October:

- A brief guide to studying the module;
- A reading list including details of both required and optional reading and links to selected papers;
- Access to the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) - Moodle, where students can access a range of materials, including the materials listed above; participate in module-specific discussion forums and live lectures, and access the LSHTM online library resources.

All materials are provided in e-format and may be accessed via the LSHTM VLE – Moodle.

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, the option to listen to recordings of selected lectures taking place in London. In this module, materials provided include a textbook 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