MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year	2026-27
Module Code	PHM203
Module Title	Economic Analysis for Health Policy
Module Organiser(s)	Giulia Greco and Henning Tarp Jensen
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: 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	Directed self-study, through online materials (Virtual Learning Environment)
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	DL PG Diploma and MSc Public Health students must have completed core module PHM103 Introduction to Health Economics prior to studying this module. Students from other programmes where this is an elective module and those wishing to take PHM203 as a single Module, should ensure that they have undertaken coursework equivalent to PHM103, and must obtain approval from the Module Organisers prior to registering. Please forward an email to PHsupport@lshtm.ac.uk requesting approval before registering for PHM203. Please mark the email 'For the attention of the PHM203 Module Organisers' and provide an overview of economic modules taken and general knowledge of this area.
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 DL MSc and PGDip in Public Health who have completed the core module PHM103 Introduction to Health Economics prior to studying this module. For students who first registered for the MSc Public Health (UoL) prior to 2026/27 the module is compulsory for those following the Health Economics stream and recommended for students studying the Health Services Management stream. The module is also open to students on the DL PGDip/ MSc Clinical Trials and Epidemiology programmes. Alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module, but those taking the module must ensure that they have undertaken coursework equivalent to PHM103 and must obtain approval from the Module Organisers prior to registering for this module (see pre-requisites section).
Module Description	The module explores how economic theory can be used to describe and analyse the health system's organisation and financing, and people's behaviour in the health sector. It provides policy recommendations for low-, middle- and high-income countries.
Duration	Studies for distance learning modules begin in early October. At this time, module materials will be made available on Moodle, once fees have been paid. Students may start their studies at any time from the beginning of October and work through the material until the start of the June assessments. 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 other assessment submission 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: Health Economics (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended Elective
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: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip Public Health (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

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
This module aims to: • improve students' skills for undertaking health economics analysis for health policy-making and health systems management.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student should be able to: 1. Describe alternative ways of financing and organising health systems, and analyse them using the economic concepts of information, agency, incentives, and rationality; 2. Analyse the nature and operation of markets for delivery of healthcare, healthcare finance, and key health service inputs, identifying their strengths and weaknesses (market and government failures); 3. Analyse different rationing mechanisms in terms of their implications for equity and efficiency, and discuss the concepts of equity in health care in terms of both its conceptual basis and practical applications; 4. Analyse how behavioural biases and impulsive behaviour can be harnessed to improve people’s health, and what the limitations of nudging are; 5. Analyse potential policies to address market and government failures, such as regulation, pay for performance, and contracting for health services.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The module is expected to cover the following topics (each covering 1-3 underlying sessions): • Two introductory sessions will outline main themes such as market failure and agency theory, and describe the main elements and functions of a health system from an economic perspective; • Two "Markets for healthcare" sessions will critically appraise the theory of market competition as applied to markets for healthcare services, and analyse determinants of supply and demand in markets for healthcare workers; • Three "Health Equity, Health Financing & Resource Allocation" sessions will overview quantitative approaches for measuring equity in healthcare, including healthcare financing and delivery, consider the economic principles of actuarial insurance and challenges related to health insurance, and examine mechanisms for undertaking rationing decisions of public sector health spending; • One "Behavioural Economics" session will give an overview of theoretical and empirical work in behavioural economics, and present applications from health and healthcare across different income settings; • Three "Contracting and Regulation" sessions will apply the theories and concepts from transactions cost analysis and contracting theory to the specific case of health services, discuss the rationale and key features of pay-for-performance, and critically explore key theories of government regulation and the government's role in healthcare.

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	26.7
Total	**150**	**100**

Teaching and Learning Strategy
Learning is via directed self-study against a detailed set of learning objectives that are identified at the start of each session, which also offers focused reading and various learning activities. Additional learning materials include: a brief guide to the study module, recommended reading from the peer-reviewed literature, suggested relevant websites and use of the LSHTM online library resources. A guide to studying the module is provided, together with access to a range of study resources, discussion fora and online webinar discussion sessions. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussions and online webinar sessions to obtain tutor support, and to make use of the LSHTM on-line library resources. Written feedback is provided on submitted assignments.

Teaching and Learning Strategy
Student support is available from the module tutors through the online discussion fora, and real-time online webinar tutorials on Moodle.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy
This module is assessed via a summative assignment worth 30% of the student's mark and a summative time-limited assessment that is worth 70% of the student's mark. The mandatory summative assignment is designed to allow students to apply the economic concepts and theories, that they have been learning, to analyse a specific health sector issue of their own choice. All intended learning objectives, listed above, can be tested as part of the assignment, depending on the student's choice of assessment topic. The specific range of learning objectives, which will be covered in an individual student assignment, will depend on the student's choice of assignment topic, and the range of economic theories and concepts which are required to satisfactorily analyse the chosen topic. The time-limited assessment is designed to test students in their ability to apply the economic theories and concepts, which they have been learning, to explain behaviour, and provide policy recommendations, in concrete health sector situations. All intended learning objectives, listed above, can be tested as part of the time-limited assessment, depending on the specific topics included in the assessment.

Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	3300 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.	30	All
Time-limited assessment	TBC	70	All

The summative assignment for this module can be submitted only once annually (including resits), no later than **31 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), and will be held online for 2026-27.

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).

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;
- The main materials are divided into eleven sessions. Each session is focused on a particular topic and includes a screencast (video) of a lecture, interspersed with accompanying activities;
- A reading list including details of 2-3 essential readings and 3-10 optional readings per session with links to papers. Note: there is no textbook for the module;
- A list of useful websites;
- A module-specific discussion forum dedicated to general learning;
- A document with detailed assignment instructions, and an example essay;
- A module-specific assignment discussion forum dedicated to assignment topics;
- Online webinar discussion tutorial sessions to be run during the year at key points in the module;
- 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.