



NAGASAKI  
UNIVERSITY

# Programme Specification

## Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

### Joint Award between LSHTM and Nagasaki University

LONDON  
SCHOOL of  
HYGIENE  
& TROPICAL  
MEDICINE



#### AWARD DETAILS

##### Title and name of final award(s)

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

##### Level of the programme

The award offered under the programme is at Level 8 (also known as 'D' Doctorate level) of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales & Northern Ireland (FHEQ). The programme also meets the comparable criteria for the award of Doctor of Philosophy as stated in Article 4(1) of the Standards for Establishment for Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in Japan.

The award of PhD (Level 8) is based on evidence of the student's proven demonstration of facility in four distinct areas:

1. The creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research or other advanced scholarship;
2. The systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge;
3. The ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems; and
4. A detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry.

The Partner Universities envisage that the research student's work will consolidate an area of collaboration between LSHTM and NU researchers.

For further information about Level 8 qualifications in England, please see:

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>

##### Relevant QAA subject benchmark

Not applicable

**Awarding bodies:** University of London and Nagasaki University (NU)

- **Registering body:** The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health (TMGH), NU
- **Examination body:** The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and NU the School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health (TMGH), NU

For more information on LSHTM and the University of London, please see [www.lshtm.ac.uk](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk) and [www.lon.ac.uk](http://www.lon.ac.uk)

For more information on TMGH and NU, please see [www.tmgh.nagasaki-u.ac.jp](http://www.tmgh.nagasaki-u.ac.jp) and [www.nagasaki-u.ac.jp](http://www.nagasaki-u.ac.jp)

##### Accreditation by professional or statutory body (if applicable)

None

##### Language of study and assessment

English

Please see 'English language requirements' further below regarding the standard required for entry.

## ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Applicants will usually hold a MSc in a relevant discipline, approved by the Joint Academic Committee (JAC), must satisfy LSHTM English language requirements (published on the LSHTM web site) and must be willing and able to carry out research on one of the JAC approved research topics. A prospective research student who does not fully satisfy these conditions, but who has relevant professional experience, may still be eligible for admission and the JAC will advise on eligibility to apply in such cases.

### English language requirements

It is essential to have an excellent command of the English language to benefit from studying for the programme. All students will be required to meet the LSHTM English language requirements (Band B). For up-to-date information on language requirements:

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/applications/applying-masters-degree-london/general-entry-requirements>

Any English language tests must have been taken no more than two years before the date a student commences the programme. The JAC may also request that an applicant take a test even if the above conditions have been met.

Please note that there are different English language requirements for Tier 4 Visa applicants and non-Tier 4 visa applicants.

### Financial requirements

Research students are required to have sufficient funds to cover programme tuition fees, living expenses and any travel and project costs for the duration of their studies. Invoices for tuition fees are raised annually and payment must be paid at the start of each year of the Joint PhD Programme, in October. The Joint PhD Programme is not able to provide financial assistance to any research student whose funds prove to be inadequate at any stage during the programme. Research students offered admission will be required to sign a financial declaration form confirming that they understand this situation and will have sufficient financial support for the duration of their studies. Evidence of available funds may be required.

Unless covered by a different arrangement (e.g. employer sponsorship or an externally funded scholarship award), the research student will pay to each University half the tuition fee that would normally be paid if the research student was registered only with that University. The research student must pay the relevant fee to both Universities at the required time in each academic year. Fee payments and related matters will be governed by the Tuition Fee Policy of the relevant university.

### Students with disabilities (including dyslexia and mental health issues)

The Partner Universities welcome applications from people with disabilities. These may include sensory impairment (visual/hearing), mobility or dexterity impairment, chronic medical conditions (e.g. diabetes, HIV, epilepsy, asthma) or chronic pain/fatigue, mental health difficulties, specific learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia or dyspraxia), Asperger's Syndrome and other autism spectrum disorders, or other conditions with long-term and adverse effect on studying. The Partner Universities aim to offer as much appropriate assistance as possible to accommodate individual needs, and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that both the application procedure and the programme itself are organised and delivered to offer all research students the opportunity to participate fully.

Applicants are encouraged to disclose any specific disability at the time of application, and to provide information on what can be done to make the application and selection process as accessible as possible. This will help the JAC understand individual needs, and help ensure that obstacles are minimised throughout the application and admission process.

Once registered, the Partner Universities will endeavour to make reasonable adjustments and, within resource constraints, to provide support to research students with disabilities. Research students are

encouraged to disclose any disability from as early as possible; the Student Adviser can answer queries and provide confidential advice at any stage in the joint research degree programme.

The Partner Universities will comply with the commitments set out above, in addition to any local legal obligations which affect how they must treat students with disabilities.

**Intake quota**

The number of research students admitted each year will be nine at maximum and also limited by the availability of JAC-approved projects and supervisors.

Applications will be received between November and January each year, except for 2017 and 2018. Applications will be reviewed by the JAC and short-listed applicants will be invited for interview (in person or via a video or audio link) during March and/or April. Offer letters will be issued by May for entry into the programme in October of the same year.

**PROGRAMME AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Educational aims of the programme**

The Joint PhD Programme aims to support the mission of the partner institutions to improve global health by developing research students who are:

- (i) competent independent researchers,
- (ii) with expertise in core research concepts, methods and skills, and
- (iii) have key transferable skills
- (iv) who can work effectively within international collaborative groups

The Partner Universities envisage that the research student’s work will consolidate an area of collaboration between LSHTM and NU researchers.

**Intended learning outcomes**

By the end of the programme, students will usually be expected to achieve the following learning outcomes – drawing on material taught across different elements and assessed in a variety of ways:

<u><b>Educational aim</b></u>	<u><b>Learning outcomes</b></u>	<u><b>Assessment Method(s)</b></u>
To enable students to develop as competent independent researchers, i.e. Students should be competent to effectively plan and undertake independent research.	By the end of the PhD programme students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate the acquisition &amp; development of new knowledge through the framing and implementation of original research;</li> <li>• critically evaluate the research literature in a chosen field in terms of concepts, methods and research practice;</li> <li>• develop and present an original research proposal for peer review; this is assessed at the upgrading stage;</li> <li>• produce a thesis representing the student’s independent, original research.</li> </ul>	Submission of a research thesis not exceeding 100,000 words, including tables, figures and footnotes, and its defence in an oral examination
To enable students to develop a range of key transferable skills. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional development is the learning and development undertaken by an individual that contributes to their being effective in their profession. This includes a wide range of both knowledge and skills.</li> <li>• A wide range of activities can contribute to continuing</li> </ul>	By the end of the PhD programme students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search and critically review literature;</li> <li>• describe and apply arrangements for obtaining research ethics approvals, where these are required;</li> <li>• demonstrate awareness of the importance of oral communication skills;</li> <li>• explain the importance of equality and diversity</li> </ul>	Submission of a research thesis not exceeding 100,000 words, including tables, figures and footnotes, and its defence in an oral examination

professional development. Professional development is normally supported by mentoring, a process in which guidance is provided by a more experienced person.

- training;
- demonstrate awareness of the importance of written communication skills, for example, through publications and grant applications;
  - utilise information technology and computing resources;
  - demonstrate data collection techniques;
  - demonstrate awareness of the need for personal security on fieldwork where applicable;
  - organise and negotiate research collaborations;
  - manage projects and their own time effectively.
  - apply safe laboratory working practice (for lab-based students)
  - undertake risk assessment of work with biological agents (for lab-based students)

*Note that there can be substantial differences between PhDs undertaken in different subject areas, and not every learning outcome described above may be applicable to every PhD.*

### **Distinctive features of the programme**

The mission of the Partner Universities is to improve global health through the pursuit of excellence in research, postgraduate education, advanced training and consultancy in international public health and tropical medicine. The Partner Universities believe that this mission is best achieved through international collaboration. By working together for a common purpose, whilst valuing differences, they can draw on a wider range of human and technical resources to tackle the major global health issues.

Through working with researchers in the UK and Japan and studying within a community of global researchers, research students will have opportunities to appreciate and celebrate the diversity of cultures and approaches to improving global health. Normally, research students will spend at least six months at each of the Partner Universities. The timing, and possible subdivision, of these periods of residence will be aligned to the needs of the individual research degree study. There will also be opportunities for research students to undertake research in resource-poor countries around the world.

## **LEARNING TIME**

### **Programme structure and requirements**

The PhD Programme is training for research that involves completion of an independent piece of original research. The research will be carried out under the guidance of supervisors from both Partner Universities, with additional support provided by members of an Advisory Board.

Students will have at least one named supervisor from each Partner University. A Lead Supervisor will be identified, which will determine the Lead University for the research student.

Research students will be registered directly for the Joint PhD award, without a preliminary period of registration for the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree. The supervisors will prepare progress reports every six months and they will submit these to the JAC. A Qualifying Examination (QE) Panel will review the progress of each research student after 7-11 months of full-time registration (pro rata for part-time registration). Continuation in the Joint PhD programme will be allowed only if the QE Panel is satisfied that the research study and the research student's progress are sufficiently advanced to indicate that the PhD standard will be reached within the permitted period of registration.

### **Mode and duration of study**

Research students will be registered at both Partner Universities in early October, enabling them to access the resources of both universities, subject to the relevant regulations, policies and procedures at each university.

The minimum, normal and maximum periods of registration for the Joint PhD programme will be as set out below. If a research student transfers from full-time to part-time registration, or vice versa, the remaining period of registration will be calculated pro rata.

	Minimum	Normal	Maximum
Full-time	24 months	36 months	48 months
Part-time	36 months	54 months	72 months

Research students will conduct their studies in places approved by the Lead University; normally at the Lead University, the Co-University and one or more approved research site(s).

### **Estimated number of study hours**

It is expected that full-time students will spend on average 40 hours a week on their studies. This time includes private (self-directed) study and meetings with supervisors. Students who apply for part-time study are expected to be available to study for at least two days per week.

## **ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

### **PhD Research Thesis**

Students complete a written research thesis for the PhD degree. The thesis must consist of the candidate's own account of their investigations and indicate how these advance the field of study. It must form a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality, shown by the discovery of new facts and/or the exercise of independent critical power. It must be an integrated whole and present a coherent argument. It must give a critical assessment of the relevant literature, describe the method of research and its findings, and include a discussion of those findings. It must indicate in what respects they appear to the candidate to advance the study/knowledge of the subject. Finally, it must be written in English with satisfactory literary presentation, include a full reference list, and not exceed 100,000 words in length.

### **Marking of PhD Thesis**

Research students must satisfy the criteria for the award of PhD in both the United Kingdom (UK) and Japan. The threshold (minimum) standards for the award of a doctoral degree in the UK and Japan are given under 'Award Details' above.

Research students will demonstrate that they meet these criteria by the following means:

- Submission of a research thesis for examination. The thesis must not exceed 100,000 words.
- Participation in an oral examination (viva voce) by a minimum of two examiners who have read the thesis.

Examiners will be appointed by the JAC, in accordance with the assessment regulations for the Joint PhD Programme, which are published on the LSHTM web site. The conduct of the examination will be governed by The Assessment Handbook and Guidance for Examiners of LSHTM. Requirements for the physical presentation of the thesis will be published on the LSHTM web site

### **Examination and award of degree**

All PhD students are required to attend and be assessed through an oral examination (viva). At the end of the oral examination students are normally told the outcome informally. Once the examiners have reported that the candidate has satisfied them in the examination for the PhD degree students will be informed officially of the result.

Final PhD results are not given until a hard copy of the final thesis (including any revisions) has been received. The thesis of successful candidates will be published online, but a student may request that access is restricted for a maximum of two years.

### **Optional Taught Programme**

The PhD is assessed solely on the thesis submitted and there is no formal taught component to the Programme. However, additional taught course training that is *not* formally assessed as part of the PhD are undertaken as follows:

- PhD students attend sessions on the Transferable Skills Programme. This Programme is designed specifically for research degree students. Completion of a research ethics session and equality and diversity training, either in person or online, are requirements. Sessions on project management and time management are highly recommended for all students. Other sessions which may be attended on a voluntary basis include: Effective Information Skills for Researchers; Bibliographic Referencing; Systematic Literature Reviews; Writing for Grants; Writing for Publication; Oral Presentations; Safety and Risk Assessment; Intellectual Property; Organising and Negotiating Research Collaborations; Career Planning; and Applications and Interviews. Other sessions may also be available, including access to training at partner institutions.
- Students may undertake training via the Talent and Educational Development programme that is deemed to be relevant to their programme of research.
- Students may undertake study modules offered by either institution that provide advanced training relevant to their research.