



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2026-27
Module Code	2039
Module Title	Foundations in Reproductive Health
Module Organiser(s)	Dr Isabelle Lange and Dr Louise Tina Day
Faculty	Epidemiology & Population Health
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS: 15 ECTS: 7.5
Term of Delivery	Term 1
Mode of Delivery	For 2026-27 this module will be delivered by predominantly face-to-face teaching modes. Where specific teaching methods (lectures, seminars, discussion groups) are noted in this module specification these will be delivered by predominantly face-to-face sessions. There will be a combination of live and interactive activities (synchronous learning) as well as recorded or self-directed study (asynchronous learning)
Mode of Study	Full-time
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	None
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (indicative number of students)	30-35 (numbers may be capped due to limitations in facilities or staffing)
Target Audience	This module is compulsory for students on the MSc Reproductive & Sexual Health Research
Module Description	This module seeks to develop foundational knowledge, skills and attitudes for reproductive health research. The module places a focus on medical, social, political and gender perspectives of reproductive health. Interventions, programmes, measurement methods of reproductive health burdens are explored. Students will develop skills to access



	information and critically appraise reproductive health literature
Duration	10 weeks at 2-3 half days per week
Timetabling slot	Term 1
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	September 2024

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
MSc Reproductive & Sexual Health Research	Compulsory

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: Give students an understanding of the main themes in reproductive health, and to enable students to find and interpret information sources relevant to reproductive health.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to: - Identify different medical, social, political, historical and gender perspectives in which reproductive health is constructed, and understand how these perspectives influence research and practice - Define and use demographic measures relating to fertility - Appraise epidemiological methods used in reproductive health research - Outline the rationale and approaches used for reproductive health interventions, programmes and policies through the lifecycle, including challenges related to social context - Critically assess the reproductive health literature

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The module is expected to cover the following topics: - Issues related to researching reproductive health - Reproductive health through the life-cycle (pre-conception, pregnancy & childbirth, adolescence, STIs, reproductive cancers) - Informed reproductive choices (contraception and induced abortion, safe childbirth)

Session Content

- Socio-cultural and gender perspectives and reproductive rights
- Services, programmes and policies for reproductive health
- Basic epidemiological and demographic methods related to fertility measurement

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Contact time	70	46
Directed self-study	25	17
Self-directed learning	25	17
Assessment, review and revision	30	20
Total	150	100

Student contact time refers to the tutor-mediated time allocated to teaching, provision of guidance and feedback to students. This time includes activities that take place in face-to-face contexts such as lectures, seminars, demonstrations, tutorials, supervised laboratory workshops, practical classes, project supervision as well as where tutors are available for one-to-one discussions and interaction by email.

The division of notional learning hours listed above is indicative and is designed to inform students as to the relative split between interactive and self-directed study.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The FRH module is built on 25 classes that feature different subjects and approaches in reproductive health, including sessions on demographic methods, literature searching and how to develop and apply conceptual frameworks in research. This module seeks to inform students about activities and scholarship in reproductive health in the research, programmatic and advocacy realms. In advance of each class, students engage with (read and/or watch) asynchronous material prepared for them, such as literature, online resources, short films, pre-recorded lectures etc. This material and related instructions will be made available six days before the synchronous contact session dedicated to that topic. Two to three times a week, students and facilitators will come together for an interactive class (lasting up to 3 hours) which may consist of live lectures Q&A sessions to discuss the material, mini lectures, practicals and groupwork. Students are asked to present groupwork on their research of major actor-institutions in reproductive health in the middle of the term, giving practice in synthesis skills and critical thinking about the role of organisations in the global health landscape. In the last week of term 1, the summative assessment is an annotated bibliography which provides student with the opportunity to search and critically

Teaching and Learning Strategy

appraise the literature on an assigned reproductive health topic. Students receive written feedback towards the start of Term 2.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

The assessment for this module has been designed to measure student learning against the module intended learning outcomes (ILOs) as listed above. The summative assessment is an annotated bibliography on an assigned reproductive health topic, submitted in the last week of Term 1 by uploading to the Moodle assessment point. It is a requirement of the RSHR MSc that the FRH summative assessment of this compulsory module must be passed, and the mark will contribute to the overall award GPA.

Summative Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Guided structured annotated bibliography report	max 3000 words	100	1 – 5

Resitting assessment

Resits will accord with [Chapter 8a](#) of the LSHTM Academic Manual

For resits, students will be offered the opportunity to revise and resubmit their original submission on the first Tuesday of Week 1 of Term 3.

Resources

Indicative reading list

Barot S, Cohen SA. The Global Gag Rule and Fights over Funding UNFPA: The Issues That Won't Go Away. *Guttmacher Policy Review*; 18(2):27-33

Bongaarts J, Cleland J, Townsend J, Bertrand J, Das Gupta M. Explaining the neglect of family planning programmes since the mid-1990s. In: *Family Planning Programs for the 21st Century*. New York: Population Council. Pages 3-21 [Chapter 1]. 2012

Cleland J, Conde-Agudelo A, Peterson H, et al. Contraception and health. *Lancet* 2012;380:149-56

Collumbien M., et al. Social science methods for research on sexual and reproductive health. World Health Organization. 2012. (Chapter 1 & 2)

Gilby, L., Koivusalo, M. and Atkins, S., 2021. Global health without sexual and reproductive health and rights? Analysis of United Nations documents and country statements, 2014–2019. *BMJ Global Health*, 6(3), p.e004659.

Graham W, Woodd S, Byass P, et al. Diversity and divergence: the dynamic burden of poor maternal health. *The Lancet* 2016; 388(10056): 2164-75.

Riley T, Sully E, Ahmed Z, Biddlecom A. Estimates of the Potential Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Sexual and Reproductive Health In Low- and Middle-Income Countries. *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 2020, **46**:73-76.
https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/article_files/4607320.pdf

Souza JP, Tuncalp O, Vogel JP, Bohren M, Widmer M, Oladapo OT, Say L, Gulmezoglu AM, Temmerman M. (2014) Obstetric transition: the pathway towards ending preventable maternal deaths *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology* Volume 121, Issue Supplement s1.

Storeng KT, Béhague DP. "Guilty until proven innocent": the contested use of maternal mortality indicators in global health. *Critical Public Health*. 2017 Mar 15;27(2):163-76.

Wilkinson, J., et al. "Reproductive medicine: still more ART than science?." *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology* 126.2 (2019): 138-141.



Other resources

Module information, including timetables, session notes, practical instructions and key literature for each session will be made available via the Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle).

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to lecture notes and copies of the slides used during the lecture prior to the lecture (in pdf format). All lectures are recorded and made available on Moodle as quickly as possible. 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 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](#).