PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification	2027-28
Programme Title	Doctorate of Public Health
Programme Director	Mitzy Gafos, Joanna Schellenberg and Isolde Birdthistle
Awarding Body	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculty	Element 1 is based in the Faculty of Public Health & Policy. DrPH students may be registered in any faculty.
Length of Programme (years)	DrPH Full-time: min 3 years, max 4 years (elements 1, 2 & 3) DrPH Part-time: min 4 years, max 8 years (elements 1, 2 & 3)
Entry Routes	DrPH
Exit Routes	DrPH, PGDip, PGCert or MPhil: each student will retain only the highest level award achieved.
Award Titles	Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) PGCert in Public Health Policy, Leadership and Management (60 credits) PGDip in Public Health Policy, Leadership and Management (120 credits) MPhil in Public Health
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	N/A
Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points	No relevant QAA benchmark for this Programme

Level of programme within the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	Level 8 (Doctoral degree) Level 7 (Masters level) For further information about Level 7 and 8 qualifications in England, please see https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/qualifications-frameworks
Total Credits	**CATS: 180** **ECTS: 90**
Mode of Delivery	The DrPH programme includes two taught components in the first term. To ensure flexibility for student engagement, we plan to continue with online delivery of these modules during the 2027/28 academic year.
Mode and Period of Study	Full-time Registration: minimum 3 years, maximum 4 years Part-time Registration: minimum 4 years, maximum 8 years Part-time students can choose between studying both of the taught modules that comprise element 1 in their first year, or studying one module in year 1 and the other in year 2.
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in September
Language of Study	English
Re-sit Policy	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-08a.pdf For students who are required to re-sit a module assessment, the normal resubmission period is during May with submission expected by the 1st June.
Extenuating Circumstances Policy (Element 1 only)	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-07.pdf
Interruption of Studies & Extensions Policies (all Elements)	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-07.pdf https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/research-degrees-extensions-policy-and-procedure.pdf
Programme Description	The DrPH is a doctoral level qualification intended for leaders and future leaders in public health. It consists of 3 elements. Element 1, the **Taught Course component**, consists of two compulsory modules, taught in term 1: Evidence Based

	Public Health Policy & Practice; and Understanding Leadership, Management & Organisations. Assessment of each is based on graded written assignments. Students must pass Element 1 before undertaking Elements 2 or 3. Element 2, **Research Study I:** an organisational and/or policy analysis (**OPA**) This gives the opportunity to observe closely the workings of a public health organisation or a policy community, and from this develop a better understanding of how to design and develop effective public health organisations and/or shape public health policy. The OPA usually involves 3–6 months' fieldwork observing and analysing operations at a host organisation or using the host organisation as a base from which to explore the dynamics of a number of organisations involved in shaping policy on a particular aspect of public health. It is assessed on the basis of a written report not exceeding 15,000 words. The OPA is assessed internally. Element 3, **Research Study II:** a piece of research on any subject related to public health (**thesis**) The purpose is to learn about the role of research in public health practice by undertaking a piece of high-quality public health-relevant research. Before commencing the research there is a DrPH Review, with a written report (7,500 words), a seminar and an assessment panel. This provides feedback to improve the research, and identifies any students who may choose to, or be better suited to, exit with a Postgraduate Certificate (Taught Modules) or Postgraduate Diploma (Taught Modules plus RSI). The thesis topic can be from any discipline or subject area and the research must be original and make a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the chosen subject. The student can choose to relate it to their OPA or not. The thesis has a 60,000 word limit. The research thesis is formally examined at an oral examination (*viva*). Students may opt to complete Research Study II before Research Study I. Should they opt not to complete Research Study I, they may exit the programme with an MPhil (Taught

	Modules plus RSII) upon successful completion of the oral examination (*viva*). Elements 2 and 3, Research Studies I and II, are undertaken after the submission of the assessed assignments for Element 1. They cannot be formally assessed until Element 1 has been successfully passed.
Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year)	September 1996
Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year)	August 2026

2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

Educational aims of the programme
The programme aims are to equip graduates with the knowledge and experience to deal with the particular challenges of understanding, producing and using scientific knowledge in order to achieve public health gains, as well as the analytical and practical skills required by managers and leaders in public health. The rigour and volume of the total programme of work is at doctoral level, and appropriate to the personal development of public health professionals.

Programme Learning Outcomes
DrPH *Taught modules, Research Studies I and II* The award of DrPH (Level 8): is based on evidence of the student's demonstration of facility in four distinct areas: 1. The systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge in Public Health Policy, Leadership and Management; 2. The ability to conceptualise, design and implement projects 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; 3. A detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry; and 4. The creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research or other advanced scholarship.

PGDip *Taught modules (60 credits) and Research Study I (60 credits)* The award of PGDip in Public Health Policy, Leadership and Management (Level 7): is based on evidence of the student's demonstration of facility in: The systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge in Public Health Policy, Leadership and Management and the satisfactory completion of a policy and/or organisationally focused piece of independent, applied research (RSI).
PGCert *Taught modules (60 credits)* The award of PGCert in Public Health Policy, Leadership and Management (Level 7): is based on evidence of the student's demonstration of facility in: The systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge in Public Health Policy, Leadership and Management.
MPhil *Taught modules (60 credits) and Research Study II* The award of MPhil in Public Health Policy, Leadership and Management (Level 7): is based on evidence of the student's demonstration of facility in: The systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge in Public Health Policy, Leadership and Management and the satisfactory completion of a piece of high-quality original public health-relevant research making a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the chosen subject (RSII).

3. Programme Structure and features, modules, credit assignment and award requirements:

Element	Year of Study (Full Time)	Module Code	Module Title	Module Type (compulsory or recommended)	Credits (CATS)
1	Year 1	5001	Understanding Leadership, Management & Organisations	Compulsory	30
		5002	Evidence Based Public Health Policy & Practice	Compulsory	30
2	Year 1 and 2	5003	Public Health Research Study I	N/A	60

			(RSI): Organisation and/or Policy Analysis		
3	Year 3-4	N/A	Public Health Research Study II (RSII). (individually agreed study)	N/A	N/A
4		N/A	Individually negotiated researcher development/ training activities and complementary studies	N/A	N/A

4. Entry Requirements

Criteria for admission
Applicants for DrPH study should have at least one of the following: • an upper second-class Honours degree of a UK university, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard, in a subject appropriate to that of the course of study to be followed; or • a registrable qualification appropriate to the course of study to be followed, in medicine, dentistry or veterinary studies; or • a Masters degree in a subject appropriate to the course of study to be followed; or • a professional qualification obtained by written examination and approved by LSHTM as an appropriate entrance qualification for the degree in question. In addition, the DrPH Programme requires applicants to have experience of leadership and management and experience of work in the public health field. Note that these are minimum entry requirements, and possession of these does not guarantee a place.

English language entry requirements
Band B It is essential that all students have a good command of the English language to benefit from their studies at the LSHTM. As part of the application process, applicants are required to demonstrate how they meet the LSHTM's minimum English language requirements. This is particularly important for applicants requiring a Student Visa, as the UK Home Office requires every student from outside the UK and Ireland to show evidence of a minimum level of English language ability (called CEFR B2 level), in order for a Student Visa to be issued for entry to the UK. Additionally, the LSHTM asks applicants to have minimum English language proficiency levels that are necessary for our academic programmes. These levels are higher than the CEFR B2 minimum level. The academic English language requirements for each of the LSHTM's programmes are categorised into one of three profiles A, B or C. For information on these three profiles, please refer to the LSHTM English Language Requirement Policy: https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/english_language_requirements_policy.pdf

Financial requirements
Applicants 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 Programme, in September. The Programme is unable to provide financial assistance to any students whose funds prove to be inadequate at any stage during the programme. 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.

Students with disabilities
The School welcomes 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 School aims 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 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 School understand individual needs and help ensure that obstacles are minimised throughout the application and admission process. Once registered, the School will endeavour to make reasonable adjustments and, within resource constraints, provide support to students with disabilities. The Student Support Services can answer queries and provide confidential advice at any stage in the Doctoral programme. The School will comply with the commitments set out above, in addition to any local legal obligations which affect how they must treat students with disabilities.