PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Programme Title	PhD by Prior Publication
Academic Year	2027-28
Cohort Entry Points	Each September, January and April
Programme Director	Catherine Goodman
Awarding Body	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculty	All Faculties
Length of Programme	Between 6 and 18 months, part-time only
Mode of Study	The PhD by Prior Publication is only available part-time.
Period of Registration	Minimum registration period: 6 months part-time Normal registration period: 12 months part-time Maximum registration period: 18 months part-time
Language of Study	English
Award Titles	PhD
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	N/A
Relevant 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) For further information about Level 8 qualifications in England, please see https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/qualifications-frameworks

Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year)	September 2018
Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year)	July 2026

2. Programme Description, Aims & Learning Outcomes

Programme Description	Only available to LSHTM staff, this PhD is based on already published works and an analytical commentary

Programme aims

The PhD by Prior Publication aims to enable students to demonstrate that they have expertise in core research concepts, methods and skills, and that they have made an original contribution to a defined field of knowledge.

Learning outcomes

The award of PhD (Level 8) is based on evidence of the student's proven ability 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, application 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.

3. Programme structure, features and award requirements

Programme structure and requirements
The PhD by Prior Publication involves creating a portfolio of peer-reviewed original publications accompanied by an analytic commentary of <15,000 words. This portfolio should be planned with the guidance of a supervisory team with additional support provided by members of an advisory committee as required. Students will be registered directly for the PhD award, without a preliminary period of registration for the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree. Students for the PhD by Prior Publication are required to report their progress on the Research Degree Records (RDR) system every two months, consistent with their part-time registration.
Estimated number of study hours It is expected that part-time students will spend on average 17.5 hours a week (or 0.5 full time equivalent; FTE) on their PhD. This time includes private (self-directed) study and meetings with supervisors.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS
Portfolio A PhD by Prior Publication is a portfolio that should include three elements: (a) A 15,000 words (maximum) analytic commentary outlining: • the overarching objective(s) of the research presented in the publications contained in the portfolio • a coherent argument linking these publications • the original contribution to knowledge that the publications have made in a defined area of research, with reference to existing literature The analytic commentary must consist of the student's own account of the investigations described in the publications and indicate how these advance the field of study. It must demonstrate a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality, shown by the discovery of new knowledge 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 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 15,000 words in length. (b) A minimum of four interconnected, peer-reviewed, published original research publications written in English. Publications should be in the public domain and

traceable in bibliographic or other public databases. For multi-authored publications, the student is expected to be the first author or to clearly define the importance of their academic contribution.

(c) A statement describing the student's contribution to each paper and underlying research. This statement should be signed by the student and counter-signed by the lead co-author and/or Principal Investigator.

Assessment of the portfolio

Students must satisfy the criteria for the award of PhD in the United Kingdom (UK). The threshold (minimum) standards for the award of a doctoral degree in the UK are given under 'Award Details' above. Students will demonstrate that they meet these criteria by the following means:

- Submission of a portfolio of research for examination. The portfolio must not exceed 100,000 words (including a maximum of 15,000 words for the analytic commentary).

- Participation in an oral examination (viva voce) by a minimum of two examiners who have read the portfolio.

The conduct of the examination will be governed by the Doctoral Degree Examination Guidance.

4. Entry requirements

Entry Requirements
Applicants for a PhD by Prior Publication should: • Be staff members of the LSHTM and have successfully completed any probation requirements • Be established researchers with a series of significant research publications, whether developed at the LSHTM or elsewhere • Have either (a) an upper second-class Honours degree from 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 (b) a registrable qualification appropriate to the course of study to be followed, in medicine, dentistry or veterinary studies; or (c) a Masters' degree in a subject appropriate to the course of study to be followed; or (d) a professional qualification obtained by written examination and approved by LSHTM as an appropriate entrance qualification for the degree.

Submitting a case for registration

Applicants for a PhD by Prior Publication should submit an application to study for a PhD at the LSHTM via the online registration portal. Instead of the proposal, they should submit the following documents for review by a Panel by the deadline listed on the website:

- Details of the proposed portfolio of publications, accompanied by a statement describing the applicant's contribution to each paper, signed by the applicant and counter-signed by the lead co-author and/or Principal Investigator.

- A 1000-word synopsis of the proposed analytic commentary summarising how it will contextualise the selected papers, and critically analyse the methodologies employed and the findings presented (given the current state of the art). The work's impact on the field and possible future directions should also be outlined.

- The applicant will give a seminar, followed by an interview by the Panel.

Acceptance onto the PhD by Prior Publication programme does not predetermine the outcome of the final viva examination.

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