LSHTM-NU Joint PhD Programme for Global Health

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Programme Title	PhD
Academic Year	2027-28
Cohort Entry Points	Each September. See website for date of application
Programme Director	Kazuyo Machiyama
Awarding Body	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Nagasaki University (NU)
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the School of Tropical Medicine and Global Health (TMGH), NU
Faculty	All Faculties at LSHTM and The School of Tropical Medicine & Global Health at NU
Length of Programme	2-4 years (full time)
Mode of Study	Available full-time only.
Period of Registration	Minimum registration period: 2 years full-time Maximum registration period: 4 years full-time
Language of Study	English
Entry Requirements	Please refer to the specific programme entry requirements here.
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)	The award offered under the programme is at 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 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.
Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year)	July 2026

2. Programme Description, Aims & Learning Outcomes

Programme Description	A research-based doctoral degree The PhD is assessed solely on the thesis submitted and the viva. There is no formal taught component to the Programme. However, additional training that is *not* formally assessed as part of the PhD can be undertaken to enhance a student's transferable and technical skills.

Programme aims

The PhD 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
PhDs are very variable: they may be desk-based, or include laboratory work or field work, but there are some common elements. The Partner Universities envisage that the doctoral student's work will consolidate an area of collaboration between LSHTM and Nagasaki University researchers. The Joint PhD Programme 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 doctoral student. Students will be in contact with their supervisor(s) at least once a month. Students will be registered at both Partner Universities and are expected to be based at their Lead University. If this is London, they are also expected to attend the Induction and Transferable Skills programme. Further transferable skills and other training opportunities are offered throughout the programme, including the opportunity to take relevant modules from LSHTM masters' programmes to cover particular skills. Student's whose lead university is Nagasaki are also encouraged to attend the LSHTM Transferable Skills programme and other relevant LSHTM training opportunities. Students are expected to spend a minimum of 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 doctoral degree study. Doctoral students will be registered directly for the Joint PhD award, without a preliminary period of registration for the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree. A Qualifying Examination (QE), should take place after 7-11 months of registration. All QE requirements (including any resubmissions) must be completed by 18 months (maximum). The QE consists of a written report (max 7,500 words), an open seminar, and a closed meeting with an assessment panel. The QE provides students with feedback to improve the design of their research and identifies students who are struggling with progress and unlikely to complete a PhD successfully. The final thesis should be submitted by 4 years (full-time).

Estimated number of study hours

Students will be expected to spend on average 35 hours a week on the PhD. This time includes private (self-directed) study and meetings with supervisors.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

PhD

The PhD thesis will be <100,000 words and can be a traditional "book-style" or "research paper style" or a combination. The option to include research papers means that sections that might otherwise be chapters can be written as stand-alone research papers and incorporated in that way.

Assessment

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 are given under 'Learning outcomes' above.

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

- Submission of a thesis

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

The conduct of the examination will be governed by the Doctoral Degree Examination Guidance. Requirements for the presentation of the thesis will be published on the LSHTM web site.

4. Entry requirements

Entry Requirements

Applicants 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 the University of London as an appropriate entrance qualification for the degree in question.
  and
- evidence of aptitude for research.

Applicants who do not fully meet the academic requirements, but who have relevant professional experience, may still be eligible for admission.

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, Nagasaki University application and admission fees, living expenses and any travel and project costs for the duration of their studies. Invoices for LSHTM tuition fees are raised annually and payment must be paid at the start of each year of the PhD Programme, in October. Invoice for Nagasaki tuition fees are raised per semester and payment must be paid in October and April. The Joint 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.

Fee payments and related matters will be governed by the Tuition Fee Policy of the relevant university. See website for further details.

Students with disabilities

The Partner Universities 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 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 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 Partner Universities 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, provide support to students with disabilities. LSHTM Student Support Services can answer queries and provide confidential advice at any stage in the Joint PhD 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.