



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2026-27
Module Code	3146
Module Title	Basic Parasitology
Module Organiser(s)	Claire Rogers
Faculty	Infectious & Tropical Diseases
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS: 15 ECTS: 7.5
Term of Delivery	Term 2
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 self-directed study (asynchronous learning), plus face-to-face laboratory classes.
Mode of Study	Full-time
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	There are no formal prerequisites for this module and in particular no prior knowledge of parasitology is expected. In practice, most students choosing this module have some prior clinical laboratory experience but while useful this is not essential.
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Indicative number of students)	15-20 (numbers may be capped due to limitations in facilities or staffing)
Target Audience	This module is designed for those with little or no knowledge of parasitic diseases.
Module Description	This is a practical module that introduces parasitology to students providing an overview of the biology, epidemiology, clinical significance and diagnosis of major human parasites.



	Emphasis is given to practical skills in microscopy and students learn to recognise the parasites in clinical samples.
Duration	5 weeks at 2.5 days per week
Timetabling slot	Slot D1
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	July 2025

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
MSc Medical Microbiology	Recommended

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: provide students with basic knowledge of the major human parasite diseases, concentrating on diagnosis.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to: 1. Demonstrate knowledge of the appearances, life cycles and modes of transmission of the major human helminth and protozoan parasites ; 2. Diagnose microscopically those parasitic diseases for which this technique is appropriate; 3. Demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of the medical importance and epidemiology of parasitic diseases; 4. Demonstrate more detailed knowledge and understanding of selected parasitic diseases.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The module is expected to cover the following topics: - Life-cycles, modes of transmission and appearance of the causative agents of the major parasitic infections including: ➤ Malaria ➤ Leishmaniasis



Session Content

- Trypanosomiasis
- Amoebiasis
- Giardiasis
- Coccidial and Opportunistic parasitic infections by, e.g. *Toxoplasma*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Pneumocystis* and Microsporidial species
- Soil transmitted helminths
- Schistosomiasis
- Filariasis
- Practical skills of microscopical diagnosis of blood, faecal and tissue parasites
- Approaches to Parasite Diagnosis, concentrating on those appropriate in low income countries
- A brief introduction to Medical Entomology and to the organisation of a diagnostic laboratory
- In addition students will, in small groups, research a parasitological topic in depth, prepare a poster and discuss it with the Module Organiser

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Contact time	32	21.33
Directed self-study	60	40
Self-directed learning	44	29.33
Assessment, review and revision	14	9.33
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

Online Lectures, and on-campus laboratory practicals and small group work.

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. Formative assessment methods may be used to measure students' progress. The grade for summative assessment(s) only will go towards the overall award GPA.

The practical and poster assessments for this module will be on-campus at LSHTM.

The assessment will consist of two components:

- Evaluation of the group poster presentation (which will result in a group grade) weighted 40%.
- A practical test weighted 60%.

The grades for each assessment will be combined to give an overall GPA.

Resit/deferred/new attempts - The tasks will be an essay covering the same points as the poster (but in less depth) and a practical exam in the same format as the original.

Summative Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Group Presentation	Poster presentation	40	4
Practical	Spots test – 1 hour	60	1-3

Resitting assessment

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

For individual students resitting a group assessment there will be an approved alternative assessment as detailed below.



Assessment being replaced	Approved Alternative Assessment Type	Approved Alternative Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)
Group Presentation	Coursework	The tasks will be an essay covering the same points as the poster (but in less depth) <i>The practical exam will be the same format as the original</i>

Resources

n/a

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle gives students access to lecture notes and copies of the slides used during the lecture. Where appropriate, lectures are recorded and made available on Moodle. All materials posted on Moodle, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible.

LSHTM Moodle is accessible to the widest possible audience, regardless of specific needs or disabilities. More detail can be found in the [Moodle Accessibility Statement](#) which can also be found within the footer of the Moodle pages. All students have access to "SensusAccess" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

Student Support Services can arrange learning or assessment adjustments for students where needed. Details and how to request support can be found on the [LSHTM Disability Support pages](#).