



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2026-27
Module Code	3141
Module Title	Vector Sampling, Identification & Incrimination
Module Organiser(s)	Cheryl Whitehorn and Michael Delves
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 predominantly face to face but some lectures by external staff may be delivered online. Where specific teaching methods (lectures, seminars, discussion groups) are noted in this module specification these will be delivered as 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 (but to gain full benefit from this module, a basic prior knowledge of, and an interest in, vectors is recommended; attendance of Module 3122 is advantageous)
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap	25
Target Audience	This module is intended for any student interested in vector-borne diseases; most likely are entomologists, medical parasitologists and those studying control of tropical diseases.



Module Description	This module is predominately laboratory-based with the ratio of contact time in practicals: lectures roughly 2:1. The practical sessions are an important point for extensive personal interaction with teaching staff both in terms of practical skills as well as to support for the theoretical content of the lectures. Students will gain hands-on experience in preparing specimens for identification, use of identification keys, dissection, bloodmeal analysis and the use of qPCR. A one-day visit is made to the research facilities and laboratories of the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. There is also a field trip for the collection of overwintering mosquitoes at Rainham Marshes NNR.
Duration	5 weeks at 2.5 days per week
Timetabling slot	Slot C1
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	June 2025

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	Status
MSc Control of Infectious Diseases	Recommended
MSc Medical Parasitology & Entomology	Recommended

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: provide students with a practical understanding of the methods for sampling, identification and vector incrimination applicable to the most important arthropod vectors and snail intermediate hosts.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to: 1. Prepare insect specimens for identification. 2. Understand how to accurately identify vectors of major diseases. 3. Understand the sampling methods for major groups of vectors. 4. Understand techniques for species identification of vector complexes. 5. Understand the principles and methods of vector incrimination.



Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
The module is expected to cover the following topics: • Introduction to both traditional and modern laboratory techniques, including morphological keys, xeno-monitoring, bloodmeal analysis and qPCR. • Species complexes in relation to biology and control. • Biology and identification of Diptera • Sampling and identification of mosquitoes; phlebotomine sandflies; ticks and snails. • Current research undertaken by the Natural History Museum in forensic entomology and schistosomiasis. • Vector incrimination.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Contact time	60	40
Directed self-study	20	13
Self-directed learning	30	20
Assessment, review and revision	40	27
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. Student contact time also includes tutor-mediated activities that take place in online environments, which may be synchronous (using real-time digital tools such as Zoom) or asynchronous (using digital tools such as tutor-moderated discussion forums or blogs often delivered through the School's virtual learning environment, Moodle).



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

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The module aims to provide students with the basic knowledge of how to collect, preserve, process and identify the insects, ticks and snails of medical importance. In addition, the module aims to demonstrate methods for the incrimination of insects as potential vectors of human pathogens. Students will be taught through a series of lectures and practical classes and will be provided with links to scientific papers and other online resources that follow up the theoretical information presented in lectures. Students will be given “hands on” experience of experimental work as carried out in LSHTM laboratories. In addition, students will have the opportunity to see “behind the scenes” research work undertaken at the Natural History Museum (NHM), work which underlines the importance and relevance of the methods taught in this module.

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 assessment for this module consists of a practical paper and a short answer paper, both will be held on-campus at LSHTM.

50% practical assessment, 50% short answer assessment

Practical assessment lasts one hour with 6 elements (10 minutes per element) testing knowledge acquired from practical sessions. Short answer assessment lasts one hour with 6 questions on content obtained from both lectures and practicals. For both assessments, students can answer the questions in any order and work through the paper at their own pace (while adhering to the 60-minute timeframe). In the short answer assessment, the use of bullet points and drawings are acceptable.



Summative Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Timed Test Practical paper	60 minutes	50	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Timed Test Short answer paper	60 minutes	50	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Resitting assessment

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

The Resit assessment will be of the same assessment type as the first attempt (see previous table).

Resources

Indicative reading list

- 3122/3141 Entomology Handbook – given to all students who attend this Module (having not previously taken Module 3122). Can be collected from Cheryl Whitehorn (Rm 373) before the end of Term 1
- Medical Entomology for Students 5th Edition (2012) M. Service. Cambridge University Press – available from the library.

Other resources

- Preparation of Material: A Guide to the Preparation of Medically Important Insects and Acarines for Identification and Preservation - given to all students who attend this Module in first week of study.
- Introduction to the families of British Diptera (2015)* Part 1: Naming of the Parts and Glossary – given to all students in first week of study.
- Introduction to the families of British Diptera (2015)* Part 2: Key to Families – given to all students in first week of study.
- Introduction to the families of British Diptera (2015)* Part 3: Description of Families (available as a pdf on Moodle for all students).

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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](#).