PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Programme Title	MSc Reproductive & Sexual Health Research
Academic Year	2027-28
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in September
Programme Director	Melissa Palmer
Awarding Body	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculty	Epidemiology and Population Health
Length of Programme	Full time Taught Masters programmes: 12 months Part time/split study Taught Masters programmes: 24 months
Mode of Delivery	Intensive
Maximum period of registration	Full-time 3 years/Part-time 5 years
Language of Study	English
Entry Requirements	Please refer to the specific programme entry requirements here
Award Titles	Master of Reproductive & Sexual Health Research Exit Awards: Postgraduate Diploma in Reproductive & Sexual Health Research (120 credits) Postgraduate Certificate in Reproductive & Sexual Health Research (60 credits)
Total Credits	**CATS:** 180 **ECTS:** 90
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None

Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points	Consistent with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications at Masters level (Level 7)
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Level (FHEQ)	Level 7
Re-sit Policy	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-08a.pdf
Extenuating Circumstances Policy	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-07.pdf
Date of Introduction of Programme	1998 The programme in its current form was validated in 2025.

2. Programme Description, Aims & Learning Outcomes

Programme Description
This programme is designed for those interested in acquiring the research skills necessary to conduct and appraise policy-relevant research into sexual and reproductive health. It provides a non-clinical foundation for understanding the wide range of interconnected issues relevant to reproductive and sexual health across diverse populations and contexts. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to, family planning, maternal and newborn health, HIV and sexually transmitted infections. The wide range of elective modules available enables students to tailor their studies according to their interests and the skills they wish to develop for their future career goals. The curriculum has a focus on middle- and low-income settings but also provides excellent training in the principles and methods of research for high-income countries.

This Master's programme is recognized by the ESRC as providing high quality research training and a small number of ESRC scholarships (including 1+3 scholarships) are available to UK or EU residents. These are advertised each year with the LSHTM scholarships information.

Educational aims of the programme

The aim of the programme – consistent with LSHTM's mission to improve health worldwide – is to provide advanced knowledge in the concepts and methods used in reproductive and sexual health research and to equip students with the principles, methods and research skills necessary to conduct and appraise policy relevant research. It provides a non-clinical foundation in a wide range of aspects of reproductive and sexual health: including, but not limited to, family planning, maternal and newborn health, and HIV/STIs (not including laboratory-based studies). The MSc is Europe's only graduate programme in sexual and reproductive health research.

Programme Learning Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students will be able to:

1. Critically analyse socio-cultural, political and ethical dimensions of reproductive and sexual health, and evaluate their implications for research, policy and practice;

2. Formulate, justify and refine appropriate research questions in reproductive and sexual health that address knowledge gaps and are relevant to evidence-informed interventions, programmes or policy;

3. Select and apply appropriate epidemiological, statistical, and social research methods to investigate complex reproductive and sexual health questions;

4. Critically evaluate and synthesise diverse forms of research evidence to inform reproductive and sexual health interventions, policy, and practice;

5. Design, plan, conduct and report an independent substantive research project that contributes to knowledge, understanding and/or practice in reproductive and sexual health.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The programme is taught through a variety of teaching methods including lectures, small group seminars, practical, and groupwork with peers. All

elements of the programme have specific learning objectives, with content designed to help students achieve these outcomes. Students are expected to learn through both directed and self-directed study.
Assessment Strategy
The programme is assessed through individual module assessments which may include essays, other written coursework, short written exams, practical exams, groupwork, presentations or other methods and a project report. Such tasks are designed to assess, using the most appropriate method, whether learning objectives have been met.

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

Full-time Masters	**Term 1**	**Term 2/3**	**Term 3**	**Total Credits**
Compulsory Modules	4	1	0	75
Recommended Modules	0	3	1	60
Project	0	0	1	45

MSc Reproductive and Sexual Health Research students must take five modules in the six teaching blocks in Terms 2 and 3, leaving one block from the six (C1, 2, D1, D2, E1 or E2) free for Project preparation. During C and D blocks some (non-assessed) support will be available to help with the planning of student Projects.

Module information is correct at the time of publication, but minor amendments may be made subject to approval as detailed in Chapter 3 of the LSHTM Academic Manual. Elective modules listed are indicative and may change from year to year. https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/changes-courses

Term	**Slot**	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Module Type**	**Credits (CATS)**
Compulsory modules					
1	AB1	2039	Foundations in Reproductive Health	Compulsory	15
1	AB1	tbc	Concepts in Epidemiology	Compulsory	15

1	AB1	tbc	Social Research Methods for Public Health	Compulsory	15
1	AB1	tbc	Statistics for Epidemiology & Public Health 1 (STEPH1)	Compulsory	15
2	D2	1804	Sexual Health	Compulsory	15
-	-	tbc	Project (Dissertation)	Compulsory	45
List of Recommended Elective modules					
2	C1	2440	Maternal and Child Nutrition	Recommended	15
2	C1	tbc	Intermediate Epidemiological Methods	Recommended	15
2	C1	1701	Reviewing the Literature	Recommended	15
2	C2	2401	Family Planning & Reproductive Choice	Recommended	15
2	C2	2472	Social Epidemiology	Recommended	15
2	C2	tbc	Health Policy, Process, and Power	Recommended	15
2	C2	3457	Designing Public Health Programmes	Recommended	15
2	C2	2436	Population, Poverty and Environment	Recommended	15
2	C2	1700	Qualitative Methodologies	Recommended	15
2	D1	tbc	Statistics for Epidemiology and Population Health 2 (STEPH2)	Recommended	15
2	D1	2423	Research Design & Analysis	Recommended	15
2	D1	1402	Conflict and Health	Recommended	15
2	D1	3192	Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections	Recommended	15
2	D1	1802	Medical Anthropology and Public Health	Recommended	15
2	E1	2459	Current Issues in Maternal & Perinatal Health	Recommended	15
2	E1	1127	Evaluation of Public Health Interventions	Recommended	15
3	E2	3174	HIV	Recommended	15
3	E2	2468	Analysing Survey & Population Data	Recommended	15
3	E2	3198	Applying Public Health Principles	Recommended	15
3	E2	1803	Sociological Approaches to Health	Recommended	15
3	E2	tbc	Statistics for Epidemiology and Population Health 3 (STEPH3)	Recommended	15

Contact time

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 on-campus lectures, seminars, demonstrations, tutorials, supervised laboratory workshops, practical classes, project supervision and external fieldwork or visits, as well as where tutors are available for one-to-one discussions and interaction by email. Module contact time will be defined in the individual module specifications and provided to students at the start of their programme.

This definition is based on the one provided by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Explaining contact hours (2011). Student contact time, together with time allocated for independent study and assessment, determines the total student study hours for a module or programme. Although there are separate hours allocated for each of these activities, they should always be clearly linked together to support effective learning. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) defines high quality contact time as structured, focused, purposeful and interactive.