PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Programme Title	Postgraduate Diploma in Infection Biology for Global Health
Academic Year	2027-28
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in September
Programme Director/s	Khalid Beshir, Victoria Miari
Awarding Body	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculty	Infectious and Tropical Diseases
Length of Programme	Full-time: 8 months Split study: 16 months
Mode of Delivery	In-person intensive
Maximum period of registration	Full-time: 3 years Split study: 5 years
Language of Study	English
Entry Requirements	Please refer to the specific programme entry requirements here
Award Titles	Postgraduate Diploma in Infection Biology for Global Health Exit Awards: Postgraduate Certificate in Infection Biology for Global Health (60 credits)
Total Credits	**CATS:** 120 **ECTS:** 60
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	N/A

Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points	There is no relevant QAA benchmark for this MSc programme
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	2027-28

2. Programme Description, Aims & Learning Outcomes

Programme Description
The Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Infection Biology for Global Health provides training in the theoretical and practical aspects of the biological mechanisms of infectious diseases and their impact on human health worldwide. Drawing on examples from bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic diseases, and integrating molecular, cellular, and immunological perspectives, the programme will provide an in-depth exploration of how pathogens interact with their hosts, how vectors contribute to the emergence and spread of infectious diseases, and how the latest technologies and translational research can be applied to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases. This PGDip is a standalone qualification and also a potential pathway to the Master of Science (MSc) in Infection Biology for Global Health.
Educational aims of the programme
The PGDip programme aims to provide students with an integrated and critical understanding (theoretical and practical) of the biology of infectious disease agents, encompassing their pathogenic mechanisms, interactions with hosts,

the vectors responsible for their spread, and modern approaches for their diagnosis, treatment and control. Students will also develop their skills in advanced practical laboratory techniques and gain a critical understanding of their application to the study of infectious diseases. Critical engagement with (and effective communication of) complex scientific literature, data and research will promote a systematic understanding and equip students with extensive discipline-specific and transferable skills and knowledge.

Programme Learning Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students will be expected to achieve the following learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate a systematic and critical understanding of the biology of infectious agents, their vectors and the nature of host–pathogen interactions, and their relevance to global health challenges.
2. Critically evaluate and synthesise current research literature and emerging evidence in infection biology in the context of global health.
3. Manage, analyse and effectively communicate complex biological data, drawing evidence-based conclusions relevant to the study, prevention, diagnosis, and/or treatment of infectious diseases.
4. Demonstrate advanced competency in a range of advanced microbiological and molecular techniques, alongside a critical understanding of their appropriate application in the field of infection biology.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

This intensive programme will be for London-based learners with (primarily) face-to-face delivery. Students will learn through a combination of lectures, interactive seminars and practicals. Learning activities will be supported by resources on the VLE (Moodle). All modules will have a reading list to promote directed self-study and will also include an expected element of self-directed learning.

Lectures will be used to introduce core topics, frame debates, and provide a shared foundation that students can interrogate and build on through more interactive seminars or practicals, and through self-study. A central feature of the programme will be laboratory-based practicals that will provide students with extensive hands-on training in relevant laboratory techniques. These practicals provide opportunities for active learning and groupwork activities. Where relevant, modules will also include computer-based practicals that will develop skills relating to data management, analysis and statistics, as well as build general digital literacy.

Assessment Strategy
Assessment methods will vary across the programme, reflecting the breadth of subject learning and enabling students to demonstrate achievement of intended learning outcomes through different methods of assessment. The programme is assessed through individual module assessments, many of which will integrate theoretical and practical knowledge. Assessment formats include oral presentations, scientific posters and a range of authentic written coursework tasks, including project reports and scenario-based portfolio or strategy documents. Some assessment tasks will include elements of groupwork. Assessment methods are selected to align with module learning outcomes and to support progressive development of understanding and skills over the course of the programme.

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

Full-time PGDip	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Total credits
Compulsory modules	2			60
Recommended modules		3		60

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. Recommended elective modules listed are indicative and may change from year to year. https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/changes-courses

The compulsory and recommended modules are detailed in the table below. Following a compulsory core in Term 1, students take *either* Clinical Microbiology *or* Clinical Parasitology in the C1/C2 timetable slots of Term 2, prior to one module from each of the D1 and D2 timetable slots.

It is possible to register for the PGDip in the first instance and then, on successful completion of the 120 credits, extend your registration to the Masters (MSc) programme.

Term	Slot	Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credits (CATS)
1	AB1	3xxx	Microbial Pathogenesis and Vectors of Disease	Compulsory	45
1	AB1	3xxx	Research Skills for Infection Biology	Compulsory	15
2	C1/C2	3xxx	Clinical Microbiology	Recommended	30
2	C1/C2	3xxx	Clinical Parasitology	Recommended	30
2	D1	3xxx	Antimicrobial Drug Discovery in the Era of Artificial Intelligence	Recommended	15
2	D1	3xxx	Application of Genomics in Infectious Diseases	Recommended	15
2	D1	3xxx	Sampling and Incrimination of Disease Vectors	Recommended	15
2	D2	3xxx	Antimicrobial Resistance & One Health	Recommended	15
2	D2	3xxx	Emerging Infections & Diagnostic Design	Recommended	15
2	D2	3xxx	Vector Management for Global Health	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 of contact time 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) define high quality contact time as structured, focused, purposeful and interactive.