PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Programme Title	Postgraduate Certificate 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: 4 months
Mode of Delivery	In-person intensive
Maximum period of registration	Full-time: 3 years
Language of Study	English
Entry Requirements	Please refer to the specific programme entry requirements here
Award Titles	Postgraduate Certificate in Infection Biology for Global Health
Total Credits	**CATS:** 60 **ECTS:** 30
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	N/A
Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other	There is no relevant QAA benchmark for this MSc programme

external/internal reference points	
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 Certificate (PGCert) in Infection Biology for Global Health will equip students with the essential foundations in the biological mechanisms of infectious diseases. Drawing on examples from bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic diseases, and integrating molecular, cellular, and immunological perspectives, the programme will explore how pathogens interact with their hosts, how vectors contribute to the emergence and spread of infectious diseases, and the research methodologies that are applied to their study. This PGCert is a standalone qualification and also a potential pathway to the Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) or Master of Science (MSc) in Infection Biology for Global Health.
Educational aims of the programme
The PGCert programme aims to provide students with a sound theoretical and practical understanding of the core principles of infection biology, encompassing the biology of infectious disease agents, their interaction with hosts, and the vectors responsible for their spread. Students will also develop skills in practical laboratory techniques, and an understanding of how those techniques are applied to the study of infection biology.

Engagement with (and communication of) scientific literature, data and research will deepen understanding and equip students with 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 understanding of the biology of infectious agents, their vectors and the nature of host–pathogen interactions.
2. Critically interpret and evaluate current research literature and emerging evidence in infection biology in the context of global health.
3. Analyse and communicate biological data, drawing evidence-based conclusions relevant to the study of infectious diseases.
4. Demonstrate competency in a range of microbiological and molecular techniques, and an associated knowledge and understanding of their 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 written coursework tasks. 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 PGCert	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Total credits
Compulsory modules	2			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.

The compulsory modules for the PGCert are detailed in the table below. It is possible to register for the PGCert in the first instance and then, on successful completion of these compulsory modules, extend your registration to the Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) or Masters (MSc) programmes.

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

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.