PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Programme Title	MSc Demography & Health
Academic Year	2027-28
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in September
Programme Director	Sarah Walters
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	Online 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 Demography & Health Exit Awards: Postgraduate Diploma in Demography & Health (120 credits) Postgraduate Certificate in Demography & Health (60 credits)
Total Credits	**CATS:** 180 **ECTS:** 90
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	N/A

Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points	No relevant subject benchmark statement – consistent with external reference points UK quality code for higher education & QAA credit framework for England
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	The MSc Demography and Health was founded in 1970 as MSc Medical Demography. The programme in its current form was validated in 2024. The online intensive MSc Demography and Health was introduced in 2026.

2. Programme Description, Aims & Learning Outcomes

Programme Description
This programme is designed for those interested in the dynamics of population change and its causes and consequences, with a global focus. The curriculum includes advanced technical training in the theories and methods of demography, equipping students with skills to assess and analyse a wide range of demographic data, to understand and interpret population dynamics, and to make population projections according to different scenarios and forecasts. Students will engage with the rapidly evolving landscape of demographic data, and apply cutting-edge skills in population data science. The programme will enable students to understand the critical role of population change as a driver and consequence of socio-economic, political and environmental change, and to critically assess population policies and public debates. The focus is on the synergies between population studies and health in the context of contemporary global challenges.

For further information, please see
www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/masters/msdh.html

Educational aims of the programme

The aim of the programme – consistent with LSHTM's mission to improve health worldwide – is to offer broad training in the theories and methods of demography and population science and their application to population health. Students will acquire the interdisciplinary 'toolkit' of demographers, bringing together advanced population data science with critical and theoretical approaches to population change and policy. Emphasis is placed on socioeconomic, environmental and political determinants and consequences of population change.

Programme Learning Outcomes

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

Please note that modules listed below may be subject to change.

1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of scientific, evidence-based approaches to the study of population issues;
2. Apply demographic approaches critically to assess global population policies and programmes;
3. Formulate demographic research questions relevant to contemporary global challenges, including inequality, population ageing, migration, climate change, security and conflict, and use demographic and health data, and appropriate methods of analysis, to address them;
4. Identify causes and consequences of population change, including political, socioeconomic, environment and health and factors, and relate these to underlying population dynamics;
5. Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of demographic behaviour in social, economic and policy contexts;
6. Assess and apply findings of population studies to global health policy;
7. Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of major global population trends, including migration, ageing, mortality, fertility decline and population change, in low-, middle- and high-income countries.
8. Undertake high-quality independent research on a demographic topic: identify appropriate data sources, critically review literature, conduct appropriate analyses and produce an extended piece of academic writing

Teaching and Learning Strategy
The programme will be taught through a variety of teaching methods including live lectures, Q&A sessions, debates and panel discussions; small group seminars; practical sessions applying specific skills; and facilitated group work with peers. In some sessions we will use the 'flipped classroom' approach, where students read, view or interact with materials independently (for example pre-recorded lectures, teaching notes, quizzes, podcasts, or other media), followed by interactive sessions where students can apply their learning and assess their understanding of a topic. 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	Term 3	Total Credits
Compulsory Modules	4	1		75
Recommended Modules		3	1	60
Project			1	45

MSc Demography & Health 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 (compulsory or recommended)	Credits (CATS)
1	AB1	2057	Demographic Methods	Compulsory	15
1	AB1	2011	Population Studies	Compulsory	15
1	AB1	TBD	Concepts in Epidemiology	Compulsory	15
1	AB1	TBD	Statistics for Epidemiology and Public Health 1	Compulsory	15
2	D1	2423	Research Design & Analysis	Recommended	15
2	C1	2607	Methods in Climate Change and Planetary Health	Recommended	15
2	C1	2604	Gender and Reproductive Rights	Recommended	15
2	C2	2436	Population, Poverty and Environment	Recommended	15
2	C1	2401	Family Planning & Reproductive Choice	Recommended	15
2	E1	2608	Planetary Health in Practice	Recommended	15
2	D2	2429	Population Dynamics & Projections	Compulsory	15
3	E1	2459	Current Issues in Maternal and Perinatal Health	Recommended	15
3	E2	2468	Analysing Survey & Population Data	Recommended	15

*DL = distance learning module running October-June

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.