PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Programme Title	Master of Science (MSc) in Public Health by Distance Learning
Academic Year	2027-28
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in October
Programme Directors	TBC
Awarding Body	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculty	Public Health and Policy
Length of Programme	Minimum 24 months Maximum 60 months
Mode of Delivery	Distance learning
Maximum period of registration	5 years
Language of Study	English
Entry Requirements	Please refer to the specific programme entry requirements here.
Award Titles	Master of Science in Public Health Exit Awards: Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health (120 credits) Postgraduate Certificate in Public 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	N/A
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Level (FHEQ)	Level 7
Re-sit Policy	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-08b.pdf
Extenuating Circumstances Policy	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-07.pdf
Date of Introduction of Programme	Revalidated 2027-28 First launched 2004-05

2. Programme Description, Aims & Learning Outcomes

Programme Description
In the MSc in Public Health programme, students will explore fundamental and advanced aspects of public health to gain essential knowledge and skills that can be applied in various health contexts. This programme is aimed at current and future professionals, including practitioners and policy makers, involved in public health at community, hospital or district level, or working in other health- or development-related organisations. In a rigorous educational programme students will develop in-depth specialist and transferable skills that will enhance their professional practice and increase their potential for career development in public health fields. The programme emphasises the use, development and critical evaluation of conceptual models; evidence-based methods of analysis; and practical, effective interventions. Students may select a 45-credit project that requires them to apply their learning by generating and managing a substantial project in which they consolidate and demonstrate their learning across the degree.

Educational aims of the programme

Our Public Health programme contributes to our mission to improve health and health equity worldwide by empowering students with the knowledge and skills required to analyse and improve the health of populations and particular groups within them.

We achieve this by:

- offering our global community of students the flexibility to shape the MSc to their career goals, via a wide array of elective modules to suit their disciplinary backgrounds and future career goals;
- contributing to the training of current and future public health leaders via an emphasis on the skills required for successful public health careers;
- delivering teaching via our huge array of staff engaged in public health research across the globe.

Programme Learning Outcomes

By the end of the MSc programme, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate breadth of knowledge across all the main components of public health and apply this to diverse health challenges, populations and contexts.
2. Critically analyse health issues, policies and systems using interdisciplinary public health perspectives and in-depth specialist skills in conditions of uncertainty and complexity.
3. Advocate for equitable public health decision-making in policy and practice, through applying and communicating ethical reasoning and systematic synthesis of evidence.
4. Design, conduct and communicate original research that meets disciplinary quality standards of rigour and advances public health knowledge and/or understanding.
5. Display autonomy, compassion, integrity and reflective practice when collaborating effectively and inclusively with stakeholders to solve public health problems and create positive impact.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

In keeping with LSHTM's core mission to improve health worldwide, teaching and learning in the programme focuses on developing the knowledge, skills and aptitudes students require to improve the health of populations and particular groups within them.

Throughout teaching at LSHTM, colonial legacies are addressed through learning materials and teaching strategies that embrace and critique different ways of knowing and take account of the power and positionality of researchers and professionals.

Each module is supported by a package of high quality and engaging online resources and activities which students work through at a time convenient to themselves, allowing students to fit their studies around other commitments and avoid time zone concerns.

The programme prioritises self-directed learning, recognising that students often bring prior experience to their studies. Flexible, asynchronous resources, including interactive workbooks, academic readings, short-form video and curated links to external resources, are designed to develop and extend students' knowledge and enable deep engagement at their own pace.

Students are challenged to move beyond comprehension and apply their knowledge to realistic problems and contexts. Learning includes tasks that mirror the analytical and evaluative demands of public health work, including data-based exercises, authentic problem-based scenarios, and research and critical evaluation tasks. Self-review activities such as quizzes, mini understanding checks and reflective blogs provide regular opportunities for students to gauge their understanding and consolidate their learning.

While self-directed learning is a priority, the programme recognises that learning is deepened through dialogue. Opportunities to learn as part of an academic community are, therefore, dispersed throughout the learning experience. All modules use discussion forums to create a space for sustained tutor and peer exchanges, as well as collaborative sense-making. Webinars are provided at key learning stages, including assessment preparation, giving students timely access to academic guidance and support. To ensure equitable access, recordings of live sessions are made available to all students.

Students who choose to undertake the MSc Project module receive individual supervision from an LSHTM staff member, supporting them to consolidate and apply learning from across the programme in an independent research project.

Assessment Strategy

A varied approach to assessment is used across the programme to reflect the breadth of subject learning and enable students to demonstrate achievement in a variety of ways. The assessment diet is coordinated across the programme to avoid over assessment, disproportionate weightings, and redundancy.

Assessment approaches are selected to align with module and programme learning outcomes and to scaffold the development of students' understanding and skills over time:

- To develop and test students' knowledge and understanding of core public health principles, written assessments, some of which may be time-limited, and quizzes and tests are used in both formative and summative ways. All summative assessments are open-book.
- To develop and test analytical and problem-solving skills, students engage with problem-based assessments and applied tasks.
- To develop and test applied understanding in practice-oriented contexts, authentic assessments are used, including project proposals, policy briefs and professional reports.
- To foster professional skills - including communication and collaboration, and ethical and reflective practices - students undertake individual and group presentations and assessments that test the ability to convey complex information concisely and with integrity.
- To develop independent research and academic writing skills, along with learner autonomy, students may select to undertake an extended research project with supervision.

Formative opportunities are provided for students to check their understanding of key content, practise key skills and receive feedback ahead of summative tasks. Feedback on both formative and summative work is aligned with assessment criteria, to enable students to understand performance standards, identify areas for improvement, and apply learning to subsequent tasks. Students are guided on the responsible use of Generative AI in assessments.

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

The MSc Public Health consists of:

- Four compulsory modules, and
- Five elective modules selected from a list of options, and
- A Project Report

MSc	Modules	Total Credits
Compulsory Modules	4	60
Elective Modules	5	75
Project	1	45
Total Credits		**180**

Or

- Five compulsory modules including Reviewing the Literature), and
- One semi-compulsory module (either Qualitative Methodologies or Epidemiology & Statistics for Public Health 2), and
- Six elective modules selected from a list of options.

MSc	15-Credit Modules	Total Credits
Compulsory Modules	5	75
Semi Compulsory Modules	1	15
Elective Modules	6	90
Total Credits		**180**

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

Compulsory Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credits (CATS)
TBD	Promotion, Prevention, and Protection	Compulsory	15
TBD	Health Economics, Systems, and Policy	Compulsory	15
TBD	Social Research Methods for Public Health	Compulsory	15
TBD	Epidemiology & Statistics for Public Health 1	Compulsory	15

Indicative list of Recommended Elective Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credits (CATS)
TBD	Health Policy, Process and Power	Recommended Elective	15
TBD	Epidemiology & Statistics for Public Health 2	Recommended Elective / Semi Compulsory Elective	15
TBD	Economic Evaluation Evidence	Recommended Elective	15
TBD	Qualitative Methodologies	Recommended Elective / Semi-Compulsory Elective	15
TBD	Reviewing the Literature	Recommended Elective / Compulsory Module	15
GHM201	Health Systems	Recommended Elective	15
PHM215	History & Health	Recommended Elective	15
PHM216	Sexual Health	Recommended Elective	15
PHM201	Health Decision Science	Recommended Elective	15
PHM203	Economic Analysis for Health Policy	Recommended Elective	15
TBD / PHM206	Urban Environmental Health Policy	Recommended Elective	15
PHM209	Globalisation and Health	Recommended Elective	15
PHM211	Medical Anthropology in Public Health	Recommended Elective	15
TBC	Designing & Delivering Public Health Interventions	Recommended Elective	15
PHM218	Applied Communicable Disease Control	Recommended Elective	15
PHM214	Conflict & Health	Recommended Elective	15
PHM219	Evaluation of Public Health Interventions	Recommended Elective	15
PHM210	Managing Health Services	Recommended Elective	15
TBD	Statistics for Epidemiology and Population Health 2 (STEPH2) (Pre-requisite ^)	Recommended Elective	15
EPM301	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	Recommended Elective	15
EPM307	Epidemiology of Non-Communicable Diseases	Recommended Elective	15

TBD	Statistics for Epidemiology and Population Health 3 (STEPH3) (Pre-requisite *)	Recommended Elective	15
GHM202	Global Mental Health	Recommended Elective	15
IDM215	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Recommended Elective	15
IDM501	HIV	Recommended Elective	15
IDM502	Tuberculosis	Recommended Elective	15
IDM503	Malaria	Recommended Elective	15

Pre-requisite ^ is Epidemiology & Statistics for Public Health 2
Pre-requisite * is Statistics for Epidemiology and Population Health 2 (STEPH2)

Contact time

Student contact time refers to the tutor-mediated time allocated to teaching, provision of guidance and feedback to students. In the context of distance learning this encompasses where tutors are available for one-to-one and group discussions online, interaction by email, discussion forums, and project supervision. 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.