PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Programme Title	PGDip 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 Postgraduate Diploma programmes: 8 months Part time/split study Postgraduate Diploma programme: 16 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	Postgraduate Diploma in Demography & Health Exit Awards: Postgraduate Certificate in Demography & 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	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 in Demography and Health was founded in 1970 as MSc Medical Demography. The programme in its current form was validated in 2024. The PGDip will be introduced as an entry award 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. It is aimed at professionals working with population data who need to advance their analytical skills and knowledge. 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. Students can choose to specialise in the technical aspects of population data science in the Population Science Pathway, or to take a policy-oriented approach to population studies on the Population Health and Policy Pathway.

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. Identify causes and consequences of population change, including political, socioeconomic, environment and health factors, and relate these to underlying population dynamics;
4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of demographic behaviour in social, economic and policy contexts;
5. Assess and apply findings of population studies to global health policy;

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major global population trends, including migration, ageing, mortality, fertility decline and population change, in low-, middle- and high-income countries.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The programme will be taught through a variety of teaching methods including lectures, small group seminars, practical classes, 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. 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	4/5*	1		75/80
Recommended Modules		3	1	60

*4 compulsory term 1 modules for Population Health and Policy Pathway, 5 for Population Data Science pathway

PGDip Demography & Health students must take five modules in the six teaching blocks in Terms 2 and 3.

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

Population Health and Policy Pathway

Term	Slot	Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credits
1	AB1	2057	Demographic Methods	Compulsory	15
1	AB1	2011	Population Studies	Compulsory	15
1	AB1	TBC	Concepts in Epidemiology	Compulsory	15
1	AB1	TBC	Statistics for Epidemiology and Public Health 1	Compulsory	15
2	D1	2423	Research Design & Analysis	Recommended	15
2	C2	2436	Population, Poverty and Environment	Recommended	15
2	C1	2401	Family Planning & Reproductive Choice	Recommended	15

2	E1	1127	Evaluation of Public Health Interventions	Recommended	15
2	C2	2472	Social Epidemiology	Recommended	15
2	E1	2608	Planetary Health in Practice	Recommended	15
2	D1	2611	AI in Health: Principles and Applications	Recommended	15
2	D2	2429	Population Dynamics & Projections	Compulsory	15
3	E2	2468	Analysing Survey & Population Data	Recommended	15
3	E1	3174	HIV	Recommended	15

Population Data Science Pathway

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	2488	Concepts and Methods in Epidemiology	Compulsory	10
1	AB1	2486	Programming	Compulsory	10
1	AB1	2489	Statistics for Health Data Science	Compulsory	15
2	D1	2423	Research Design & Analysis	Recommended	15
2	C1	2490	Machine Learning	Recommended	15
2	C2	2436	Population, Poverty and Environment	Recommended	15
2	C2	2401	Family Planning & Reproductive Choice	Recommended	15
2	E1	3135	Spatial Epidemiology in Public Health	Recommended	15
2	C2	2472	Social Epidemiology	Recommended	15
2	D1	2611	AI in Health: Principles and Applications	Recommended	15
2	D2	2429	Population Dynamics & Projections	Compulsory	15

3	E2	2468	Analysing Survey & Population Data	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.