# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

## 1. Overview

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| **Programme Title** | Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene |
| **Academic Year** | 2027-28 |
| **Cohort Entry Points** | Annually in October |
| **Programme Director** | Clare Warrell |
| **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: 12 weeks |
| **Mode of Delivery** | Intensive |
| **Maximum period of registration** | N/A |
| **Language of Study** | English |
| **Entry Requirements** | Please refer to the programme's entry requirements here. |
| **Award Titles** | Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene |
| **Total Credits** | **CATS:** N/A (not credit bearing)<br>**ECTS:** N/A (not credit bearing) |
| **Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body** | The Accreditation Committee of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) has approved the curriculum of the Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (Professional DTM&H) course as suitable for doctors training in clinical tropical medicine and travellers' health in the USA. Completion of an accredited course and examination is a required part of this training. |

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| **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-08a.pdf |
| **Extenuating Circumstances Policy** | https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-07.pdf |
| **Date of Introduction of Programme** | 2017/18 |

## 2. Programme Description, Aims & Learning Outcomes

| **Programme Description** |
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| This intensive three-month full-time course combines practical laboratory work, lectures, seminars and small group teaching to provide doctors with the learning that will form the basis of professional competence in tropical medicine and public health. It is designed for physicians planning to work in the resource constrained settings, physicians with international experience requiring broader and deeper insights, or practitioners from high income settings requiring experience in clinical parasitology, imported diseases and travel medicine.<br><br>Most teaching is face to-face by international experts, offering students unique access to leaders in global health and tropical medicine. Parasitology teaching pairs introductory lectures with complementary wet lab practical training. |

## Educational aims of the programme

The course aims to teach doctors the skills required to understand, diagnose, treat and prevent diseases that are especially prevalent in tropical and developing countries where resources may be limited. The course has a strong epidemiological foundation but the scientific basis of infectious diseases is also given priority. A particular feature of the course is the diversity of students who attend. Among the students who take the professional diploma course each year, more than 25 different countries are usually represented. Students range in experience from recently qualified doctors (though usually no earlier than 3 years post-graduation) to specialist infectious disease physicians and surgeons with many years of experience working internationally in global health. The course is continually updated in response to changing needs, new developments in knowledge and technology, and student feedback. It has remained highly popular with students throughout its history which spans over 125 years.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be expected to achieve the following learning outcomes, drawing on material taught across different elements and assessed in a variety of ways.

i. Compare and contrast the management of communicable and non-communicable diseases in different contexts
ii. Critically evaluate the evidence for public health interventions in resource-limited settings;
iii. Prepare and examine biological specimens for identification of common parasitic and bacterial pathogens and associated vectors.

## Teaching and Learning Strategy

Much of the course is devoted to seminars, in which a multi-disciplinary team of experts from within and outside the LSHTM covers a particular disease or group of diseases in depth. Lectures cover the causative organisms, epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical features, diagnosis, management and prevention and control of these diseases. Time is set aside after each lecture for discussion. Implications for travel medicine are discussed where appropriate. Other seminars focus on aspects of community public health. These include an introduction to epidemiological methods used in the study of communicable diseases, and lectures on water supply, sanitation and nutrition. Seminars are also held on maternal and child health, non-communicable disease, mental health and decolonising global health themes. Lectures are linked with hands-on practical sessions in which the laboratory diagnosis of all the major parasitic diseases is taught

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| Clinical activities include problem-based teaching, small group discussions and case presentations of "paper cases" often derived from cases seen at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases. The course is intensive, with full time teaching for three months. Sessions start at 09.00 most mornings and teaching continues most days until 17.00; classes also continue uninterrupted during the 'reading week'. See more at: https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/short-courses/DTMH |
| **Assessment Strategy** |
| The examination, which runs over two days in the final weeks of the course, consists of a best-of-five format multiple-choice question paper, short note public health questions and a parasitology practical exam. See more at: https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/short-courses/DTMH |

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

The course is not divided into modules but comprises a total of 450 notional learning hours, based on a mix of contact teaching time, directed study and self-directed study time plus assessment. It is generally expected that students will spend on average 40 hours a week on study, including face-to-face sessions and private study. Each week of the course will typically include 35 hours of contact time within the LSHTM and 5 hours of self-directed study.