



## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

### 1. Overview

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| <b>Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification)</b>          | 2020-21   |
| <b>Programme Title</b>   | Public Health (Health Services Research stream)   |
| <b>Programme Director</b>  | Jenny Gosling, Shakoor Hajat, Ford Hickson, Dalya Marks, Wendy Macdowall<br>Stream Advisor: tbc   |
| <b>Awarding Body</b>   | University of London  |
| <b>Teaching Institution</b>  | London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine  |
| <b>Faculty</b>   | Public Health and Policy  |
| <b>Length of Programme (months)</b>                                      | MSc – Full time = 12 months, Part time = 24 months  |
| <b>Entry Routes</b>  | MSc   |
| <b>Exit Routes</b>   | MSc/PGDip/PGCert  |
| <b>Award Titles</b>  | MSc Public Health (Health Services Research stream) (180 credits)<br>Exit awards:<br>PGDip Public Health (Health Services Research stream) (120 credits)<br>PGCert Public Health (60 credits) |
| <b>Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body</b>       | Curriculum validated by the Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA).<br>Please refer to <a href="#">the LSHTM Accreditation register</a> for the period of accreditation.    |
| <b>Relevant PGT <a href="#">QAA Benchmark Statement</a> and/or other</b> | No applicable benchmark statement.  |

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| <b>external/internal reference points</b>   |  |
| <b>Level of programme within the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)</b> | Masters (MSc) Level 7  |
| <b>Total Credits</b>  | CATS: 180 ECTS: 90   |
| <b>HECoS Code(s)</b>  | 101317:100270:101307 (1:1:1)   |
| <b>Mode of Delivery</b>   | The programme is taught 'face-to-face' at the LSHTM in London.<br>Students (excluding those on Tier 4 visas) can elect to study up to two non-compulsory modules in Distance Learning mode.  |
| <b>Mode and Period of Study</b>   | Full time (12 months) or part time/split time (max 24 months)  |
| <b>Cohort Entry Points</b>  | Annually in September  |
| <b>Language of Study</b>  | English  |
| <b>Re-sit Policy</b>  | <a href="https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Academic_Manual_Chapter_8a_2019-20.pdf">https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Academic_Manual_Chapter_8a_2019-20.pdf</a>  |
| <b>Extenuating Circumstances Policy</b>   | <a href="https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Academic_Manual_Chapter_7_2019-20.pdf">https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Academic_Manual_Chapter_7_2019-20.pdf</a>  |
| <b>Programme Description</b>  | <p>This programme covers the whole breadth of public health, encompassing high-, middle - and low-income countries.</p> <p>On successful completion of the programme, students will receive a Master's degree in Public Health (<b>Health Services Research</b>).</p> <p>This stream draws on a wide range of disciplines that enable students to develop knowledge, understanding and capability in various scientific methods and fields of study relevant to health services research. It is aimed at those who plan a career in health services research in high-, middle- and low-income countries.</p> |

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| <b>Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year)</b>                             | September 2004<br><br>The last periodic review of the programme stream occurred in 2016-17. |
| <b>Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year)</b> | November 2019   |

## 2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

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| <b>Educational aims of the programme</b>  |
| The aim of the programme – consistent with the LSHTM’s mission to improve health worldwide – is to provide students with a broad knowledge and understanding of the concepts and methods used in studying health services and systems. Health Services Research is research that seeks to improve the quality, organisation and financing of health services. Its concern extends from the care of individuals through health care organisations to national and international policies. This stream includes a large research component enabling students to develop their methodological skills. MSc Public Health (Health Services Research) also has recognition for research training by the Health and Wellbeing pathway of the UCL, Bloomsbury and East London ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership.   |
| <b>Programme Learning Outcomes</b>  |
| By the end of the programme, students will be expected to achieve the following learning outcomes – drawing on material taught across different elements and assessed in a variety of ways. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Demonstrate ability to apply knowledge of the core disciplines of public health to real world health problems;</li> <li>ii) understand the strengths and weaknesses of different study designs;</li> <li>iii) identify, assess and synthesise evidence from research literature;</li> <li>iv) select and apply appropriate, ethical and feasible study designs to answer questions in health services and health systems research;</li> <li>v) show competence in critically evaluating and communicating research evidence;</li> <li>vi) understand the relationship between research evidence and policy/practice.</li> </ul> |

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| <b>Teaching and Learning Strategy</b>  |
| The programme is taught through a variety of teaching methods including: lectures, small group seminars, practicals, 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.     |
| <b>Assessment Strategy</b>   |
| 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), formal summer exams, and a project report. Such tasks are designed to assess, via 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 |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Compulsory Modules  | 5      | 1      | 1      | 80    |
| Recommended Modules | 1      | 3      |        | 55    |
| Projects            |        |        | 1      | 45    |
| Total Credits       | 60     | 60     | 60     | 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](#). Optional (i.e. recommended non-compulsory) 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) | Contact hours |
|------|------|-------------|---|---|----------------|---------------|
| 1    | AB1  | 1103        | Introduction to Health Economics                | Recommended                             | 10             | 30            |
| 1    | AB1  | 1104        | Principles of Social Research                   | Compulsory                              | 10             | 26            |
| 1    | AB1  | 1107        | Health Services                                 | Compulsory                              | 10             | 22            |
| 1    | AB1  | 1109        | Foundations for Health Promotion                | Recommended                             | 10             | 25            |
| 1    | AB1  | 1117        | Health Policy, Process & Power                  | Recommended                             | 10             | 28            |
| 1    | AB1  | 1121        | Basic Statistics for Public Health & Policy     | Compulsory                              | 10             | 40            |
| 1    | AB1  | 1123        | Issues in Public Health                         | Compulsory                              | 10             | 27            |
| 1    | AB1  | 1125        | Environment, Health and Sustainable Development | Recommended                             | 10             | 30            |
| 1    | AB1  | 2001        | Basic Epidemiology                              | Compulsory                              | 10             | 30            |
| 2    | C1   | 1400        | Health Care Evaluation                          | Recommended                             | 15             | 22            |
| 2    | C1   | 1501        | Economic Evaluation                             | Recommended                             | 15             | 33            |
| 2    | C1   | 1803        | Sociological Approaches to Health               | Recommended                             | 15             | 40            |
| 2    | C2   | 1401        | History & Health                                | Recommended                             | 15             | 30            |
| 2    | C2   | 1700        | Qualitative Methodologies                       | Recommended                             | 15             | 22.5          |
| 2    | C2   | 1808        | Health Systems                                  | Recommended                             | 15             | 32            |

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|---|----|------|--|-------------|----|------|
| 2 | C2 | 2402 | Statistical Methods in Epidemiology          | Recommended | 15 | 38.5 |
| 2 | C2 | 2417 | Design & Analysis of Epidemiological Studies | Recommended | 15 | 37   |
| 2 | D1 | 1504 | Economic Analysis for Health Policy          | Recommended | 15 | 45   |
| 2 | D1 | 1802 | Medical Anthropology and Public Health       | Recommended | 15 | 40   |
| 2 | D2 | 1701 | Reviewing the Literature                     | Compulsory  | 15 | 27   |
| 3 | E  | 1702 | Proposal Development                         | Compulsory  | 15 | 24   |

#### 4: Entry Requirements

##### Criteria for admission

Entry to the MSc Public Health is highly competitive. Applicants must normally satisfy the LSHTM's general entrance requirements and additional programme-specific entrance requirements to be considered for admission. Applications must be submitted in accordance with the procedures and deadlines given in the web-based or printed prospectus.

In order to be admitted to the MSc Public Health programme at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, an applicant must:

a) hold a Bachelor's degree at Upper Second Class Honours grade in a relevant discipline, or another degree of equivalent awarded by an overseas institution recognised by UK Naric or Barrons.

**OR**

b) hold a professional qualification appropriate to the programme of study to be followed obtained by written examinations and judged by the LSHTM to be equivalent to an Upper Second Class Honours Bachelor's degree or above.

**OR**

c) have relevant professional experience or training which is judged by the LSHTM to be equivalent to a Upper Second Class Honours Bachelor's degree or above.

**AND**

satisfy any additional requirements where prescribed for admission to a specific programme.

### **Additional information**

The programme requires a high degree of numeracy. It is essential that applicants have studied some mathematics or statistics in post-16 year education.

Preference will be given to applicants with relevant work experience.

For further information, please see

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/how-apply/applying-masters-degree-london/you-apply-msc>

### **English language entry requirements**

#### **Band B**

It is essential that all students have a good command of the English language to benefit from their studies at the LSHTM.

As part of the application process, applicants are required to demonstrate how they meet the LSHTM's minimum English language requirements. This is particularly important for applicants requiring a Tier 4 Student visa, as the UK Home Office dictates that every student from outside the UK and European Union (EU) must show evidence of a minimum level of English language ability (called CEFR1 B2 level), in order for a Tier 4 Student visa to be issued for entry to the UK.

Additionally, the LSHTM asks applicants to have minimum English language proficiency levels that are necessary for our academic programmes. These levels are higher than the CEFR B2 minimum level and also apply to EU applicants, although these will not normally require a Tier 4 Student visa.

The academic English language requirements for each of the LSHTM's programmes are categorised into one of three profiles A, B or C. For information on these three profiles, please refer to the LSHTM English Language Requirement Policy:

[https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/english\\_language\\_requirements\\_policy.pdf](https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/english_language_requirements_policy.pdf)