



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2020-21
Module Code	EPM105
Module Title	Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers
Module Organiser(s)	Lucy Pembrey, Suzanne Penfold, Helen Watts
Contact	<p>The LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with the University of London. Enquiries may be made via their Student Advice Centre at: https://london.ac.uk/contact-us</p> <p>(Enquiries from London-based LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk)</p>
Faculty	<p>Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/eph/</p>
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS 15 ECTS 7.5
HECoS Code	101335 : 100473 : 100962
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through online materials via the Virtual Learning Environment
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	<p><u>Epidemiology and Demography & Health</u> students should have studied and have an understanding of EPM101 <i>Fundamentals of Epidemiology</i> and EPM102 <i>Statistics for Epidemiology [previously entitled Statistics with Computing]</i>, and are also recommended to have studied EPM103 <i>Practical Epidemiology</i> prior to studying this module. Students can register for all EPM1 modules in the same year but should first study the material for EPM101, EPM102 and EPM103 as explained above.</p> <p><u>Students studying this module as an individual module</u> must have basic epidemiological knowledge and skills equivalent to EPM101 <i>Fundamentals of Epidemiology</i> and EPM102 <i>Statistics</i></p>



	<i>for Epidemiology [previously entitled Statistics with Computing]</i> and are recommended to have equivalent knowledge and skills to EPM103 <i>Practical Epidemiology</i> .
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	Not currently accredited by any other body.
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	There is no cap on the number of students who can register for this distance learning module.
Target Audience	Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers is a core module for all students on the DL PG Certificate/PG Diploma and MSc Epidemiology programmes and an elective module for students on the DL PG Diploma/MSc Demography & Health programmes.
Module Description	This module provides students with basic skills for writing epidemiological research papers and searching and evaluating the scientific literature.
Duration	Tutoring support and the study materials are available from the beginning of January through to the Assessed Assignment submission at the end of August. The Formative Assignments (FAs) must be submitted by 30 June. The deadline for the Assessed Assignment is 31 August.
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	March 2020

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
PGCert/PGDip/MSc Epidemiology (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
MSc Demography and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide basic skills for writing epidemiological research papers and searching and evaluating the scientific literature.



Module Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to:

1. critically appraise epidemiological research papers and other sources of information by:
 - checking the scientific clarity and reproducibility
 - evaluating the methodological quality
 - assessing the quality of the presentation
2. demonstrate the main skills required to act as a referee for an epidemiological research paper
3. write a draft of an epidemiological research paper with appropriate contents and format to demonstrate understanding of the quality and structure required for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

The module is expected to cover the following topics:

- Overview of an epidemiological paper
- Searching the medical literature
- Evaluating the epidemiological literature
- Critical evaluation of original papers
- The principles of systematic reviews
- Peer review of epidemiological research papers
- Writing an outline of an epidemiological research paper
- Writing the first draft
- Revising drafts and preparing the final manuscript
- Dealing with the journal.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	85	57
Self-directed learning	15	10
Assessment, review and revision	50	33
Total	150	100



Teaching and Learning Strategy

Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. The key learning methods are:

- Reading and reflecting on the Study Guide and other study materials which introduce, explain and apply the principles and methods covered in the module.
- Accessing academic support which is available from the module tutors through the online discussion forums and occasional real-time sessions (using Collaborate Ultra) in which students are encouraged to participate.
- Completing formative assignment(s) and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors.
- Completing the assessed assignment and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

Formal assessment of this module is through an assessed assignment comprising of two written papers (100%).

If students fail the module overall, they are allowed one further attempt at the assignment.

Summative Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	Part 1: 2000 words Part 2: 1800 words	100%	Part 1: ILO 1 & 2 Part 2: ILO 3

Resitting assessment

Resits will accord with the LSHTM's [Resits Policy](#)



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Resources

Indicative reading list

Saxena S. Do consultations for common childhood illness vary with social class? 1998

BMJ Resources for authors: <https://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors>

Moher D et al., CONSORT 2010 Explanation and Elaboration: updated guidelines for reporting parallel group randomised trials, BMJ 2010;340:c869

Vandenbroucke JP et al., Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE): Explanation and Elaboration. PLoS Medicine 2007

Liberati, A et al., The PRISMA Statement for Reporting Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses of Studies That Evaluate Health Care Interventions: Explanation and Elaboration, PLoS Medicine 2009

CASP Checklists: <https://casp-uk.net/casp-tools-checklists/>

Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions
<https://training.cochrane.org/handbook>

Wager, E, How to survive peer review, BMJ Books 2002

Winning the publications game : the smart way to write your paper and get it published, CRC Press, 2016

Other resources

The Moodle Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) contains the key materials and resources for EPM105 as follows:

- Study Guide, consisting of 10 sessions
- Interactive study material for three sessions.
- Readings (via the LSHTM online library)
- Discussion forums
- Assignments and exercises.

Study materials on Moodle are available from January.



Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the module learning materials, including a study guide and online reading list (containing both essential and recommended readings), and additional resources including supplementary exercises and optional lecture recordings. All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible (this includes an accessible printable version of each session). The LSHTM Moodle has been made accessible to the widest possible audience, using a VLE that allows for up to 300% zoom, permits navigation via keyboard and use of speech recognition software, and that allows listening through a screen reader. All students have access to "SensusAccess" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

For students with special needs, reasonable adjustments and support can be arranged – details and how to request support can be found on the University of London Worldwide website at <https://london.ac.uk/applications/how-it-works/inclusive-practice-access-arrangements>