



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2020-21
Module Code	2038
Module Title	Foundations of Medical Statistics
Module Organiser(s)	Tim Collier and Kathy Baisley
Faculty	Epidemiology & Population Health
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS: 25 ECTS: 12.5
HECoS Code	101031
Term of Delivery	Term 1
Mode of Delivery	For 2020-21 this module will be delivered online only. Teaching will be delivered through a combination of live and interactive activities (Q&A/discussion sessions and paper based/computer practicals) as well as recorded lectures and self-directed study. Recorded lectures will be available to watch before the related live practical or Q&A session.
Mode of Study	Full-time
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	A good first degree, basic algebra and calculus at a standard at equivalent to at least A level Maths and some familiarity with elementary probability and statistics.
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	30 (numbers may be capped due to limitations in facilities or staffing)
Target Audience	This module is compulsory for the MSc Medical Statistics
Module Description	This module introduces students to the basic principles of probability, classical statistical inference, and Bayesian statistics. It covers methods, applications and interpretation within simple medical settings. The module is assessed through 4 written assignments and the June exams.
Duration	10 weeks at 1.5 days per week
Timetabling slot	Term 1



Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	September 2020
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Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
MSc Medical Statistics	Compulsory

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
<p>The overall module aim is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the basic principles of probability, classical statistical inference, Bayesian statistics and their application in simple medical settings.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
<p>Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Have a working knowledge of the fundamentals of statistical inference and elementary probability Apply appropriately, and understand the strengths and limitations, of basic statistical methods in a medical context Understand the theoretical basis and application of linear regression methods Understand the fundamental ideas of Bayesian inference and be able to contrast these with the frequentist paradigm

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content
<p>The module is expected to cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fundamentals of probability, including an introduction to common distributions and measures of location and dispersion An introduction to classical inference including the distinctions between population and sample, and between statistics and population values. This component will also include sampling distributions (approximate and exact), estimation, properties of estimators, hypothesis tests, type I and II errors, sensitivity and specificity and confidence intervals. Applications in common settings, including hypothesis tests and confidence intervals in simple applications, comparisons of groups, association (contingency tables and correlation) and the importance of assumptions.



Session Content

- Linear regression models (including simple, multiple and polynomial), residuals, outliers, leverage, influence and Cooks' distance, analysis of covariance, interaction and confounding, model inadequacies.
- An introduction to Bayesian inference including the Bayesian view of probability, the idea of incorporating prior knowledge through prior distributions, and the Bayesian posterior predictive distribution with conjugate priors.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Contact time	90	36
Directed self-study	50	20
Self-directed learning	40	16
Assessment, review and revision	70	28
Total	250	100

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 lectures, seminars, demonstrations, tutorials, supervised laboratory workshops, practical classes, project supervision as well as where tutors are available for one-to-one discussions and interaction by email. Student contact time also includes tutor-mediated activities that take place in online environments, which may be synchronous (using real-time digital tools such as Zoom or Blackboard Collaborate Ultra) or asynchronous (using digital tools such as tutor-moderated discussion forums or blogs often delivered through the School's virtual learning environment, Moodle).

The division of notional learning hours listed above is indicative and is designed to inform students as to the relative split between interactive and self-directed study.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The teaching and learning strategy is structured around a combination of lectures followed by computer and non-computer practical sessions. Immediately following lectures, practical sessions ensure that students have the opportunity to apply the concepts and methods covered by lecture content. The practicals provide students with "hands on" experience in analysing and interpreting data, using data sets drawn from research work of staff in the faculty. Students are provided with detailed solutions to the tasks set in practical sessions, enabling them to check their understanding of the material. Four written assessments are staggered across the ten weeks of teaching, with the first assessment being handed out in



Teaching and Learning Strategy

week two. Two of the assessments involve analysis of data and writing a short report. The other two assessments involve questions which require short written answers.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

The assessment for this module has been designed to measure student learning against the module intended learning outcomes (ILOs) as listed above. The grade for summative assessment(s) only will go towards the overall award GPA.

The assessment for this module in term 1 will be online.

Summative Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Coursework	1) Probability (no page limit); 2) Inference (no page limit); 3) Analytical Techniques & Linear Regression (4 pages); 4) Intro to Bayes (2 pages).	See 8a.6.22 in Chapter 8a	1) 1 2) 1 3) 1,2,3 4) 1,4
Exam (Papers 1 & 2)	5 questions in paper 1 and 2 questions in paper 2	See 8a.6.22 in Chapter 8a	1,2,3,4

Resitting assessment

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

For students who are required to resit, or granted a deferral or new attempt, the tasks will be resits of exam.



Resources

Indicative reading list

Altman. Practical statistics for medical research. Chapman and Hall, 1991.

Armitage, Berry and Matthews. Statistical methods in medical research. Blackwell, 2002.

Van Belle, Fisher, Heagerty and Lumley. Biostatistics: A methodology for the health sciences. Wiley, 2004.

Kirkwood and Sterne. Essential Medical Statistics. Blackwell, 2003.

McColl. Probability. Elsevier Butterworth Heinemann, Amsterdam, 1995.

Clayton and Hills. Statistical Models in Epidemiology. OUP, Oxford, 2013

Gelman, Carlin, et al. Bayesian Data Analysis. Chapman and Hall, 1995.



Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

Students are provided with access to lecture notes, lecture slides, reading lists, and computer practical resources via Moodle. All lectures are recorded through Panopto and made available on Moodle as quickly as possible. Supplementary exercises consisting of previous exam questions are also provided, and suggestions for background reading are tailored to the students' prior training and learning needs. The module also provides additional support for students with disabilities and learning differences in accordance with the Student Support Services section of the Student Handbook. Reasonable adjustments and support can be arranged, such as rest breaks and additional time for completing assignments, or any other necessary provisions discussed and agreed with the Student Advisor.

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to lecture notes and copies of the slides used during the lecture prior to the lecture (in pdf format). All lectures are recorded and made available on Moodle in time to view before the related practical session. All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible.

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 who require learning or assessment adjustments and support this can be arranged through the Student Support Services – details and how to request support can be found on the [LSHTM Disability Support pages](#).