



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2020-21
Module Code	2437
Module Title	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases
Module Organiser(s)	Professor Francesco Checchi, Dr Adam Kucharski, Jillian Murray, Dr Elizabeth Brickley
Faculty	Epidemiology & Population Health
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS: 15 ECTS: 7.5
HECoS Code	101335
Term of Delivery	Term 2
Mode of Delivery	For 2020-21 this module is delivered online. Teaching will comprise a combination of live and interactive activities (synchronous learning) as well as recorded or self-directed study (asynchronous learning).
Mode of Study	Full-time
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	To benefit from the module students will need to have an understanding of basic epidemiological and statistical methods as covered in Term 1. Familiarity with the Open Data Kit (ODK) software package is non-essential but encouraged: students who are not familiar with this package are likewise encouraged to sign up for one of the ODK training sessions offered specifically for prospective ECCD students during the reading week immediately before the module starts.
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	200 (numbers may be capped due to limitations in facilities or staffing)
Target Audience	This module is intended for students interested in the epidemiology and control of infectious diseases in either developing or developed countries.
Module Description	This module will provide foundational knowledge on the epidemiology of infectious diseases: basic concepts and methods; epidemiological aspects of vaccination; surveillance



	and outbreak investigation; and detailed discussion of the epidemiology of important representative infectious diseases.
Duration	5 weeks at 2.5 days per week
Timetabling slot	Slot D2
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	October 2020

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
MSc Epidemiology	Recommended
MSc Control of Infectious Diseases	Recommended
MSc Health Policy, Planning & Finance	Recommended
MSc One Health: Ecosystems, Humans and Animals	Recommended
MSc Public Health	Recommended
MSc Public Health (Health Promotion)	Recommended
MSc Public Health for Development	Recommended
MSc Tropical Medicine & International Health	Recommended
MSc Veterinary Epidemiology	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"> provide foundational knowledge on the epidemiology of infectious diseases: basic concepts and methods; epidemiological aspects of vaccination; surveillance and outbreak investigation; and detailed discussion of the epidemiology of important representative infectious diseases.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
<p>Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain key concepts, terms and quantities used to describe the frequency, distribution and transmissibility of infectious diseases 2. Explain the principles underlying simple transmission dynamic models of infectious diseases 3. Design, carry out, analyse, interpret and report an outbreak investigation 4. Interpret and evaluate surveillance data on infectious diseases 5. Demonstrate understanding of how vaccines protect susceptible people and evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of different vaccination strategies 6. Apply foundational concepts to study the epidemiology of particular high-burden infectious diseases

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

The module is expected to cover the following topics:

- Methods and concepts: incubation periods, epidemic patterns, modes of transmission, transmission dynamics, measures of infectiousness, secondary attack rates, mathematical models of infection dynamics and sero-epidemiology
- Outbreak investigation and surveillance: includes a simulated outbreak which students investigate, analyse and write-up
- Vaccination: includes technical and clinical/immunological aspects, schedules, adverse reactions, vaccine efficacy, impact assessment
- Specific diseases: will include some or all of TB, malaria, HIV and infectious diseases in humanitarian crises

An optional three-hour training on the ODK software package for epidemiological study data management is also offered during the reading week immediately prior to the course.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Contact time	63	42
Directed self-study	40	27
Self-directed learning	0	0
Assessment, review and revision	47	31
Total	150	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 (online or on-campus) and self-directed study.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The teaching format consists of lectures taught by experts in the field followed by practicals where students can apply the knowledge learned in lecture. The practicals will allow students to assess their progress and understanding of the course material. Practical are run by facilitators who are knowledgeable in the field, so students can interact and ask questions about material covered in the lectures. Students will be expected to work in groups to solve problems and discuss the answers together at the end.

Students will also be provided with multiple choice questions through Moodle following each session that they can use to test their knowledge as the course progresses. Questions are voluntary and ungraded, and can be done any time following the sessions.

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. Formative assessment methods may be used to measure students' progress. The grade for summative assessment(s) only will go towards the overall award GPA.

The assessment for this module will be online.

Summative Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Group Work	4 pages, size 12 Times font	20	3
Timed Test (in-module test e.g. MCQ)	2-hour open book online exam with multiple choice questions.	80	1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Resitting assessment

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

Resit/deferred/new attempts - There will be a written, open-book exam in mid/late September of the current academic year, about 2-3 weeks after the MSc project deadline.

For individual students resitting a group assessment there will be an approved alternative assessment as detailed below to take place during the September resit days.



Assessment being replaced	Approved Alternative Assessment Type	Approved Alternative Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)
Group Work	Re-sit of the outbreak simulation can be done independently or in small groups.	4 pages, size 12 Times font.

Resources

Other resources

Moodle will contain all key resources and materials required for successful completion of the course. This includes downloads, formula sheets and training guides for Stata and ODK which are required for the outbreak simulation.

Free online courses to supplement learning:

Disease outbreaks in LMICs: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/disease-outbreaks>

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle gives students access to lecture notes and copies of the slides used during the lecture. Where appropriate, lectures are recorded and made available on Moodle. All materials posted on Moodle, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible.

LSHTM Moodle is accessible to the widest possible audience, regardless of specific needs or disabilities. More detail can be found in the [Moodle Accessibility Statement](#) which can also be found within the footer of the Moodle pages. All students have access to "SensusAccess" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

Student Support Services can arrange learning or assessment adjustments for students where needed. Details and how to request support can be found on the [LSHTM Disability Support pages](#).