

MODULE SPECIFICATION

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| Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification) | 2021-22 |
| Module Code | IDM600 |
| Module Title | Project report |
| Module Organiser(s) | Dr Patricia Gorak-Stolinska |
| Contact email | The LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with University of London Worldwide. Enquiries may be made via the Student Advice Centre . (Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based the LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk .) |
| Faculty | Infectious & Tropical Diseases: The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/faculties/itd |
| FHEQ Level | Level 7 |
| Credit Value | CATS: 45 ECTS: 22.5 |
| HECoS Code | 100345:100265:100948 (1:1:1) |
| Mode of Delivery | Distance Learning |
| Mode of Study | Directed self-study, through online materials |
| Language of Study | English |
| Pre-Requisites | It is strongly recommended that MSc ID students study module IDM601 <i>Research Design, Management and Analysis</i> prior to carrying out their project. Please consult with the Programme Director if you are in doubt whether to take IDM601. Important: It should be noted that although the project report option is open to all Infectious Diseases (ID) MSc students, students must obtain the permission of the Project Organiser to pursue this option. Students wishing to apply to carry out a project option are required to submit a proposal for review by November 1 preceding the year in which they wish to be examined. The proposal will then be reviewed for content and to judge the student's capacity to carry out a |

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| | <p>successful project report. Criteria for approval include clear project concept and proposed methods and strong written English language skills. Feedback on proposals will be provided by a member of the LSHTM staff with expertise in a relevant field. Students whose proposal is approved will be granted permission to carry out a project report. Once approval has been given, a project supervisor is confirmed. Supervisory support cannot continue beyond the second year of Project Module registration.</p> |
| Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body | None |
| Module Cap (Maximum number of students) | None |
| Target Audience | <p>This option is available to all students undertaking the MSc Infectious Diseases (University of London Worldwide). It is particularly relevant for individuals interested in pursuing a career in research or those interested in going on to study for a PhD.</p> |
| Module Description | <p>The project report offers students the opportunity to gain specialist knowledge and skills in a self-selected subject area. It provides the student with the opportunity to demonstrate understanding of the methodology of research within the field of infectious diseases. It also provides the opportunity for the student to demonstrate their capacity to handle ideas and critically evaluate his or her own work. It provides the opportunity to demonstrate fluent and effective communication and discussion skills by the production of a well-structured and well-written report.</p> <p>In undertaking a project report, students have the chance to develop and test a new hypothesis to either address gaps in knowledge or answer an original question in an area of infectious diseases that is of interest to them. This option involves a great deal of self-directed work that, for many students, becomes a very rewarding process.</p> <p>In undertaking this type of research-based work, you are expected to apply techniques and approaches that have been covered in the programme to consider a specific health question, develop an evidence-based analysis and develop your written communication skills by producing a well-</p> |

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| | <p>structured and well-written report in a prescribed style and standard. The project report will enable you to demonstrate your methodological, problem solving, analytical and writing skills. The final product will be assessed on your ability to apply infectious disease research methods and concepts to carry out a thorough, rigorous piece of academic work. You are encouraged to do a project that is relevant to your current or future work. The project option is particularly relevant to students who are considering undertaking a research degree (e.g. PhD) in the future.</p> |
| Duration | <p>The Project Module runs over one academic year, from 1 October until the submission deadline 30 September of the following year. Proposals must be submitted for academic approval by 1 November. Students are expected to submit their project proposal and complete the report in the same academic year.</p> <p>Alternatively, students may opt to complete a project report over the course of two years instead of one, split at any stage, but the submission deadlines below remain the same, with the submission of the Final Project Report due by 30 September in the year the student wishes it to be assessed. Students are not entitled to any additional supervisory support if spreading the project over two years instead of one year. Supervisory support cannot continue beyond the second year of Project Module registration. This means that students have a maximum of two consecutive years to complete the Project Module.</p> <p>Students unable to complete the project within two consecutive years due to extenuating circumstances may formally apply to the Extenuating Circumstances Committee for approval to defer submission of the project report to a third year.</p> |
| Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved) | May 2021 (no changes) |

| Programme(s) | Status |
|--|-----------------|
| This module is linked to the following programme(s) | |
| MSc Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide) | Elective option |

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module

The overall module aim is to:

- provide students with an opportunity to propose, plan and conduct a piece of original research, to gain specialist knowledge in a self-selected subject area.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate independent research skills.
2. Demonstrate the ability to think critically and develop original ideas; develop a research question, formulate a hypothesis, and critically evaluate the literature.
3. Demonstrate an awareness of the practical aspects of planning and conducting a study, including potential problems and pitfalls; carry out a risk assessment, be aware of intellectual property issues, be aware of ethical issues.
4. Apply skills including methodological, analytical skills and knowledge gained while studying the advanced modules to a real world problem.
5. Analyse data or literature and form conclusions based on this analysis.
6. Demonstrate familiarity with either conventional research-reporting or policy-reporting styles, including project layout and referencing; write a scientific report according to prescribed standards.
7. Produce an extended piece of writing that is clear and coherent.
8. Demonstrate the ability to present research findings and/or policy recommendations in a clear and systematic format.
9. Where appropriate, reflect on social or ethical issues relating to the research.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

Students work through a staged process with the guidance of the project organiser and their project supervisor, to refine, plan, implement, analyse and write up their research project. Project handbook and guidance notes are made available online on Moodle.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

| Type of Learning Time | Number of Hours | Expressed as Percentage (%) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Directed self-study | 31 | 7 |
| Self-directed learning | 330 | 73 |
| Assessment, review and revision | 89 | 20 |
| Total | 450 | 100 |

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Learning is mainly self-directed with specialised academic support and supervision.

On-line Information Skills Intermediate "module".

Student support is available from the project organiser via a web-based discussion forum in which students are encouraged to participate.

In addition, project supervisors provide academic support via email, written feedback is provided on the project proposal and on one draft of the project report.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

Formal assessment of this module is by submission of one written report up to 10,000 words.

Summative assessment

| Assessment Type | Assessment Length | Weighting (%) | Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|--|
| Project | 10,000 words | 100 | 1 – 9 |

The Project Organiser is available throughout the academic year to answer general queries. Students are allocated a supervisor, usually by the end of January, to answer academic queries.

30 September: Project Module registration deadline

1 November: project proposal submission deadline

Usually during November/December – Intermediate Information Skills activity

24 January: project proposal approval deadline

1 February: examination entry registration deadline

20 July: draft submission deadline

30 September: final submission deadline.

Students must complete an 'examination entry registration' form in order for marks to be considered at the Exam Board, even though assessment is only by a Project Report.

Students have a maximum of two years to complete the Project Module, as detailed under 'duration'.

Resitting assessment

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

The Resit assessment will be the same assessment type as the first attempt (see previous table).

Resources

Other resources

Project Handbook and guidance notes online via Moodle.

Students are required to participate in an on-line "Information Skills Intermediate Module" and group activity run by the Library. This is a mandatory part of your research skills training for this module.

Students are given access to the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle (for web-based discussions forums, study resources and activities etc.) and the LSHTM online library resources.

Access to ethics resources & training session via Moodle, and also to LEO.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the module learning materials, including a Project Handbook and the Foundation and Intermediate Information Skills training modules, and additional resources including information on IP, ethics (including an Ethics training module), risk assessment and the LEO form. All materials posted up on Moodle areas 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.

If you have specific, access requirements please contact the Inclusive Practice Manager via special.arrangements@london.ac.uk to request an alternative format of the study guide and for special exam arrangements.