



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2021-22
Module Code	PHM104
Module Title	Principles of Social Research
Module Organiser(s)	Leslie Kelly
Contact email	<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.</p> <p>(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).</p>
Faculty	Public Health & Policy: The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/faculties/php
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS: 10 ECTS: 5
HECoS Code	100962 : 101307
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through online materials (Virtual Learning Environment)
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	None
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None
Target Audience	Compulsory module for all students on the DL MSc/PGDip and PGCert Public Health programmes. Alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module.
Module Description	This module provides students the knowledge of the basic principles of social research practice and theory as applied to health.

Duration	Studies for distance learning modules begin in early October. At this time, module materials will be made available on Moodle and the module textbook will be made available in e-format or hard copy, once fees have been paid. Students may start their studies at any time from the beginning of October and work through the material until the start of the June examinations. However, students are encouraged to commence their studies in October and work steadily through the materials over the course of the academic year and must adhere to other assessment submission deadlines.
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	March 2021

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
PGCert and PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
MSc Public Health (General stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
MSc Public Health: Health and Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve students' ability to describe and apply basic principles of social research practice and theory to health.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguish various social science research methods and explain how they contribute to public health and health services; Critically analyse the strengths and weaknesses of different study designs, including experimental, cross-sectional, observational, documentary approaches, and participatory research designs and corresponding research ethics; Describe the main methods used in qualitative research, including core characteristics of qualitative studies; formulation of research questions; data collection; and data analytic approaches;

Module Intended Learning Outcomes

4. Describe key aspects of quantitative research, including sampling strategies, questionnaire design, measurement and scale development, psychometric properties (validity and reliability); and
5. Explain the complimentary roles of different methods in health research, including the benefits and potential challenges of working across disciplines.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

The module is expected to cover the following topics:

- A broad introduction to key concepts in qualitative and quantitative methodology and the main data collection methods used in social research for health, including perspectives from some of the social science disciplines that have contributed to public health, including psychology, sociology, medical anthropology and history of medicine.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	70	70
Self-directed learning	0	0
Assessment, review and revision	30	30
Total	100	100

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Learning is via directed self-study. A guide to studying the module is provided, together with access to a range of study resources, discussion forums and online webinar discussion sessions. The textbook that supports this module provides a detailed set of learning objectives at the start of each chapter, and also offers focused reading and various learning activities. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussions and online webinar discussion sessions to obtain tutor support, and to make use of the LSHTM on-line library resources. Written feedback is provided on submitted assignments.

Student support is available from the module tutors through the online discussion forums and regularly scheduled 1hr 'live-chat' sessions on specific topics. Module tutors provide asynchronous feedback for all students on the online discussion forums and offer individual feedback on a formative (non-assessed) assignment submitted by the student.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

A formative assessment is offered to encourage students to test their new knowledge and receive individual feedback. The formative assessment is optional and will not count towards a student's final grade.

The summative assessment of this module is by a two hour-15 minute written examination (100%). Students are advised to spend the first 15 minutes reading the paper and planning responses.

Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Exam	2-hour 15 minute	100	All

Timed examinations for DL modules are held once a year, in June (including resits). Examinations in 2021/22 will either be taken in a student's country of residence in one of over 650 [examination centres worldwide](#) or will be held online. If the June 2022 module exam is held at a local examination centre, a local fee will be payable direct to the exam centre. This fee will be in addition to the module fee and is set by, and paid directly to, the individual examination centre. The level of local examination centre fees varies across the world and neither the University of London nor the LSHTM have any control over the fee amount. If the June 2022 module exam is held online, no additional exam entry fee will be payable. (Note that for those resitting module assessments, a fee will be payable.)

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

The following materials are provided to students after registration and fee payment for this module in September/October:

- A brief guide to studying the module;
- The textbook *Principles of Social Research* (2nd edition) by Mary Alison Durand and Tracey Chantler;
- A reading list including details of both required and optional reading and links to selected papers;
- A list of useful websites;
- Access to the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) - Moodle, where students can access a range of materials, including some of those listed above; participate in module-specific discussion forums and online webinar discussion sessions and access the LSHTM online library resources.

Please note the textbook will be made available in e-format or hard copy. All other materials may be accessed via the LSHTM VLE – Moodle.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the majority of the module learning materials, including a study guide and online reading list (detailing both essential and recommended readings), and additional resources including supplementary exercises and optional lecture recordings. In some cases, module materials include a text book that is made available to students in either hard copy or e-format. 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 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>