

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2021-22
Module Code	PHM201
Module Title	Health Decision Science
Module Organiser(s)	Andy Clark
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</p> <p>(Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to: distance@lshtm.ac.uk)</p>
Faculty	Public Health & Policy: London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS: 15 ECTS: 7.5
HECoS Code	100404: 101317: 100091
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Self-study, through the online Virtual Learning Environment
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	Students who undertake this module are expected to be familiar with Excel, and capable of carrying out basic functions (such as inserting formulae into cells, producing simple charts and tables, drawing box and arrow diagrams etc.). Students should be reasonably numerate and feel confident in basic mathematics (primarily arithmetic) and simple logic.
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None

Target Audience	This module is available to students registered for the MSc and PGDip in Public Health. It is recommended for students studying the MSc Public Health: Health Services Management stream. It can also be taken by those studying for the MSc Clinical Trials, MSc Global Health Policy and Epidemiology programmes. Alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module.
Module Description	This module reviews different approaches to support health care decision-making.
Duration	Studies for distance learning modules begin in early October. Once fees have been paid, all module materials will be made available on Moodle. Students may start their studies at any time from the beginning of October and work through the material at their own pace. 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 assessment deadlines.
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	12/10/2020

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended
PGDip/MSc Clinical Trials (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip/MSc Global Health Policy (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip/MSc Epidemiology (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"> develop students' understanding of the roles, strengths, and weaknesses of different approaches to support health decision-making.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> recognise and explain key elements of the health decision-making process; distinguish different decision-making approaches and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses in particular health situations;

Module Intended Learning Outcomes

3. choose decision-making approaches that are appropriate to particular health situations; and
4. design simple decision-making approaches and apply them to real-world or hypothetical health situations.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

The lectures are the primary learning resource. Further reading will be outlined at the end of each lecture. The lectures will cover the following topics:

- a) introduction to health decision science;
- b) stakeholder engagement;
- c) disease modelling;
- d) health service planning;
- e) health economics;
- f) uncertainty;
- g) multi-criteria decision analysis; and,
- h) communication.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	110	73.3%
Self-directed learning	0	0
Assessment, review and revision	40	26.6%
Total	150	100%

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Learning is through directed self-study. A guide to studying the module is provided, together with access to a range of study resources on Moodle. Each lecture will focus on a different aspect of health decision science. After each lecture students will be directed to content that can be used to provide more in-depth understanding of each topic. This content includes lecture slides, Excel practical exercises and suggested further reading e.g. published papers, sections of books, videos, web sites etc. Most of the lectures will be given via Zoom or via a similar platform, and some may involve breakout room discussions (a good opportunity to meet fellow students). Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the live lectures (for those unable to attend the live sessions recordings will be made available) and to make use of the LSHTM on-line library resources. Please see the Assessment Strategy section for details of the format of assessment for 2021/22 which varies depending on whether students are registering for this module for the first time in 2021/22 or are continuing students.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Student support is available from the module tutors through the online discussion forum. Module tutors provide written feedback (visible to all students) here and offer individual feedback on an assessed assignment submitted by the student.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

For students registering for the first time in 2021/2022

This module is assessed via an assessed assignment (100%) to be submitted no later than May 31st.

For students who first registered for the module prior to 2021/2022

Prior to 2021/22 students were required to complete an assignment (30%) and sit an unseen written examination (70%). If you are a continuing student (i.e. registered for the module for the first time prior to 2021/22) the module will be assessed as follows:

- If you have completed either the assignment or the exam, you will need to complete the remaining element of the summative assessment.
- If you have not completed either the assignment or the exam you may either continue with the assessment strategy in place prior to this academic year (i.e. assignment- 30% and exam - 70%) **OR** complete the assessment strategy in place for students registering for the first time in 2021/22 i.e. 100% assignment.

For students registered before 2021/22, the last opportunity to complete either component of the assessment strategy (i.e. assignment and/or exam) will be the 2022/23 academic year.

Summative assessment – New for 2021/22.

Note: students who first registered for this module prior to 2021/22 may have the option to continue with the format in place when they first registered for the module. Please read preceding section – ‘Assessment Strategy’

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	Please see the Assignment Instructions for details.	100%	All

For students registering for the first time in 2021/22

The 100% summative assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually - no later than May 31st - and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

For students who registered for the PHM201 module prior to 2021/22 (and who are continuing with the assessment format in place when they first registered)

The assignment should be submitted no later than 31 March and the exam will take place in June. Note: 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](#)

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;
- A reading list including details of both required and optional reading and links to selected papers;
- Access to the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) - Moodle, where students can access a range of materials, including some of the materials listed above; participate in module-specific discussion forums and live lectures, and access the LSHTM online library resources.

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. All materials posted 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>