

September 2021

Dear DrPH candidate,

Congratulations on your acceptance as a research degree student at LSHTM and welcome to the programme. Like other students, you will probably find it challenging as well as inspiring. We hope you will also enjoy yourself, make new friends and learn new skills during your time at the School.

During Welcome Week you will meet the DrPH team, your supervisors and other LSHTM staff, as well as learning more about the School and the programme of study you will be following. To help you prepare, this letter provides key information about the first term.

First, please note, the DrPH taught component starts immediately after Welcome Week. Unlike some other research degree programmes (where students can ease into the autumn term), you will need to be focused on your studies right away. This is important, because the grades you receive for your first term assessments will count towards your degree.

Please, therefore, make sure you give yourself enough time to familiarise yourself with the key aspects of our virtual delivery platforms. I am pleased to say that as soon as you have been formally registered by Registry you will be able to access the DrPH 2021-22 Moodle site and begin the Programme.

Moodle will be our 'home' for the duration of the Programme and will be especially important during the taught modules – this is where all the information and notices will be uploaded about each aspect of the Programme. As well as areas for all the formal elements of the Programme, there is also a virtual 'student social space' open 24/7, where you and other DrPHers can meet up at any time, either by arrangement or in passing.

Also on the Moodle site is a short Welcome to the Programme from me, Nicki Thorogood, the Programme Director and within each module section, a short introductory video from the Module Organisers:

Please have a look at the [Moodle site](#) as soon as you can as you will also find here **your first task: posting something about yourself on the Padlet map**. If you're not able to access Moodle yet, you can access the Padlet map via the link below:

[DrPH Padlet Map](#)

Here we would like you to briefly introduce yourself to your fellow students and tutors. We suggest that you:-

- Explain a little about yourself or what you are looking forward to most in the programme.
- Add a photo of yourself and perhaps of where you are, or somewhere you like
- Post a favourite recipe or meal, a photo of a place that is important to you, or maybe add a favourite piece of music to the DrPH Spotify playlist (see link below).

We're also inviting all new students to get into the collaborative spirit by sharing a favourite song or piece of music on the DrPH Spotify playlist, which you can find here: [Spotify Playlist](#)

After you've clicked the above link and opened the playlist, you'll need to add the playlist to your library by clicking the three dots. Once you have done this, you can search for your desired song, then right mouse click or use the three dots to save it to the DrPH playlist.

If you do not yet use Spotify, the link above will take you through easy steps for **free access** when you hit 'Sign up'.

You can find out more in the Spotify 'Getting Started' guide here:

<https://support.spotify.com/us/article/getting-started/>

Please could you also find your name and complete your Personal Profile slide, which you may also want to list your chosen piece of music on:

[Link here](#)

This information will be helpful for us to plan sessions and may be shared with guest speakers to give them a sense of their audience, **so please do not include any information you don't want to be shared more widely.**

Please could you to do this before our first meeting as a whole group on

Monday 20th September – 13.00 - 15.00 BST.

In this short meeting we will have a chance to meet each other, just to say hello, and we will ask you to use your Profile slide as well as your Padlet map info as the basis for your introduction.

There are two other scheduled sessions: the DrPH specific induction session will be on

Wednesday 22nd September from 14.30 – 16.45 (BST)

And the ULMO Module specific Introduction session will be on:

Friday 24th Sept from 14:00 – 16:15

All session links are available on the [DrPH Moodle page](#).

DrPH classes start on **Monday 27th September**, with the two core modules running in parallel throughout the winter term. Written assessments for these modules are due in mid-December (ULMO) and early January 2022 (EBPHP).

During the first term, the module Evidence Based Public Health Policy (EBPHP) is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday each week while the other module, Understanding Leadership, Management & Organisations (ULMO) runs on Thursdays and Fridays.

Although live synchronous sessions will not take up full days each week, for planning purposes students should consider Mondays and Tuesdays as their EBPHP study days and Thursday and Friday as their ULMO study days. This is to allow sufficient time for reading and preparation for the live sessions.

There will also be a variety of sessions taking place on Wednesdays. When there are no scheduled sessions, Wednesday should be considered a private study day.

Part-time students should work out a schedule of study with their supervisor during Welcome Week. Both core modules are compulsory and students registering part-time at the start can either:

- (a) complete one module in the first year and the other in the second year, or
- (b) take both taught modules in year one before reducing their time proportionately during the remainder of the year.

This choice has implications for timetabling the rest of your studies, so if you would like additional advice on this, please free to get in touch with us. It is particularly important that part-time students who are taking only one module in 2021 keep the study days for the relevant module clear of other commitments, as full participation in the taught modules is a requirement of the programme.

Outline information and suggested preparatory readings for EBPHP and ULMO are included in the module guides available here:

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/new-students/msc-research-students/pre-course-information/research-degrees>

You will learn more about these modules at the DrPH induction session on 22nd September.

Whether you are a full- or part-time student, your first term will be busy and, we hope, exciting. I look forward to meeting you all at the start of term and wish you the very best with your studies.

Best wishes,



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