



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification)	2020-21
Programme Title	Medical Parasitology
Programme Director	Matthew Rogers
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculty	Infectious and Tropical Diseases
Length of Programme (months)	MSc - Full time = 12 months, Part time = 24 months
Entry Routes	MSc
Exit Routes	MSc/PGDip/PGCert
Award Titles	MSc Medical Parasitology (180 credits) Exit awards: PGDip Medical Parasitology (120 credits) PGCert Parasitology & Entomology (60 credits)
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	N/A
Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points	No relevant PGT QAA benchmark for this MSc Programme.
Level of programme within the Framework for Higher Education	Masters (MSc) Level 7

Qualifications (FHEQ)				
Total Credits	CATS:	180	ECTS:	90
HECoS Code(s)	100345:100265:100948 (1:1:1)			
Mode of Delivery	<p>For 2020-21, the delivery of LSHTM teaching has been adjusted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>For MSc Medical Parasitology: Term 1 core module teaching will be taught via a blended learning approach. Lectures will be delivered using a combination of asynchronous (recorded) and synchronous (live and interactive) activities. The practical element of the module will be delivered on campus in a 5 week block (from 2 November 2020).</p> <p>Terms 2 and 3 modules will be taught via a blended learning approach. Teaching will be delivered through a combination of on-campus practicals and online lectures.</p> <p>These adjustments will ensure that any UK social distancing rules are adhered to, and will allow students to study the programme safely at a distance but remain together as a community.</p> <p>As MSc Medical Parasitology uses a primarily practical teaching method, if the UK is forced to go into another period of lockdown this programme will have to be suspended until it is safe and reasonable to continue. In this scenario, students will be able to defer their studies until the next academic year.</p>			
Mode and Period of Study	Full time (12 months) or part time/split time (max 24 months)			
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in September			
Language of Study	English			

Re-sit Policy	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-08a.pdf
Extenuating Circumstances Policy	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-07.pdf
Programme Description	This programme provides core training in the theoretical and practical aspects of medical parasitology, covering the protozoan and metazoan parasites of humans and the vectors which transmit them. Students will gain specialised skills to enable them to pursue a career in research, control or teaching related to medical parasitology.
Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year)	The last periodic review of the programme occurred in 2014-15.
Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year)	Extraordinary revisions made in August 2020 in response to Covid-19 mitigation planning

2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

Educational aims of the programme
The aim of the programme – consistent with the LSHTM’s mission to improve health worldwide – is to provide core training in the theoretical and practical aspects of medical parasitology, covering the protozoan and metazoan parasites of humans and the vectors which transmit them, and equip students with specialised skills to enable them to pursue a career in research, control or teaching related to medical parasitology.
Programme Learning Outcomes
By the end of the programme, students will be expected to achieve the following learning outcomes – drawing on material taught across different elements and assessed in a variety of ways.
(i) demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of the biology, life cycles, pathogenesis, diagnosis of parasitic infections in humans and their relevance for human health and strategies for control;

- (ii) demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of the biology and strategies for control of the vectors and intermediate hosts of human parasites;
- (iii) carry out practical laboratory identification of the various parasite stages both free and in tissues and diagnose infections;
- (iv) demonstrate specialised skills acquired through taking Modules on: advanced diagnostic, molecular, immunological, genetic, chemotherapeutic, ecological and/or control aspects of the subject;
- (v) demonstrate the ability to design a laboratory or field based research project, apply relevant research skills, critically analyse and interpret data, and work with minimal supervision;
- (vi) prepare a written report including a critical literature review of relevant scientific publications; and show competence in communicating scientific information and findings.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The programme is taught online or on-campus using a variety of synchronous (live and interactive) and asynchronous (recordings, independent study, individual exercises, etc) teaching methods including: lectures, small group seminars, practicals and groupwork with peers. All elements of the programme have specific learning objectives, with content designed to help students achieve these outcomes. Students are expected to learn through both directed and self-directed study.

Assessment Strategy

The programme is assessed through individual module assessments (which may include essays, other written coursework, short written exams, practical exams, groupwork, presentations or other methods - delivered either face-to-face or online), two practical and two MCQ examinations in Term 1, written assessments during the week before the start of Term 2, and a project report. Such tasks are designed to assess, via the most appropriate method, whether learning objectives have been met.

3. Programme Structure and features, modules, credit assignment and award requirements:

Full-time Masters	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Total Credits
Compulsory Modules	2	1		75
Recommended Modules		6	4	60
Project			1	45

Module information is correct at the time of publication, but minor amendments may be made subject to approval as detailed in [Chapter 3 of the LSHTM Academic Manual](#). Optional (i.e. recommended non-compulsory) modules listed are indicative and may change from year to year.

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/changes-courses>

Term	Slot	Module Code	Module Title	Module Type (compulsory or recommended)	Credits (CATS)	Contact hours*
1	AB1	3196	Analysis & Design of Research Studies	Compulsory	10	30
1	AB1	3122	Parasitology & Entomology	Compulsory	50	122
1	AB1	3333	Molecular Biology	Recommended (Supplementary)	0	20
2	C1	3195	Malaria: From Science to Policy and Practice	Recommended	15	46
2	C1	3131	Molecular Biology & Recombinant DNA Techniques	Recommended	15	35
2	C2	3143	Advanced Diagnostic Parasitology	Compulsory	15	48
2	D1	3158	Advanced Training in Molecular Biology	Recommended	15	40
2	D1	3141	Vector Sampling, Identification & Incrimination	Recommended	15	66
2	D2	3160	Molecular Research in Infectious Diseases	Recommended	15	54

2	D2	3166	Vector Biology and Vector-Parasite Interactions	Recommended	15	40
3	E	3169	Antimicrobial Chemotherapy	Recommended	15	48
3	E	3176	Integrated Vector Management	Recommended	15	56
3	E	3260	Cell Biology of Host-Pathogen Interactions	Recommended	15	40
3	E	3460	Pathogen Genomics	Recommended	15	70

The following optional modules are not available on this programme in 2020/21: *3177 Immunology of Parasitic Infection, 3191 Vaccine Immunology, and 3465 Neglected Tropical Diseases.*

* 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 on-campus lectures, seminars, demonstrations, tutorials, supervised laboratory workshops, practical classes, project supervision and external fieldwork or visits, 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). These contact hours reflect provision during the 2019/2020 session. We anticipate that in 2020/2021 there will be fewer hours with tutor presence at specified times and a greater emphasis on directed study such as recorded lectures, recommended readings and guided exercises. Please refer to the individual 2020/2021 module specifications for more detail. This definition is based on the one provided by the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\) Explaining contact hours \(2011\) guidance document, page 4 available here](#). Student contact time, together with time allocated for independent study and assessment, determines the total student study hours for a module or programme. Although there are separate hours allocated for each of these activities, they should always be clearly linked together to support effective learning.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) defines high quality contact time as structured, focused, purposeful and interactive.

4: Entry Requirements

Criteria for admission

Applicants must normally satisfy the LSHTM's general entrance requirements and additional programme-specific entrance requirements to be considered for admission. Applications must be submitted in accordance with the procedures and deadlines given in the web-based or printed prospectus.

In order to be admitted to a postgraduate taught degree programme of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, an applicant must:

a) hold a first degree at Second Class Honours standard in a relevant discipline, a degree in medicine at the same standard, or another degree of equivalent awarded by an overseas institution recognised by UK Naric or Barrons.

OR

b) hold a professional qualification appropriate to the programme of study to be followed obtained by written examinations and judged by the LSHTM to be equivalent to a Second Class Honours degree or above.

OR

c) have relevant professional experience or training which is judged by the LSHTM to be equivalent to a Second Class Honours degree or above.

AND

satisfy any additional requirements where prescribed for admission to a specific programme.

For the MSc Medical Parasitology an interest in parasites of public health importance and disease transmission is preferred.

For further information, please see

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/how-apply/applying-masters-degree-london/you-apply-msc>

English language entry requirements

Band B

It is essential that all students have a good command of the English language to benefit from their studies at the LSHTM.

As part of the application process, applicants are required to demonstrate how they meet the LSHTM's minimum English language requirements. This is particularly important for applicants requiring a Tier 4 Student visa, as the UK Home Office dictates that every student from outside the UK and European Union (EU) must show evidence of a minimum level of English language ability (called CEFR1 B2 level), in order for a Tier 4 Student visa to be issued for entry to the UK.

Additionally, the LSHTM asks applicants to have minimum English language proficiency levels that are necessary for our academic programmes. These levels are higher than the CEFR B2 minimum level and also apply to EU applicants, although these will not normally require a Tier 4 Student visa.

The academic English language requirements for each of the LSHTM's programmes are categorised into one of three profiles A, B or C. For information on these three profiles, please refer to the LSHTM English Language Requirement Policy:

https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/english_language_requirements_policy.pdf