PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification	2023-24
Programme Title	Public Health (Health Services Research stream)
Programme Director	Jennifer Gosling, Shakoor Hajat, Ford Hickson, Dalya Marks, Wendy Macdowall Stream Advisor: Jan Van der Meulen
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculty	Public Health and Policy
Length of Programme (months)	MSc – Full time = 12 months, Part time = 24 months
Entry Routes	MSc
Exit Routes	MSc/PGDip/PGCert
Award Titles	MSc Public Health (Health Services Research stream) (180 credits) Exit awards: PGDip Public Health (Health Services Research stream) (120 credits) PGCert Public Health (60 credits)
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	Curriculum validated by the Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA). Please refer to the LSHTM Accreditation register for the period of accreditation.
Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points	No applicable benchmark statement.
Level of programme within the Framework	Masters (MSc) Level 7

for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	
Total Credits	CATS:180 ECTS:90
HECoS Code(s)	101317:100270:101307 (1:1:1)
Mode of Delivery	This programme is based at LSHTM in London and delivered by predominantly face-to-face teaching modes.
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 covers the whole breadth of public health, encompassing high-, middle - and low-income countries. On successful completion of the programme, students will receive a Master's degree in Public Health (**Health Services Research).** This stream draws on a wide range of disciplines that enable students to develop knowledge, understanding and capability in various scientific methods and fields of study relevant to health services research. It is aimed at those who plan a career in health services research in high-, middle- and low-income countries.
Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year)	September 2004 The last periodic review of the programme stream occurred in 2016-17.
Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year)	October 2021

2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

Educational aims of the programme
The aim of the programme – consistent with the LSHTM's mission to improve health and health equity worldwide – is to provide students with a broad knowledge and understanding of the concepts and methods used in studying health services and systems. Health Services Research is research that seeks to improve the quality, organisation and financing of health services. Its concern extends from the care of individuals through health care organisations to national and international policies. This stream includes a large research component enabling students to develop their methodological skills. MSc Public Health (Health Services Research) also has recognition for research training by the Health and Wellbeing pathway of the UCL, Bloomsbury and East London ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership.
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 ability to apply knowledge of the core disciplines of public health to real world health problems; ii) understand the strengths and weaknesses of different study designs; iii) identify, assess and synthesise evidence from research literature; iv) select and apply appropriate, ethical and feasible study designs to answer questions in health services and health systems research; v) show competence in critically evaluating and communicating research evidence; vi) understand the relationship between research evidence and policy/practice.
Teaching and Learning Strategy
The programme is taught through a variety of 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
Students are assessed through (1) individual module assessments (which may be an essay or other written assignment, short written tests, a groupwork report or presentation, or other method) and (2) an independent project report. These 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
Compulsory Modules	5	1	1	80
Recommended Modules	1	3		55
Projects			1	45
Total Credits	60	60	60	180

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)
1	AB1	1103	Introduction to Health Economics	Recommended	10
1	AB1	1104	Principles of Social Research	Compulsory	10
1	AB1	1107	Health Services	Compulsory	10
1	AB1	1109	Foundations for Health Promotion	Recommended	10
1	AB1	1117	Health Policy, Process & Power	Recommended	10
1	AB1	1121	Basic Statistics for Public Health & Policy	Compulsory	10
1	AB1	1123	Issues in Public Health	Compulsory	10
1	AB1	1125	Environment, Health and Sustainable Development	Recommended	10
1	AB1	2001	Basic Epidemiology	Compulsory	10
2	C1	1400	Health Care Evaluation	Recommended	15
2	C1	1501	Economic Evaluation	Recommended	15
2	C1	1803	Sociological Approaches to Health	Recommended	15
2	C2	1401	History & Health	Recommended	15
2	C2	1700	Qualitative Methodologies	Recommended	15
2	C2	1808	Health Systems	Recommended	15
2	C2	2402	Statistical Methods in Epidemiology	Recommended	15
2	C2	2417	Design & Analysis of Epidemiological Studies	Recommended	15

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2	D1	1504	Economic Analysis for Health Policy	Recommended	15
2	D1	1802	Medical Anthropology and Public Health	Recommended	15
2	D2	1701	Reviewing the Literature	Compulsory	15
3	E	1702	Proposal Development	Compulsory	15

Contact Time

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. Module contact time will be defined in the individual module specifications and provided to students at the start of their programme.

This definition is based on the one provided by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Explaining contact hours (2011). 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.

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4: Entry Requirements

Criteria for admission

The normal minimum entry requirements for the MSc Public Health are:
 	
• **An upper second class honours degree (2:1)** from a UK university, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard.
• **Work experience:** preference will be given to applicants with relevant work experience, this includes both paid and voluntary work, internships etc.
• **Additional requiremen**t: applicants for the MSc Public Health (all streams) will need to provide some evidence of ability in mathematics, post-16 year education. This could include:
    o "A" level or a higher school certificate,
    o a module within an undergraduate degree (such as quantitative methods, epidemiology or statistics)
    o statistics studied as part of a general research methods course.
 	
Any student who does not meet the minimum academic entry requirement above but who has significant relevant professional experience may still be eligible for admission.

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 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 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 Student visa.

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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

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