

# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



## 1. Overview

<b>Academic Year</b>	2023-24
<b>Programme Title</b>	PhD by Prior Publication
<b>Programme Director</b>	Sam Alford and Alex Mold
<b>Awarding Body</b>	University of London
<b>Registering Body</b>	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
<b>Examination Body</b>	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
<b>Faculty</b>	All Faculties
<b>Length of Programme</b>	Between 6 and 18 months, part-time only
<b>Entry Routes</b>	PhD by Prior Publication
<b>Exit Routes</b>	Not applicable
<b>Award Titles</b>	PhD
<b>Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body</b>	N/A
<b>Relevant <a href="#">QAA Benchmark Statement</a> and/or other external/internal reference points</b>	No relevant QAA benchmark for this Programme
<b>Level of programme within the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)</b>	Level 8 (Doctoral degree) For further information about Level 8 qualifications in England, please see <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf</a>
<b>Mode and Period of Study</b>	The PhD by Prior Publication is only available part-time. Minimum registration period: 6 months part-time Normal registration period: 12 months part-time

	Maximum registration period: 18 months part-time
<b>Cohort Entry Points</b>	Each September, January and April
<b>Language of Study</b>	English
<b>Programme Description</b>	Only available to LSHTM staff, this PhD is based on already published works and an analytical commentary
<b>Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year)</b>	September 2018
<b>Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year)</b>	October 2022

## 2. Programme aims and learning outcomes

### Programme aims

The PhD by Prior Publication aims to enable students to demonstrate that they have expertise in core research concepts, methods and skills, and that they have made an original contribution to a defined field of knowledge.

### Learning outcomes

The award of PhD (Level 8) is based on evidence of the student's proven ability in four distinct areas:

1. The creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research or other advanced scholarship;
2. The systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge;
3. The ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, application or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems; and
4. A detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry.

### 3. Programme structure, features and award requirements

#### **Programme structure and requirements**

The PhD by Prior Publication involves creating a portfolio of peer-reviewed original publications accompanied by an analytic commentary of <15,000 words. This portfolio should be planned with the guidance of a supervisory team with additional support provided by members of an advisory committee as required.

Students will be registered directly for the PhD award, without a preliminary period of registration for the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree. Students for the PhD by Prior Publication are required to report their progress on the Research Degree Records (RDR) system every two months, consistent with their part-time registration.

#### **Estimated number of study hours**

It is expected that part-time students will spend on average 20 hours a week on their PhD. This time includes private (self-directed) study and meetings with supervisors.

#### **ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

##### **Portfolio**

A PhD by Prior Publication is a portfolio that should include three elements:

- (a) A 15,000 words (maximum) analytic commentary outlining:
- the overarching objective(s) of the research presented in the publications contained in the portfolio
  - a coherent argument linking these publications
  - the original contribution to knowledge that the publications have made in a defined area of research, with reference to existing literature

The analytic commentary must consist of the student's own account of the investigations described in the publications and indicate how these advance the field of study. It must demonstrate a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality, shown by the discovery of new knowledge and/or the exercise of independent critical power. It must be an integrated whole and present a coherent argument. It must give a critical assessment of the relevant literature, describe the method of research and its findings, and include a discussion of those findings. It must indicate in what respects they advance the study/knowledge of the subject. Finally, it must be written in English with satisfactory literary presentation, include a full reference list, and not exceed 15,000 words in length.

- (b) A minimum of four interconnected, peer-reviewed, published original research publications written in English. Publications should be in the public domain and traceable in bibliographic or other public databases. For multi-authored publications, the student is expected to be the first author or to clearly define the importance of their academic contribution.

- (c) A statement describing the student's contribution to each paper and underlying research. This statement should be signed by the student and counter-signed by the lead co-author and/or Principal Investigator.

### **Assessment of the portfolio**

Students must satisfy the criteria for the award of PhD in the United Kingdom (UK). The threshold (minimum) standards for the award of a doctoral degree in the UK are given under 'Award Details' above. Students will demonstrate that they meet these criteria by the following means:

- Submission of a portfolio of research for examination. The portfolio must not exceed 100,000 words (including a maximum of 15,000 words for the analytic commentary).
- Participation in an oral examination (viva voce) by a minimum of two examiners who have read the portfolio.

The conduct of the examination will be governed by the [Research Degree Examiners Guidance](#). Requirements for the physical presentation of the thesis will be published on the LSHTM web site.

## **4. Entry requirements**

### **Entry Requirements**

Applicants for a PhD by Prior Publication should:

- Be staff members of the LSHTM and have successfully completed any probation requirements
- Be established researchers with a series of significant research publications, whether developed at the LSHTM or elsewhere
- Have either (a) an upper second-class Honours degree from a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard, in a subject appropriate to that of the course of study to be followed; or (b) a registrable qualification appropriate to the course of study to be followed, in medicine, dentistry or veterinary studies; or (c) a Masters' degree in a subject appropriate to the course of study to be followed; or (d) a professional qualification obtained by written examination and approved by the University of London as an appropriate entrance qualification for the degree.

### **Submitting a case for registration**

Applicants for a PhD by Prior Publication should submit an application to study for a PhD at the LSHTM via the online registration portal. Instead of the proposal, they should submit the following documents for review by a Panel by the deadline listed on the website:

- Details of the proposed portfolio of publications, accompanied by a statement describing the applicant's contribution to each paper, signed by the applicant and counter-signed by the lead co-author and/or Principal Investigator.
- A 1000-word synopsis of the proposed analytic commentary summarising how it will contextualise the selected papers, and critically analyse the methodologies employed and the findings presented (given the current state of the art). The work's impact on the field and possible future directions should also be outlined.
- The applicant will give a seminar, followed by an interview by the Panel

Acceptance onto the PhD by Prior Publication programme does not predetermine the outcome of the final viva examination.

### **English language entry requirements**

Band B – All applicants are required to obtain an acceptable score in an approved English language test if their first language is not English, or if their studies at university have not been conducted wholly in the medium of English. Any English language tests must have been taken no more than two years before the date an applicant commences the programme. LSHTM may also request that an applicant take a test even if the above conditions have been met. For up to date information on language requirements, please see the LSHTM's [guidance](#).

### **Financial requirements**

Applicants are required to have sufficient funds to cover programme tuition fees, living expenses and any travel and project costs for the duration of their studies. Invoices for tuition fees are raised annually and payment must be paid at the start of each year of the PhD Programme, in October. The PhD Programme is unable to provide financial assistance to any students whose funds prove to be inadequate at any stage during the programme. Students offered admission will be required to sign a financial declaration form confirming that they understand this situation and will have sufficient financial support for the duration of their studies. Evidence of available funds may be required.

### **Students with disabilities**

The LSHTM welcomes applications from people with disabilities. These may include sensory impairment (visual/hearing), mobility or dexterity impairment, chronic medical conditions (e.g. diabetes, HIV, epilepsy, asthma) or chronic pain/fatigue, mental health difficulties, specific learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia or dyspraxia), Asperger's Syndrome and other autism spectrum disorders, or other conditions with long-term and adverse effect on studying. The LSHTM aims to offer as much appropriate assistance as possible to accommodate individual needs and will take all reasonable steps to ensure that both the application procedure and the programme itself are organised and delivered to offer all students the opportunity to participate fully. Applicants are encouraged to disclose any specific disability at the time of application, and to provide information on what can be

done to make the application and selection process as accessible as possible. This will help the LSHTM understand individual needs and help ensure that obstacles are minimised throughout the application and admission process. Once registered, the LSHTM will endeavour to make reasonable adjustments and, within resource constraints, provide support to students with disabilities. The Student Advisory Service can answer queries and provide confidential advice at any stage in the PhD programme. The LSHTM will comply with the commitments set out above, in addition to any local legal obligations which affect how they must treat students with disabilities.