



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

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| Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification) | 2024-25 |
| Programme Title | Health Policy, Planning & Financing |
| Programme Director | Tracey Chantler (LSHTM)/ Emilie Courtin (LSE)/ Mrigesh Bhatia (LSE) |
| Awarding Body | University of London |
| Teaching Institution | London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) |
| Faculty | Public Health and Policy (LSHTM) Department of Health Policy (LSE) |
| Length of Programme (months) | MSc - Full time = 12 months, Part time = 24 months |
| Entry Routes | MSc |
| Exit Routes | MSc |
| Award Titles | MSc in Health Policy, Planning & Financing |
| Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body | N/A |
| Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points | No applicable benchmark statement |
| Level of programme within the Framework for | Masters (MSc) Level 7 |

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| Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) | |
| Total Credits | CATS: 185 ECTS: 92.5 |
| HECoS Code | 100648, 100450, 101307, 101335, 100489 |
| Mode of Delivery | LSHTM: The programme is based at LSHTM in London and delivered by predominantly face-to-face teaching modes. LSE: LSE policies can be found on the LSE website https://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/taughtMasters.htm , and the current FAQ on COVID-related preparations can be found at https://info.lse.ac.uk/coronavirus-response/frequently-asked-questions |
| Mode and Period of Study | Full time (12 months) or part time (24 months) |
| Cohort Entry Points | Annually in September |
| Language of Study | English |
| Re-sit Policy | LSHTM https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-08a.pdf LSE https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/services/assessment-and-results/results/re-entry |
| Extenuating Circumstances Policy | LSHTM https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-07.pdf LSE https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/services/assessment-and-results/exceptional-circumstances/exceptional-circumstances |
| Programme Description | This programme aims to develop critical analysis of issues within health policy, planning and financing and to enable students to devise appropriate health policy responses. Students come from a wide range of |

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| | backgrounds. This is a joint programme provided by LSHTM and LSE. The programme provides training relevant to countries at all levels of development, although participants are able to specialise. |
| Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year) | 1986 |
| Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year) | August 2023 |

2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

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| Educational aims of the programme |
| The aim of the programme – consistent with LSHTM's mission to improve health worldwide – is to develop critical analysis of issues within the areas of health policy and finance and to enable students to devise appropriate health policy responses. The learning outcomes of the programme are provided below. |

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) comprehend and demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of key principles of a diverse range of international and national health policies, including current and emerging trends;
- ii) comprehend and demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of key principles of one or more disciplines relevant to the study of health policy, planning and financing (epidemiology, health economics, and other social sciences);
- iii) comprehend and demonstrate specialist knowledge, critical understanding and skills in other areas selected from a range of options on the programme relevant to the study of health policy;
- iv) apply their conceptual and theoretical knowledge and skills using a multidisciplinary approach to formulate, design, implement, evaluate and appraise health policies and plans;
- v) show competence, both written and verbal, in assessing and communicating empirical evidence and in consolidating and critically appraising debates relevant to issues of health policy;
- vi) demonstrate competence in key research and presentation skills, including the ability to plan and carry out a literature search, to critically review published literature, and to evaluate research findings.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The MSc Health Policy, Planning & Financing is a joint programme run by both the LSE and LSHTM.

The programme is taught through a variety of teaching methods including: lectures, small group seminars, practical, and group work 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, group work, presentations or other methods), formal summer exams, and a project dissertation. 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/ Michaelmas Term | Term 2 / Lent Term | Term 3 / Summer Term | Total Credits (based LSHTM credit framework) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| LSHTM | | | | |
| Semi-Compulsory Modules | 2 | | | 20 |
| Recommended Modules | | 2 | | 30 |
| <i>Total credits of LSHTM modules</i> | | | | 50 |
| LSE | | | | |
| Compulsory Courses | 1 | | | 22.5 |
| Semi-Compulsory Courses | | 1 | | 22.5 |
| Recommended Courses | | 2 | | 45 |
| <i>Total credits of LSE courses</i> | | | | 90 |
| Project | | | | |
| Dissertation | | | 1 | 45 |
| Total credits | | | | 185 |

Module information is correct at the time of publication, but amendments may be made subject to approval. Optional (i.e. recommended non-compulsory) modules listed are indicative and may change from year to year, or their timing may change.

MSc Health Policy Planning and Financing is a joint programme between LSHTM and LSE. The curriculum for the Programme including the teaching and assessment will be agreed jointly by the Schools and through their normal procedures. Changes to the Programme, other than minor modifications to individual modules, shall require the approval of the LSHTM and the LSE.

LSHTM regulations for approving programme and module amendments is detailed in [Chapter 3 of the LSHTM Academic Manual](#) or refer to <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/changes-courses>

Information on LSE programme and module changes can be found in the [LSE Calendar](#).

| Term | Slot | Module Code | Module Title | Module Type (compulsory or recommended) | Credits (CATS) |
|---|------|-------------|---|--|---|
| LSHTM | | | | | |
| 1 | AB1 | 1103 | Introduction to Health Economics | Semi-Compulsory (Barred combination with HP420: Health Economics) | 10 |
| 1 | AB1 | 1107 | Health Services | Semi-Compulsory* | 10 |
| 1 | AB1 | 1117 | Health Policy, Process & Power | Semi-Compulsory* (Barred combination with HP401: Introduction to Health Policy and Politics) | 10 |
| 1 | AB1 | 1123 | Issues in Public Health | Semi-Compulsory | 10 |
| 1 | AB1 | 2001 | Basic Epidemiology | Semi-Compulsory | 10 |
| <i>*Students must take at least one of 1107 and 1117</i> | | | | | |
| LSE | | | | | |
| 1 | | HP400 | Financing Health Care | Compulsory | For further details, please contact the LSE Co-Programme Directors. |
| 1 | | HP401 | Introduction to Health Policy and Politics | Semi-Compulsory** (Barred combination with 1117: Health Policy, Process & Power) | |
| 1 | | HP403 | Health Systems and Policies in Developing Countries | Semi-Compulsory** | |
| 1 | | HP420 | Health Economics | Semi-Compulsory** (Barred in combination with 1103: Introduction to Health Economics) | |
| 2 | | HP424 | Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy | Semi-Compulsory** | |
| <i>**Students must take at least one of HP401, HP403, HP420 and HP424; any other can also be taken as Recommended</i> | | | | | |
| LSHTM | | | | | |
| 2 | C1 | 1400 | Health Care Evaluation | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | C1 | 1501 | Economic Evaluation | Recommended (Barred combination with HP422 Health Care Economic Evaluation) | 15 |

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| 2 | C1 | 1803 | Sociological Approaches to Health | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | C2 | 1402 | Conflict and Health | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | C2 | 1808 | Health Systems | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | C2 | 2417 | Design & Analysis of Epidemiological Studies | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | D1 | 1403 | Organisational Management | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | D1 | 1504 | Economic Analysis for Health Policy | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | D1 | 1127 | Evaluation of Public Health Interventions | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | D1 | 1802 | Medical Anthropology and Public Health | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | D2 | 1503 | Globalisation & Health | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | D2 | 1606 | Health Decision Sciences | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | D2 | 1701 | Reviewing the Literature | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | D2 | 2437 | Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases | Recommended | 15 |

LSE

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| 2 | | HP402 | Measuring Health System Performance | Recommended | |
| 1 | | HP404 | Global Health Policy: Institutions, Actors and Politics | Recommended | |
| 2 | | HP405 | Social Determinants of Health | Recommended | |
| 1 | | HP407 | Evidence Review and Synthesis for Decision Making | Recommended | |
| 2 | | HP412 | Global Health Security | Recommended | |
| 2 | | HP421 | Economic Analysis for Health Policy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries | Recommended | |
| 1 | | HP422 | Health Care Economic Evaluation | Recommended (Barred combination with 1501 Economic Evaluation) | |
| 2 | | HP423 | Advanced Health Economics | Recommended | |

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| 2 | | HP425 | Statistical Methods in Health Care Economic Evaluation | Recommended |
| 2 | | HP428 | Randomised evaluations of health programmes: from design to implementation | Recommended |
| 2 | | HP429 | Behavioural Incentive Design in Health and Health Care | Recommended |
| 2 | | HP432 | Mental Health Policy | Recommended |
| 2 | | HP433 | Health Care Regulation | Recommended |
| 2 | | TBC | Health Equity, Climate Change and the Common Good | Recommended |
| 1 | | HP436 | Evidence Appraisal for Health Policy Analysis | Recommended |
| 2 | | DV465 | Labour, Social Services and Development <i>'subject to occasional course suspensions'</i> | Recommended |

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.

4. Entry Requirements

Please refer to the programme's entry requirements [here](#).