



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2024-25
Module Code	IDM301
Module Title	Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases
Module Organiser(s)	Alicia Showering & Grant Mackenzie
Contact email	The LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with University of London Worldwide. Enquiries may be made via the Student Advice Centre . (Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based the LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk .)
Faculty	Infectious & Tropical Diseases: The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/faculties/itd
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS: 15 ECTS: 7.5
HECoS Code	101317:100265 (1:1)
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through provided and online materials
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	Those who wish to study this module as an individual module or as part of another programme should have a prior knowledge of basic biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology and parasitology in order to be able to work through and benefit fully from this module.
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None
Target Audience	The module is aimed at clinical and non-clinical health professionals who are interested in, or working in, communicable diseases in lower income settings

Module Description	This module provides an overview of common communicable diseases and control programmes from an epidemiological viewpoint. The module specifically targets communicable disease in low- and middle-income countries (but not exclusively) and introduces students to ways of investigating communicable diseases including disease outbreaks using different epidemiological methods. Examples are provided which allow learning of common factors with a view to provide students with knowledge to critically appraise disease control programmes and their specific characteristics. Epidemiological methods include methods of investigation of communicable diseases in settings with limited diagnostic and laboratory capacities.
Duration	Distance learning module studies begin in early October. Students may start their studies at any time from receipt of study materials and work through the material until the start of the June assessments (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed).
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	February 2024

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
PGDip/MSc Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
PGDip/MSc Clinical Trials (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
PGDip/MSc Epidemiology (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
PGDip/MSc Global Health Policy (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
PGDip/MSc Health in Humanitarian Crises (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health (General Stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health: Health and Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module

The overall module aims are to:

- provide epidemiological methods useful for the investigation of communicable diseases,
- show how to use these methods to analyse a communicable disease,
- categorize control methods and evaluate their effectiveness,
- facilitate the setting-up of control programmes applicable to the type of communicable disease.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to demonstrate:

1. a comprehensive understanding of communicable disease epidemiology and appropriate methods of control;
2. a critical analysis of methods used to evaluate infectious disease control;
3. an ability to develop an infectious disease control programme, integrating the range of issues relevant to communicable disease epidemiology, justifying your reasoning

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

The module is expected to cover the following topics:

- **Section 1 Principles of control programmes with a focus on low- and middle-income countries**
The first section provides a general introduction to the epidemiology and control of communicable diseases.
- **Section 2 Examples of control programmes**
The second section uses example diseases as models and is made up of three sessions including a podcast, which is transcribed in an appendix to the module.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	75	50
Self-directed learning	25	17
Assessment, review and revision	50	33
Total	150	100

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. Literature is provided to deepen learning and enhance critical thinking. The study guide provides a frame and guides the students through the learning objectives while encouraging critical appraisal. Students are provided with feedback after each short activity session. In addition, written feedback is provided on submitted assignments.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

The Assessed Assignment asks the student to apply the concepts and principles as introduced in the module material to a hypothetical scenario. They are encouraged to prepare a 2500-word report integrating epidemiological concepts, critically evaluate a disease control programme and to provide recommendations to enhance and further improve (30%).

The time-limited assessment (70%) requires students to demonstrate the ability to apply specific disease control principles, epidemiological concepts and methods. The assessment also provides the student with the opportunity to demonstrate critical appraisal and to integrate different concepts into a critical discussion.

Assessment submission deadlines

Assessed Assignment submission deadline **31st March**

Time-Limited Assessment takes place in **June**

Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	2500 words	30	1, 2, 3
Time-Limited Assessment	3000 words	70	1, 2, 3

Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than 31st March and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Time-limited assessments for DL modules are held once a year, mostly in June (including resits).

Time-limited assessments are held in accordance with University of London's annual guidance.

Please note that a separate assessment fee may be payable in addition to the module fee..

Resitting assessment

Resits will accord with the LSHTM's [Resits Policy](#).

The Resit assessment will be the same assessment type as the first attempt (see previous table). (Note that for those resitting module assessments, a fee will be payable.)

Resources

Indicative reading list

- World Health Organisation, *TB/HIV, A Clinical Manual*. 2nd Ed. World Health Organisation. ISBN: 978-9241546348.
- Heymann, D.L., (2014) *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*. 20th Edition. American Public Health Association, ISBN: 978-0875530185.
- Giesecke J, (2017). *Modern Infectious Disease Epidemiology*. 3rd Ed. Hodder Arnold. ISBN: 9781444180022.
- Webber R, *Communicable Diseases: A Global Perspective*. (2019) 6th Ed., Cabi. ISBN: 978-1786395245

Textbooks will be made available in e-format or hard copy to registered students in early autumn.

Other resources

Study Guide: Paper version

Reader: Online reading list via the Virtual Learning Environment.

In addition to the materials above, students are given access to the **LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment, (VLE; Moodle)** where they can access the study guide, reading list, web-based discussion forums, assignments, supplementary materials and the **LSHTM online library resources**.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the module learning materials, including a study guide (with accessible printable versions of sessions) and online reading list (containing essential readings, and textbooks if available), and additional resources including supplementary exercises.

All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible. The LSHTM Moodle has been made accessible to the widest possible audience, using a VLE that allows for up to 300% zoom, permits navigation via keyboard and use of speech recognition software, and that allows listening through a screen reader. All students have access to "[SensusAccess](#)" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

If you have specific, access requirements please contact the Inclusive Practice Manager via special.arrangements@london.ac.uk to request an alternative format of the study guide and for special exam arrangements.