



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Programme Title	Infectious Diseases
Academic Year	2026-27
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in October
Programme Director(s)	Patricia Gorak-Stolinska and Anita Skinner
Awarding Body	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculty	Epidemiology and Population Health / Infectious and Tropical Diseases / Public Health and Policy
Length of Programme	2 - 5 years
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Maximum period of registration	5 years or two years for credit-bearing individual modules.
Language of Study	English
Entry Requirements	Please refer to the programme's entry requirements here .
Award Titles	Postgraduate Diploma in Infectious Diseases (120 credits) Exit Awards: Postgraduate Certificate in Infectious Diseases (60 credits)
Total Credits	CATS: 120 ECTS: 60

Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	N/A
Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points	N/A
Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Level (FHEQ)	Level 7
Re-sit Policy	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-08b.pdf
Extenuating Circumstances Policy	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-07.pdf
Date of Introduction of Programme	September 1998

2. Programme Description, Aims & Learning Outcomes

Programme Description
<p>This programme draws upon the School's long tradition in the study of clinical and epidemiological aspects of infectious and tropical diseases. The programme will enable students to develop an academic understanding of infectious diseases. Modules in biostatistics, epidemiology and the biology and control of infectious diseases form a solid background in the fundamental principles relating to infectious diseases. Optional modules allow the opportunity for advanced study in specialised areas of infectious diseases. The programme will empower students to develop a range of transferable and subject-specific expertise, as well as global employability skills which will enable students to develop rational strategies for the control of infectious diseases.</p>

Educational aims of the programme

The main educational aim of this programme is to offer a challenging scheme of study energised by the results of current research, which facilitates the students' ability to develop academic and practical insights into the biology of infective agents and their interaction with the host and the environment. It is intended that students will be encouraged to develop a range of transferable and subject specific expertise using their initiative and their problem solving.

This programme is designed for recent science graduates and also health professionals who feel that their skills need updating in this rapidly evolving field. It is expected that successful students will have enhanced career prospects within the health and academic scientific professions.

Completion of the MSc may allow students to progress to a higher research degree in science, public health or medicine.

The compulsory core modules aim to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of public health, biostatistics and epidemiology;
- increase understanding of the principles of biology and how these principles apply to the understanding of infectious diseases and their control;
- encourage independent critical and evaluative skills that can be used to apply independent scientific judgement;
- teach students a broad understanding of the methodology of research into infectious disease;
- facilitate self-development into professionally organized and interactive individuals by practising skills of selection, assimilation and communication.

In addition, elective modules aim to:

- increase the breadth and depth of knowledge of specialised fields within the general area of infectious diseases;
- enable students to develop a critical awareness of the current issues that dictate the direction of current research in infectious diseases;
- enable students to develop and apply knowledge of infectious disease biology, methodology and policy to systematically and creatively solve complex problems e.g. the design of control programmes.

Programme Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes of the programme are designed to help students develop knowledge, understanding, intellectual, cognitive and transferrable skills.

Students who have successfully studied PGDip programme will be able to demonstrate:

1. an independent learning ability required for continuing professional development to handle ideas and scrutinize information in a critical, evaluative and analytical ways.
2. a systematic understanding of knowledge and a critical awareness of the current problems in the field of infectious diseases being able to distinguish between different groups of pathogens;
3. a conceptual understanding of the epidemiological measures and statistical methods that can be used to evaluate threats and opportunities in management of infectious diseases in complex and unpredictable settings
4. using established techniques of research and enquiry demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge of how the biology of the pathogen and the host can be exploited to construct infectious disease interventions
5. develop a critical awareness of some of the political, social and economic factors which can affect success or failure of complex multidisciplinary interventions in the control of infectious diseases.
6. apply knowledge and a practical understanding of established techniques of research and enquiry to both critically evaluate research/scholarly works and produce and communicate original material

PGDip students who study the elective modules will build on the foundations of the PG Certificate.

PG Diploma students will choose from a range of options that further knowledge in specific areas.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The programme is primarily delivered using study guides that are provided for each module studied. These guides introduce each topic in the form of lessons, activities and self-assessment questions. The study guides include tools to aid development of the skills of information search, comprehension critical analysis and evaluation, and the generation of original and thoughtful

assignments. Some study guides are provided in the form of interactive computer-assisted learning (CAL) materials, delivered via the virtual learning environment (VLE) and most are supported by textbooks and 'reading lists' with online access to journal articles.

Advice and practical information such as programme deadlines, study techniques, planning, preparation for assessment is available in the LSHTM programme-specific Student Handbook (which is available online to students after registration) and the [Academic Writing Handbook](#). Students manage their own learning and study schedule, but advice can be sought from the support team at any stage of the academic year. Module specific academic support from subject specialist tutors is available via the VLE throughout the academic year.

Assessment Strategy

Students submit assignments, including essays, short-answer tests and case-studies to be marked by tutors who will also provide feedback to help students review their progress.

Students can also practice exam techniques and are encouraged to use the resources within the LSHTM library.

Students can also interact with tutors and fellow students via the VLE Where they will be able to engage in dialogue, develop and negotiate conclusions with others. These are key transferable skills and essential components in the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and applying that knowledge.

The majority of IDM modules are assessed by a time-limited examination consisting of questions structured to allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate knowledge and understanding. The way that students manage data, solve problems, evaluate ideas and the organizational skills they use to structure answers, allows the standard of intellectual, masters level and transferable skills to be assessed.

Elective module assessments also include an assignment. The assignment allows a student to carry out a more in-depth study of the topic. Students demonstrate the skills associated with data collection, analysis, selection and producing a well-reasoned and well communicated argument (in presentation IDM502).

Assessment criteria for the programme take into account the level at which these skills have been achieved.

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

Students complete:

8 modules (4 compulsory + 4 elective modules)

At least three modules must be taken from IDM selection groups. The remaining module can be chosen from the IDM or PHM selection groups.

Up to two LSHTM in-house modules prefixed 3xxx may be chosen in place of up to two of the below (IDM2, IDM3, IDM5) elective modules, subject to module restrictions.

PGDip	Compulsory Modules	Elective Modules	Project Report	Total Credits
Credits	60	60	0	120

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](#). Elective modules listed are indicative and may change from year to year. <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/changes-courses>

Module Code	Module Title	Module Type	Credits (CATS)
IDM101	Principles of Biostatistics and Epidemiology	Compulsory	15
IDM102	Principles of Biology	Compulsory	15
IDM103	Biology of Infectious Diseases	Compulsory	15
IDM104	Control of Infectious Diseases	Compulsory	15
IDM201	Bacterial Infections	Elective	15
IDM202	Nutrition and Infection	Elective	15
IDM203	Parasitology	Elective	15
IDM204	Viral Infections	Elective	15
IDM205	Healthcare-Associated Infection	Elective	15
IDM213	Immunology of Infection and Vaccines	Elective	15
IDM215	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Elective	15
IDM501	HIV	Elective	15
IDM502	Tuberculosis	Elective	15
IDM503	Malaria	Elective	15
IDM601	Research Design, Management and Analysis	Elective	15

Students wishing to study a cross programme module can find out more here: <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/modules/distance-learning-modules/module-specifications>

Contact time

Student contact time refers to the tutor-mediated time allocated to teaching, provision of guidance and feedback to students. . In the context of distance learning this encompasses where tutors are available for one-to-one and group discussions online and interaction by email and discussion forums and project supervision.. 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.