



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Programme Title	Health Policy, Planning & Financing
Academic Year	2026-27
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in October
Programme Director	Mirza Lalani (LSHTM) / David Lugo Palacios (LSHTM); Justin Parkhurst(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
Length of Programme	Full time Taught Masters programmes: 12 months Part time/split study Taught Masters programmes: 24 months
Mode of Delivery	Intensive
Maximum period of registration	Full-time 3 years/Part-time 5 years
Language of Study	English
Entry Requirements	Please refer to the specific programme entry requirements here .
Award Titles	Master of Science in Health Policy, Planning & Financing
Total Credits	CATS: 180 ECTS: 90
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	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
Date of Introduction of Programme	September 1986

2. Programme Description, Aims & Learning Outcomes

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 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.

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 are 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
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.

Note to part-time students: In 2027-28, the MSc in Public Health programme at LSHTM will launch a new programme with some modules undergoing changes to content and structure and others discontinued entirely. The modules on offer this academic year (2026/2027) at LSHTM, may not be available in year 2. Hence, we strongly recommend that part-time students take year 1 at LSHTM and year 2 at LSE. This will ensure that the MSc you have registered for will be the same MSc for which you are awarded at the end of your course.

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	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**	

***Students must take at least one of HP401, HP403, HP420 and HP424; any other can also be taken as Recommended*

LSHTM

2	C1	1400	Health Care Evaluation	Recommended	15
2	C1	1501	Economic Evaluation	Recommended (Barred combination with HP422 Health Care Economic Evaluation)	15
2	C1	1701	Reviewing the Literature	Recommended	15
2	C2	1402	Conflict and Health	Recommended	15
2	C2	1808	Health Systems	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 Science	Recommended	15
2	D2	2437	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	Recommended	15

LSE

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	
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	

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. 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.