

Improving Health Worldwide

Essentials of Clinical Trials



LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



Short Course
22 - 26 June 2026

Overview

This popular course, which has been running since 1999, offers a fast track to understanding the fundamental principles of randomised clinical trials (RCT). These gold standard experiments enable researchers to test potential solutions to health challenges on a large number of people and in different contexts. Evidence from clinical trials has made a huge impact on health and policy worldwide.

Experts actively involved in major global trials will provide key insights into the steps involved in designing, conducting and analysing a clinical trial. Through live lectures and practical sessions, you will gain a basic understanding and practical knowledge to apply the principles of clinical trials to the health issue you are interested in.

Course content

The topics to be covered will include:

- Design of RCT: randomisation, blinding, trial size
- Ethical conduct: participant consent, data monitoring and when to stop early
- Certified Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training
- Introduction to statistical methods for design and analysis
- Alternative designs for clinical trials
- Reporting: how to write, and critique, a clinical trial report
- Clinical trials in practice
- Practical experience in the development of a clinical trial protocol. (Participants will work in small groups to develop and present trial protocols.)

Participants will be able to discuss specific questions about their own research with a member of staff from the Medical Statistics Department or the Clinical Trials Unit.

Who should apply?

The course is relevant for anyone interested in understanding the role of clinical trials in the rigorous evaluation of healthcare interventions, including clinical research professionals, research managers, statisticians and other scientists.

The course is taught by members of the Department of Medical Statistics and the LSHTM Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) who have extensive experience in the design, conduct and analysis of trials in the variety of clinical specialities ranging from malaria to maternal health and HIV to heart disease.

Teaching format

Teaching will take place through a combination of live lectures and practical sessions, which can either be attended in person at LSHTM in London or online via video conferencing.

Each of the practical sessions is directly related to a lecture, and participants will be expected to attend the live lecture (in person or online) before the related practical.

Key information



Course organisers:

Jennifer Nicholas, Matthew Dodd and
Eni Balogun.



Fees for 2026:

£1,980.



Contact email:

shortcourses@lshtm.ac.uk



Find out more and apply:

lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/short-courses/clinical-trials