

Programme Specification 2017-18

Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene: East African Partnership

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



For prospectus details about this course, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/eadtmh.html

AWARD DETAILS

Title and name of final award(s)

Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (DTM&H): East African Partnership.

Level of the programme:

This postgraduate professional development programme is delivered at Level 7 (also known as 'M' Masters level) of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales & Northern Ireland (FHEQ). No academic credit is awarded with the Professional Diploma.

For further information, please see www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/FHEQ08.pdf

Relevant QAA subject benchmark: Not applicable

For more information on subject benchmarking, please see <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements>

Awarding body: The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

- **Registering body:** LSHTM
- **Examination body:** LSHTM

For more information on LSHTM and the University of London, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk and www.lon.ac.uk

Partnership arrangements:

LSHTM has offered a DTM&H programme in London for over a hundred years. Following a pilot course in 2010 the first full East African DTM&H took place in 2011 and has occurred annually since. The programme is a collaboration between five founding institutions referred to as 'the partners':

- Johns Hopkins University (JHU), United States of America
- Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College (KCMUC), Tanzania
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), United Kingdom
- Makerere University (MU), Uganda
- University of Washington (UW), United States of America

The partners jointly oversee the DTM&H through a programme committee. LSHTM is the operational lead and appoints the programme director, chair of the examination board and external examiner; supports module leads in curriculum development; manages the website and admissions process; oversees assessment and quality assurance; manages the budget and coordinates logistics. Final awards are made by LSHTM. All partners' logos appear on the students' certificates.

For further information, please see institutional websites: John Hopkins University, www.jhu.edu; Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, www.kcmuco.ac.tz; Makerere University, mak.ac.ug; and University of Washington, www.washington.edu.

Accreditation by professional or statutory body (if applicable)

The DTM&H: East African Partnership award is accredited by the American Society for Tropical Medicine & Hygiene for entry to the Certificate of Knowledge examination.

For further information about the ASTMH, please see www.astmh.org

Language of study and assessment

English

Please see 'English language requirements' further below regarding the standard required for entry.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION**General entrance requirements**

The DTM&H: East African Partnership programme is open to doctors who hold a medical qualification from a recognised medical school in any country and are registered to practice medicine by their national regulatory authority. Preference will normally be given to doctors who have several years' experience in clinical practice with an aptitude for clinical research who can demonstrate intent to work in Africa.

Applications are made electronically via the LSHTM website. Applications usually open in October and close at the end of December each year: specific dates will be posted on the LSHTM website. There are two types of applicants: full fees and scholarship. Scholarship places are only open to doctors from low- and middle-income countries.

All students will be required to show an original or notarised copy of their primary medical qualification to a representative of LSHTM Registry at registration. A copy of this will be kept on record.

Comprehensive travel health insurance is mandatory and will be checked in advance.

For further information, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/howto/applforstudy.html

English language requirements

It is essential to have an excellent command of the English language to benefit from studying for the programme. All students will be required to obtain an acceptable score in an approved English language test if their first language is not English or if their studies at university have not been conducted wholly in the medium of English. Any English language tests must have been taken no more than two years before the date a student commences the programme. LSHTM may also request that an applicant take a test even if the above conditions have been met.

For up-to-date information on language requirements, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/newstudents/internationalstudents/english_language_requirements.pdf

For further information, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/faq/english_requirements.html

Financial requirements

Programme fees for international applicants (full fees) are set out on the LSHTM website. They cover tuition, programme materials, examination costs and transport during the course. Full fees are payable within three weeks of an offer letter being sent out, usually in January. If payment is not received by then the place will be withdrawn and offered to the next candidate on the waiting list.

A proportion of the fees paid by international students will contribute to scholarships for doctors from low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) with an emphasis on applicants from Africa.

If a successful applicant withdraws from the programme their fees will only be refunded if a replacement participant is found and full fees received in return.

Programme fees do not cover study visas, insurance, travel from home to the beginning and back from the end of the programme, travel between Moshi and Kampala during the course, living expenses

including food and accommodation during the course, internet connections and incidental spending. Successful applicants will be sent guidance on these costs prior to the programme start date.

The programme is not able to provide financial assistance to students who run out of money.

Full information about course fees is given at www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/eadtmh.html

Scholarships

Up to two-dozen DTM&H scholarships are open to students from low- and middle-income countries with an emphasis on applicants from partner institutions in Africa.

Applications are made via the DTM&H: East African Partnership page of the LSHTM website in line with the opening and closing dates advertised. In addition to the standard application form, CV and written piece, applicants need to upload a letter of support from their employer.

Successful applicants need to pay a small registration fee within three weeks of being sent an offer otherwise their place will pass to the next applicant on the waiting list.

Scholarships cover tuition fees, course material, examination costs, accommodation and transport during the course. They do not cover study visas, meals, travel from Moshi to Kampala, internet connections or incidental spending.

The rules on arranging comprehensive medical insurance (above) also apply to scholarship students.

Full information about scholarship applications is given at www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/eadtmh.html

Intake quota

The course admits 72 students per year with an attempt to balance representation on the course from regions of the World with up to a third of places being awarded as LMIC scholarships. Quotas are set based on the scholarship funds available.

There is a waiting list to cover last minute cancellations. Waiting lists will be shared between the DTM&H programme in London and the DTM&H: East African Partnership programme. Students will need to complete a new application form to move between programmes.

Students with disabilities (including dyslexia and mental health issues)

The programme welcomes applications from students with illness and disability. Please let Registry know if anything can be done to make the process more accessible.

All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure the course is organised and delivered so as to offer all students the opportunity to participate fully. Please be aware, however, that the course may present very specific challenges for disabled students, particularly with respect to:

- travel and facilities within East Africa
- the intensive nature of the course (see Mode of Study and Learning Time section below).

Tell us your needs: we will keep this confidential and do our best to help.

Once registered, it will be possible to arrange specific aspects of support throughout your studies. For example, buildings access, safe storage of medicines, enlarged paper copies of course materials or extra time for exams. Requests should be made in good time.

Please see further information at www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/usefulinfo/disability. Applicants should e-mail registry@lshtm.ac.uk with any specific queries. Registered students should contact the Course Director directly, or may contact disability@lshtm.ac.uk

PROGRAMME AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Educational aims of the programme

The aim of the intensive professional development programme is to build capacity for postgraduate training and clinical research in Africa, including for doctors from outside the Region who intend to work

locally. It is designed to introduce physicians to the knowledge and skills needed to practise medicine and promote health effectively, and to inspire them to develop their own careers in the field.

The programme covers common infectious diseases including TB, HIV and malaria, along with neglected tropical and non-communicable diseases. There are modules on the clinical assessment of infants and children, maternal health in resource-limited settings and an introduction to clinical epidemiology. Students are encouraged to evaluate the evidence from contemporary clinical research to support their learning.

By the end of the programme, students will have gained an insight in to the practical realities of health care in East Africa and will be able to:

- compare and contrast the management of infectious diseases in different contexts
- critically evaluate the evidence for health interventions in resource-limited settings
- make a safe and competent assessment of sick patients in an African setting

The programme will also encourage participants to develop their own clinical research projects, whether as part of a formal programme of study, such as an MMed dissertation or other Masters, or as an independent piece of work in the field following the DTM&H: East African Partnership programme. This will not be included in the formal examination of the programme.

For further information, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/eadtmh.html

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

The intensive DTM&H: East African Partnership programme uses a wide variety of teaching and learning methods including lectures, small group seminars, laboratory practicals, bedside clinical discussions, field projects, group work with peers and personal study. It emphasises experiential learning by immersing students in the clinical and public health issues facing East Africa today. Experienced physicians lead small group sessions and a substantial proportion of the programme is directly related to clinical practice.

The programme is paperless with lecture notes and references supplied electronically on a memory stick as the course goes along. Students should therefore bring a laptop computer. A general textbook and laboratory practical book are supplied by the course and included in the fees. A wider reading list is provided.

Each module has specific learning objectives with content designed to help students achieve these outcomes. Students are expected to learn through both directed and self-directed study.

The programme is assessed using a variety of methods, which reflect its emphasis on practical skills alongside standard knowledge-based outcomes. In-course assignments or assessments will contribute towards 40% of the final grade, and end-of-course final examinations towards 60% (further details are given below). These tasks are designed to assess whether intended learning outcomes have been met. All assessments will be double-marked.

Students are given regular informal feedback during practical sessions. To guide their personal study and revision, students receive in-course assessment marks, individually and prior to the final examinations.

Distinctive features of the programme

The DTM&H: East African Partnership programme has several distinctive features: it takes place in the tropics and meets the highest international academic standards; around a third of the participants are African doctors on scholarship; regular bedside teaching provides a context for learning; students have a wide choice of field study modules; students are examined both during and at the end of the course with a variety of assessment methods; the institutional partnership agreement enables access to a wide range of local and international teachers.

For further information, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/eadtmh.html

MODE OF STUDY AND LEARNING TIME

Mode of study and duration of study

The DTM&H: East African Partnership programme is an intensive full-time 13-week face-to-face programme running annually from September to December. The middle week is for half term and the final week is for examinations and awards.

For specific course dates, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/eadtmh.html

Estimated number of study hours

The intensive programme has 600 notional learning hours based on a mix of contact teaching time, directed study, and self-directed study time and assessment. This breaks down roughly as follows:

Clinical and practical work	150 hours
Large group lectures	150 hours
Small group seminars	150 hours
Private study	150 hours

For further guidance on study patterns, please see the programme handbook.

Location of study

The DTM&H: East African Partnership programme is taught in Tanzania and Uganda. The first half of the programme is in Moshi and the second half in Kampala. Weeks 3 and 10 take place out of town in field study groups.

For further details about locations, please see the programme handbook.

CREDIT AND ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Credit scheme

The programme is a Professional Diploma and as such does not attract any academic credits.

Assessment – general

Assessment is based on LSHTM's standard policies, which include double-marking of all assessments that contribute to the final award. Grades are given on a grade point scale, running from 5 (excellent) to 0 (very poor fail) and with a pass threshold of 2 (satisfactory). Grades from the assessed components are combined, according to set weightings, to calculate an overall grade point average (GPA), which is used to determine who has passed, and to distinguish classifications of Pass or Distinction.

Students must gain a course GPA of at least 2.0 (the pass threshold) to be awarded a DTM&H. However, failure in one piece of coursework and one final examination (both of not less than GP 1) may be compensated for by performance in other components as long as the course GPA is at least 2.0 overall. Students are allowed one re-sit attempt for each failed component (see 're-sits' in Calendar and Curriculum section below). Students must have a satisfactory attendance record to pass the DTM&H as determined by exam board in consultation with the programme director.

Details of how certificate GPA is calculated and awards determined are given in the detailed award scheme for the programme at www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/currentstudents/studentregulations/taughtcourseregulations/index.html

Assessment – course work

Assessment during the programme carries 40% of the overall marks. There are three components:

- 10% field placement report and presentation
- 15% parasitology practical
- 15% critical appraisal

Field placement	Students undertake a one-week field placement led by an experienced facilitator. This includes a group project on an aspect of healthcare delivery. The group works together to produce a written report and a presentation. Group members share the same mark.
Parasitology practical	A lab-based practical examination at the end of the parasitology module.
Critical appraisal	The programme includes several practical sessions on how to evaluate a scientific paper. Students are then required to submit a critical appraisal of research papers chosen from a selection of options.

Further details about these assessments are given in the programme handbook.

Assessment – final examinations

End of course exams carry 60% of the marks and occur in the final week. There are three components each worth 20% of the final grade:

- multiple-choice question paper (MCQ)
- short-answer question paper (SAQ)
- clinical and viva voce exam

Minimum pass requirements or compensation arrangements apply; one grade 1 may be compensated for provided the overall course GPA is at least 2.0, but more than one exam grade 1 or any grade 0s will result in failure to gain the award (and re-sit required). The components are:

MCQ paper 90 minutes	The MCQ paper will use multiple-choice questions to test knowledge identified in the course learning outcomes.
SAQ paper 90 minutes	The SAQ paper will use photographs, data sets and healthcare scenarios to test skills identified in the course learning outcomes. Questions require semi-structured short answers and may include data interpretation.
Clinical Viva 60 minutes	The clinical viva evaluates competence in clinical skills identified in the programme learning outcomes. There are four stations. Students spend 12 minutes at each one before rotating to the next. Stations may involve patients, simulation exercises or clinical datasets. Pairs of examiners remain at each station and record each candidate's performance on a structured mark sheet, after which the markers jointly agree a grade point to indicate each student's performance.

Further details about these assessments are given in the programme handbook.

Re-sits

Students follow LSHTM's policy on re-sitting modules, examinations and project reports. In exceptional cases those students missing the presentation day for the Tanzanian field project must demonstrate sufficient involvement in the module fieldwork and preparation of group assessments. This will be done in consultation with the programme director and module lead. For the critical appraisal assignment, a new version should be submitted to the chair of the examination board within three months of the end of the programme. For students failing the parasitology practical or any of the end-of-course examinations, it is only possible to re-sit by attending the following year's assessment, which follows a similar timetable.

Academic misconduct

The School takes plagiarism very seriously and checks assignments carefully. Students found to be cheating may be disqualified from passing the DTM&H and reported to their host institution.

The School's re-sits policy is available at www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/taughtcourses/exams_assmt_staff/resits_policy.pdf

CALENDAR AND CURRICULUM

An example of a typical programme calendar is available on the LSHTM website along with the curriculum and detailed learning outcomes.

For further information, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/eadtmh.html

STUDENT SUPPORT, GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES

Student charter

Students on the DTM&H: East African Partnership programme are registered with LSHTM. Prospective students are encouraged to read the LSHTM Student Charter, which summarises the standards of service the School expects and aspires to offer students, as well as the standards of conduct which students should expect and aspire to follow. It should be noted that because the programme is not taught in London, not all elements of the charter would be relevant.

The LSHTM student charter is available at www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/qualityassurance/student_charter.pdf. LSHTM student support services are described at www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/usefulinfo/services-support

The student community

Students may elect representatives to liaise with staff and help communicate student views, as well as to help arrange social activities.

All students on the programme are also formally members of the LSHTM Student Representative Council (SRC). While it is not expected that there will be substantial liaison between the London-based SRC and students taking the DTM&H in Africa, programme representatives or individual students are welcome to contact the SRC about any matters of interest or concern.

The partners are keen to involve former students in the programme committee.

For further information, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/src/index.html

Student support and personal or pastoral advice

The Programme Director and core team are there to help you by providing advice and support in areas of personal concern, be they practical or emotional. This includes academic guidance, for example by arranging for students to see a member of the teaching faculty; or with practical issues such as logistics and accommodation. All staff are expected to maintain a high level of confidentiality and empathy when students disclose sensitive personal information. The DTM&H does not operate a personal tutoring system but the Programme Director is present throughout the programme.

Further details about student support arrangements are given in the programme handbook.

Healthcare and personal safety

Students will be sent practical information about the main risks associated with attending the programme in East Africa. These issues will be discussed in a question and answer session with the whole class on the first day of the programme and at the beginning of the field placements, laboratory practical week and upon arrival in Uganda.

Please let the programme director know of any specific areas of concern you may have regarding health or disability before the programme starts. This information will be treated sensitively and confidentially with input, where appropriate, from LSHTM's student support services.

All students are required to have travel comprehensive travel health insurance and submit these and next of kin details to the core team before arrival. The Programme Director is the first point of call in case of accident or illness during the course.

Further details are given in pre-arrival information and the programme handbook.

Learning resources and facilities

The majority of teaching is usually carried out in the Eye Department Lecture Theatre at KCMC and the Makerere University-Johns Hopkins University Lecture Theatre at Mulago Hospital. Both venues provide good quality teaching space and audio-visual facilities. Students will have access to a well-equipped laboratory for parasitology practicals in KCMUC. Programme materials are included in the fees.

Not all material will be available at the beginning of the programme and the core team will update the programme electronic files with copies of lectures as they become available.

Students are strongly advised to bring a laptop computer. If you do not have one you should inform the Programme Director in advance and ask if it is possible to borrow one. This depends on availability.

Further details are given in the programme handbook.

English language support

While students are required to demonstrate English language proficiency in line with the School's minimum requirements, LSHTM also provides free online material ('English for Academic Purposes') aimed at students who would like support in adjusting to the demanding standards of postgraduate study in English. These materials include online interactive self-assessment exercises with immediate feedback, as well as links to further support available on external websites.

For general support, please see the English Resources and English for Academic Purposes sections at www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/english.html. For the free on-line materials to help develop academic writing skills, please see studyskills.lshtm.ac.uk/AcademicEnglish/academicenglish/AcademicEnglish_q&a/toc.html

Further learning support

LSHTM provides free online study skills materials and links to further resources such as:

- Writing and referencing in English including an 'Academic Writing' handbook
- An interactive basic maths refresher package, with self-assessment and feedback
- Library and research skills including literature searching and use of databases and the internet
- Other skills, including IT, computing, groupwork, presentation skills, etc.

For further information and guidance, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/studyskills.html . Please also see earlier sub-section on 'Students with disabilities' regarding disability support.

PROGRAMME QUALITY

Quality evaluation and enhancement

The DTM&H: East African Partnership programme is subject to LSHTM's quality assurance processes, including both standard annual monitoring and a more comprehensive five-year review.

The Programme Committee is chaired by the Programme Director and meets several times each year. It consists of the core team, former students and representatives of each partner institution and is responsible for overseeing the curriculum, financial planning and execution of each year's programme. Students are asked for feedback throughout the programme with an emphasis on evaluating new material.

For further information, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/qualityassurance

External Examiner

A list of current External Examiners to the School is available at www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/qualityassurance/external_examiners_list.pdf

The standard of awards is scrutinised by the above External Examiner(s), according to LSHTM policies and procedures consistent with UK national best practice. External Examiners are senior academics from other institutions or subject experts, who provide independent scrutiny of both the setting and marking of assessments. They provide annual reports which are scrutinised both at course level and centrally, and are publicly available via www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/qualityassurance/annualmonitoring.html.

AFTER GRADUATION

Possible routes to further study

This is an introductory programme to clinical medicine and research in the tropics. As such it will hopefully inspire students to continue their studies in professional clinical practice or through a Masters or Doctoral programme. Certain Master's programmes may consider the DTM&H award for Recognition of Prior Learning and consequently exempt students from some elements of the master's degree. To make an enquiry, contact the MSc programme in which you are interested, via the contact details on its web pages.

For further information on postgraduate study at LSHTM, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/study. For relevant courses which may be available through partners, please see their websites – www.jhu.edu, www.kcmc.ac.tz, mak.ac.ug and www.washington.edu.

Possible employment routes following the Professional Diploma

Some DTM&H: East African Partnership award-holders return to clinical practice in their own countries but many others chose a job or even a career in Africa.

LSHTM graduates work for a wide range of institutions including universities and research institutes, the World Health Organisation, UN High Commission on Refugees, International Committee of the Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières, Oxfam, GOAL, Merlin, International SOS, Save the Children, Malaria Consortium, Action Against Hunger, International Medical Corps, DOCS International, Emergency, Medair, Médecins Du Monde, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Clinton Foundation HIV/Aids Initiative.

For further information, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni/survey/alumni_case_studies.html and www.lshtm.ac.uk/careers/onlinecareerresources/grad_data_june_2011_update.pdf

Careers advice and resources

Members of the programme team are an ideal starting point for careers advice. In addition, students may use the online information and resources provided by the Service as part of the Specialist Institutions' Careers Service (SICS) of the University of London Careers Group. The DTM&H holds an academic careers day during the Tanzanian section of the course.

For further information, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/careers and www.careers.lon.ac.uk

Alumni activities

Former DTM&H: East African Partnership students are invited to attend the academic careers day and garden party held in Tanzania each year during the course. Funds may be available to cover travel expenses for former scholarship students within East Africa. Alumni may also be invited back to teach on the course.

Graduates of the DTM&H: East African Partnership programme are automatically eligible to become members of the LSHTM Alumni Association, and may also be eligible for membership of the alumni associations of other partners. The LSHTM Alumni Association is a diverse community of over 15,000 alumni in more than 180 countries, including local chapters. It is free to join, with regular events, communications and opportunities to meet fellow alumni in many different parts of the world. The

Association aims to provide past students with lifelong links to the School and each other, and is keen to foster a vibrant and active alumni community. All alumni are encouraged to register their details and participate further.

The course website at www.tropmedafrica.org hosts alumni community resources. For further information, please also see www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni or email alumni@lshtm.ac.uk

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This Programme Specification has been developed in line with the nationally agreed reference points for assuring the quality and standards of higher education in the United Kingdom, known as the Academic Infrastructure. For further information, please see www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/Pages/default.aspx

Last revised in October 2016 by Phil Gothard, Programme Director