



LONDON
SCHOOL *of*
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



MSc HEALTH POLICY, PLANNING AND FINANCING

PRE-COURSE MATERIALS

2018/19

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1. MSc AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aims:

For students to develop their critical analysis of issues of health policy, planning and financing, and to devise appropriate health policy responses.

Objectives:

By the end of the course the students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a diverse range of international and national health policies, including current and emerging trends;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of one or more disciplines relevant to the study of health policy, planning and financing (epidemiology, health economics and other social sciences);
- demonstrate specialist knowledge and skills in other areas, selected from a range of options on the programme relevant to the study of health policy;
- apply their knowledge and skills, using a multi-disciplinary approach, to formulate, implement and evaluate health policies and plans;
- show competence, both written and verbal, in communicating empirical evidence and in consolidating and critically appraising debates relevant to issues of health policy;
- demonstrate competence in key research and presentation skills, including the ability to carry out a literature search, to critically review published literature, and to evaluate research findings.

2. MSc HPPF STRUCTURE

The MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing (HPPF) programme is either followed over one academic year full-time or over two years part-time/half-time.

The programme structure is somewhat complicated because it is offered by two institutions, but most students appreciate the greater choice of subjects from having access to both Schools. This flexibility allows participants to orient the programme to their own needs and interests, within an overall framework that is common to all. Detailed information on courses offered at both host Schools will be made available at the start of the academic year.

2.1 General Outline (See Fig.1)

In **Term 1** (Michaelmas term at LSE) a variety of **modules/courses** are offered at both Schools, providing a foundation in various subjects and taken every week on the same time slot over the whole term. In **Terms 2 and 3** (Lent and Summer terms at LSE), courses build on the foundations that were acquired in Term 1. At the LSHTM, they take the form of **modules** running over 5 weeks with a total available time of 2 - 2.5 days per week. At the LSE, the courses run over the entire term (as in Term 1). The number of courses and modules you take depends on the options you select. As this is a joint degree offered by two schools, we expect that you take courses/modules at *both* schools!

In addition to the taught courses, students must also complete a 6,000 word dissertation to be undertaken over the summer period which carries the same weight as an individual module/course. Additionally, an assessed policy briefing is linked to either one of the LSHTM compulsory modules.

Part-time (half-time) students should expect to spend an average of 2-3 days per week studying, throughout the year. This time requirement allows for formal teaching sessions (lectures/seminars) as well as personal study, group work and assessment preparation. However, selection of modules (at LSHTM) in Terms 2 and 3 is likely to require more intensive studying for the 5 week period of the module (equivalent to 3-4 days per week) and less intensive studying at other times (equivalent to 1-2 days per week). Part-time students should also be aware that modules, in particular, may require various forms of group work - undertaken as a complement to formal teaching sessions and requiring group meetings outside formal time-tabled sessions.

Figure 1 illustrates the teaching structures of the LSE and LSHTM.

	LSHTM	LSE
International Students Welcome	20 – 21 September 2018	
Orientation week	24 September – 28 September 2018	24 September – 28 September 2018
Term 1 Courses	1 October – 14 December 2018	1 October – 14 December 2018
Reading week	5 – 9 November 2018	5 – 9 November 2018
Term 2 Courses	C Modules 14 January – 15 February 2019	14 January – 29 March 2019
	D Modules 25 February – 29 March 2019	
Reading week	18 - 22 February 2019	18- 22 February 2019
Term 3 Courses	E Modules 24 April – 24 May 2019	29 April - 14 June 2019 Revision classes in first half of Term 3
Revision	Dates to be confirmed	
Examination	Examinations of LSHTM Term 1 Modules take place at LSE on 12 and 14 June 2019	LSE examination dates are usually available at the end of the Lent Term
Dissertation submission		28 August 2019 (to be submitted at LSE)

Options

You will hear more about the structure and organisation of the MSc during orientation and have a chance to discuss your individual selection of modules/courses with the tutors and Course Directors. However, here is already some information on the MSc modules. A total of seven modules are taught over three terms. Two modules are compulsory, one taught in Term One at LSE and one taught at LSTHM also in Term One. Additionally, students are required

to take one Term One module from a choice of three at LSE and one from a choice of three at LSHTM. An additional three modules must then be taken out of a recommended list of modules, or from a broader set of optional modules offered by the two Schools with at least one module taken from each School.

A. 2 compulsory courses/modules

- 1) **HP1107 - Health Services** or **HP1117 Health Policy Process and Power** Term 1 (LSHTM),
- 2) **HP400 - Financing Health Care** Term 1 (LSE)

B. Requirement for all students to take one additional Term 1 module at LSE out of the following range:

- HP401 - Introduction to Health Policy & Politics
- HP420 - Health Economics
- HP424 - Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy

C. Requirement for all students to take one additional Term 1 module at LSHTM out of the following range:

- HP1107 - Issues in Public Health
- HP1117 - Health Policy, Process and Power
- HP2001 - Basic Epidemiology

D. Selection of three modules from the following lists:

LSHTM modules include:

HP1501 - Economic Evaluation
HP1504 - Economic Analysis for Health Policy
HP1606 - Analytical Models for Decision Making
HP1403 - Organisational Management
HP1402 - Conflict and Health
HP1503 - Globalisation and Health
HP1808 - Health Systems

LSE

HP402 - Measuring Health System Performance
HP403 - Health Systems and Policies in Developing Countries
HP404 - Global Health Policy: Institutions, Actors and Politics
HP405 - Social Determinants of Health
HP407 - Evidence Review and Synthesis for Decision Making
HP421 – Economic Analysis for Health Policy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries
HP423 - Advanced Health Economics
HP425 - Statistical Methods in Health Care Economic Evaluation
HP428 - Randomised evaluations of health programmes: from design to implementation
HP429 - Behavioural Incentive Design in Health and Health Care

Alternatively, any LSE modules not listed above, subject to availability and approval by the Programme Directors. Kindly note that courses at LSE are capped and so it may be difficult to get into some of the courses.

Any optional LSHTM modules (Terms 1-3), subject to availability and approval by the Programme Directors – from a ‘recommended’ list with possibility of one from wider programme subject to approval.

2.2 **Focus of Studies**

As the pool of participants taking this MSc is international, many courses allow participants to focus discussions during seminars/small group work on key issues of importance to particular areas of the world. To this end you may be asked whether you wish to focus on the issues of importance to either developing or developed countries, or, if there is sufficient demand, to low, middle or high income countries. Not all courses offer this form of geographical specialisation and those that do will balance a response to the needs of course participants with available staff and other teaching resources. If you have broad, international interests you may consider choosing a different geographical focus in each of your courses.

2.3 **Introductory Reading**

We do not expect you to have covered any specific literature prior to your arrival here in London. Nonetheless, if you are interested to familiarise yourself with some of the broader concepts and issues that are core to HPPF and that will form much of the basis for some of the core courses, we would recommend the following literature:

- *E Mossialos, A Dixon, J Figueras & J Kutzin (Eds), Funding Health Care: options for Europe, Open University Press, 2002*
- *McPake B, Kumaranayake L, Normand C, Health Economics – An International Perspective, London, Routledge, 2002*

2.4 **Additional Details of Courses**

Details of the compulsory courses and recommended pre-course readings are as follows:

Financing Health Care: To give students a thorough grounding in health financing policy. It focuses on the health financing functions of collecting revenue, pooling funds and purchasing services, as well as on policy choices concerning coverage, resource allocation and market structure. The course mainly draws on examples from health financing policy in European countries, but the general principles studied apply internationally. Introductory readings¹: WHO, World Health Report 2010 - Health systems financing: the path to universal coverage (2010); E Mossialos, A Dixon, J Figueras & J Kutzin (eds), Funding health care: options for Europe, Open University Press (2002); J Kutzin, Health financing policy: a guide for decision-makers, World Health Organization (2008); T Rice, The economics of health reconsidered, Health Administration Press (3rd edn, 2009)

Health Services: To provide students with a range of ways of thinking about health services and health systems drawing on epidemiology, history, medicine, economics and sociology the module will help students understand how services function, the reasons services have developed in the way they have, the basis for some universal, persistent problems, and the possible solutions to such difficulties. Introductory readings²: Cochrane AL. Effectiveness and efficiency. Random reflections on health services. Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, 1971; Payer L. Medicine and culture. Varieties of treatment in the US, England, West Germany & France. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1988; McKeown T. The role of medicine. Dream,

¹ Students are not expected to buy all the listed textbooks before the course begins but may wish to look through their contents to get some ideas of the type of material which will be covered during the year.

² As above

mirage or nemesis. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1979; Britnall M. In Search of the Perfect Health System. Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

Health Policy, Process and Power: To equip students to study or work in the health policy arena at international, national and local levels. By the end of this module students should be able to: (i) review different basic theoretical approaches and concepts used in policy analysis; (ii) analyse the political system within which policies are made and the contextual factors that influence policy change processes; (iii) identify the key actors involved in health policy making, and features of the policy processes; (iv) plan how to use in research and/or decision-making the policy analysis framework introduced during the module. Health Policy, Process & Power is intended for students interested in the broad political dimensions of health. Introductory readings: Buse K, Mays N, Walt G, *Making Health Policy*. 2012, Maidenhead, Berkshire: Open University Press.

2.5 Non-examined courses

There are some courses which you may wish to take in addition to your examined course units. For example, you may also wish to take the LSHTM Term 1 courses in Computing or Basic Statistics (the latter is recommended for those taking Basic Epidemiology). The LSE also offers a variety of computing courses. Further details will be available at the start of the academic year.

3. ASSESSMENT

All modules/courses during Term 1 are assessed by end-of-year written exams; some courses may require an essay in addition to the exam. The 6,000 word dissertation will account for one-eighth of the degree (the same weight as the other courses taken).

Assessment of other LSE courses varies and is identified within the LSE Graduate Handbook. Assessment of LSHTM modules is by in-course assessment at the end of the module, usually in the form of an essay.

Overall degree classifications are as follows: distinction, merit, pass and fail.

Assessment for part-time students is as follows:

Students take their exams in two parts. Courses studied in year 1 are examined in May/June of that year; those studied in the second year are examined in May/June of year 2.

4. ORGANISATION

4.1 Tutors

You will be allocated a tutor shortly after arrival in London. Tutors are drawn from both LSE and LSHTM and their main functions are:

- to act as a 'friend' at a pastoral level and to assist you with personal problems, either directly or by helping you to contact an appropriate person (e.g. with regards to finding accommodation, language difficulties or health problems);
- to assist you at a professional level with respect to your performance in the course, either directly or in consultation with an appropriate member of the teaching staff;
- to supervise your dissertation.

Tutors are there to meet with you several times during the year, but there is only very limited tutorial support after Term 3 (Summer Term). We thus recommend thinking about the topic

and approach for your dissertation very early on during the year and have an agreed protocol ready by the end of January.

4.2 **HPPF Seminars**

One of the major strengths of the MSc is the experience and diversity of its participants. The teaching programme seeks to draw on this experience throughout the year, but in addition, we feel it is important to give specific opportunities for participants to share their experience directly with each other. Therefore, we encourage participants to volunteer to give seminars during class meetings held each week throughout the year.

Seminars usually address an aspect of past experience which you would like to share with your colleagues, and which will provoke others to, for example, think of a health policy issue new to them, or to appreciate the differences and similarities between health policy concerns in different countries. It may arise out of the work you have come from or some research in which you have been involved.

4.3 **Administration**

The programme is organised by the MSc Course Directors, and the Health Programmes Officer at LSE / Course Administrators at LSHTM and LSE, who work to a Joint Course Committee made up of representatives from both Schools and from the MSc Class Representatives.

The class elects two representatives, who will also organise/chair the above mentioned HPPF seminars and class meetings. These meetings include student seminars, and allow issues of common concern to be raised. In addition, many classes have elected social representatives who suggest and organise social activities with the class.

Class representatives seek to represent the view of the whole class: full-timers and part-timers, from all parts of the world. They have a number of channels through which concerns can be fed to the teaching staff. These include: regular meetings with the MSc Course Directors, meetings with the LSHTM Departmental Taught Course Director, the Joint Course Committee of the MSc, and meetings within the LSE Department of Social Policy. In addition, the Student Representatives' Council of the LSHTM exists to represent all LSHTM students.

5. **MATERIALS TO BRING WITH YOU**

All courses within the MSc programme seek to use your own experience. You will find it useful to bring with you materials relating to your country of experience and/or current work. For example, information on:

- health sector structure
- health sector financing patterns
- current policy issues and developments in the health sector
- evaluations of health sector programmes with which you are familiar
- health and development planning documents

6. **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATIONS**

If you have any disability that you feel we should know about, or for which you need special arrangements for assessment or exams, it is very important that we know about this as soon as possible. You will need to bring with you medical documentation stating the nature of your disability, what support you might require and whether this will affect your academic work. If you do not have any documentation, it is even more important that you notify the course directors as soon as you arrive so that we can help you to make whatever arrangements are required for you to obtain the necessary documents once you have registered for the course.

7. **USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS**

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WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!

Justin Parkhurst, Mrigesh Bhatia and Neil Spicer
MSc HPPF Programme Directors