# Module Specification

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This module specification applies for the academic year 2019-20

**Last revised:** 9 August 2019 by Claire Rogers

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel St., London WC1E 7HT. [www.lshtm.ac.uk](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>Basic Parasitology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>3146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Organiser</td>
<td>Claire Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Claire.Rogers@lshtm.ac.uk">Claire.Rogers@lshtm.ac.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Faculty</td>
<td>Infectious &amp; Tropical Diseases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Level 7 (postgraduate Masters 'M' level) of the QAA <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk">Framework for Higher Education Qualifications</a> in England, Wales &amp; Northern Ireland (FHEQ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>15 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Not currently accredited by any other body.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>Parasitic, malaria, worm infection, zoonotic diseases, pathogens Biomedical sciences/disciplines, laboratory science (incl. quality assurance), team-work, parasites, medical parasitology, medical helminthology, diagnostic parasitology.</td>
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</table>

## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

**Overall aim**

To provide students with basic knowledge of the major human parasite diseases, concentrating on diagnosis.

**Intended learning outcomes**

By the end of this module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the appearances, life cycles and modes of transmission of the major helminth and protozoan parasites of man
- Diagnose microscopically those parasitic diseases for which this technique is appropriate
- Demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of the medical importance and epidemiology of parasitic diseases
- Demonstrate more detailed knowledge and understanding of up to two selected parasitic diseases

**Target audience**

This module is designed for those with little or no knowledge of parasitic diseases.

## CONTENT
**Session content**

The module is expected to include sessions addressing the following topics:

- Life-cycles, modes of transmission and appearance of the causative agents of the major parasitic infections including:
  - Malaria
  - Leishmaniasis
  - Trypanosomiasis
  - Amoebiasis
  - Giardiasis
  - Coccidial and Opportunistic parasitic infections by, e.g. *Toxoplasma, Cryptosporidium, Pneumocystis* and Microsporidial species
  - Soil transmitted helminths
  - Schistosomiasis
  - Filariasis
- Practical skills of microscopical diagnosis of blood, faecal and tissue parasites
- Approaches to Parasite Diagnosis, concentrating on those appropriate in low income countries
- A brief introduction to Medical Entomology and to the organisation of a diagnostic laboratory
- In addition students will, in small groups, research a parasitological topic in depth, prepare a poster and discuss it with the Module Organiser

**TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study resources provided or required</th>
<th>Module Information can be found on the Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle) containing information about each session and key references for the module. A laboratory handbook is provided.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching and learning methods</td>
<td>Lectures, laboratory practicals and small group work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment details</td>
<td>The assessment will consist of two components: \n<strong>Evaluation of the group poster presentation</strong> (which will result in a group grade) weighted 40%. \n<strong>A practical test</strong> weighted 60%. \nThe grades for each assessment will be combined to give an overall GPA. \nResit/deferred/new attempts - The tasks will be an essay covering the same points as the poster (but in less depth) and a practical exam in the same format as the original.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment dates</td>
<td>Assessments will take place in <strong>March 2020</strong>: Poster assessment and Practical exam \nResit/deferred/new attempts - The next assessment deadline will be during mid/late September of the current academic year.</td>
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</table>
**Language of study and assessment**

English (please see ‘English language requirements’ below regarding the standard required for entry).

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**TIMING AND MODE OF STUDY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Duration</strong></th>
<th>5 weeks at 2.5 days per week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dates</strong></td>
<td>Monday morning to Wednesday lunchtime</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Timetable slot</strong></td>
<td>Term 2 - slot D1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mode of Study</strong></td>
<td>The module is taught face-to-face in London. Both full-time and part-time students follow the same schedule.</td>
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**Learning time**

The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of:

- Contact time ≈ 32 hours
- Directed self-study ≈ 60 hours
- Self-directed learning ≈ 44 hours
- Assessment, review and revision ≈ 14 hours

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**APPLICATION AND ADMISSION**

**Pre-requisites**

There are no formal prerequisites for this module and in particular no prior knowledge of parasitology is expected. In practice, most students choosing this module have some prior clinical laboratory experience but while useful this is not essential.

**English language requirements**

A strong command of the English language is necessary to benefit from studying the module. Applicants whose first language is not English or whose prior university studies have not been conducted wholly in English must fulfil LSHTM’s English language requirements.

**Student numbers**

15-20 (numbers may be capped due to limitations in facilities or staffing)

**Student selection**

Preference will be given to LSHTM MSc students particularly those registered for specific programmes or who have taken specific prior modules, where applicable and LSHTM research degree students. Other applicants meeting the entry criteria will usually be offered a place in the order applications are received, until any cap on numbers is reached. Applicants may be placed on a waiting list and given priority the next time the module is run.

Full Registration (full participation) by LSHTM research degree students is required for this module.