# Module Specification

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This module specification applies for the academic year 2019-20

Last revised 4 September 2019, by Fern Terris-Prestholt

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>Economic Analysis for Health Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>1504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Organisers</td>
<td>Dr Fern Terris-Prestholt; Dr. Matthew Quaife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Fern.Terris-Prestholt@lshtm.ac.uk">Fern.Terris-Prestholt@lshtm.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Faculty</td>
<td>Public Health &amp; Policy</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>15 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Not currently accredited by any other body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>Health Economics, Health Systems, Health Policy, Health Care Reform, Governance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

### Overall aim

Economic Analysis for Health Policy builds on the economic theories and concepts introduced in Term 1, and applies them to analyse current issues and problems in health policy in developed and developing countries.

### Intended learning outcomes

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

- Describe an alternative way of financing and organising health systems, and analyse them using the economic concepts of information, agency and incentives.
- Identify different market structures used in the delivery of health services and key health service inputs such as human resources, discuss their associated strengths and weaknesses (market and policy failures) and potential ways of mitigating these effects. These will include the role and functioning of regulation and contracting for health services.
- Explain the need for rationing in the health sector, and analyse different rationing mechanisms in terms of their implications for equity and efficiency.
- Apply the tools of equity analysis (benefit incidence analysis and measurement of equity) to analyse the distribution of resources in the health sector.
- Consider departures from the rationality assumption, through exposure to basic behavioural economics theories.

**Target audience**

This module targets a wide range of audience from the applied policy maker to those with greater interests in the underlying economic theories and academic ambitions.

**CONTENT**

**Session content**

The module is expected to include sessions addressing the following topics:
- Introduction and overview
- Markets, competition and choice in health
- Models of health system financing and organisation and international comparisons
- Health care insurance
- Human resources for health
- Rationing
- Agency and Contracting
- Pay for performance
- Tools for equity analysis
- Regulation
- Behavioural economics

**TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT**

**Study resources provided or required**

Module Information can be found on the Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle) containing information about each session and key references for the module. This module has a challenging reading list consisting of peer reviewed journal articles and policy reports.

**Teaching and learning methods**

Students participate in a combination of lectures and workshops. Lectures introduce concepts and ideas and clarify theories. Workshops use problem-based exercises and group discussions with the aim of supporting students’ comfort with economic principles and models, and enable them to apply these principles to specific issues of health system organisation and financing.

Students are encouraged to take an active role in their learning by selecting among the advanced readings and seeking out supporting materials where appropriate, in particular when researching their policy report.

**Assessment details**

The assessment will be in the form of an applied policy analysis. Students will apply the concepts and theories they have been exposed to in this module by writing an essay on a particular health reform in their country of choice. They will be asked to describe an inefficiency or inequity in their chosen health system and analyse the impact of a health policy reform to address it.

Resit/deferred/new attempts - The task will be an essay.

**Assessment dates**

Assessment will be due on the last day of the module.

Resit/deferred/new attempts - the next assessment deadline will be during mid/late September of the current academic year.

**Language of study and assessment**

English (please see 'English language requirements' below regarding the standard required for entry).
### TIMING AND MODE OF STUDY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Duration</strong></th>
<th>5 weeks at 2.5 days per week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dates</strong></td>
<td>Monday morning to Wednesday lunchtime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timetable slot</strong></td>
<td>Term 2 - slot D1</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Learning time**
The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of:
- Contact time ≈ 45 hours
- Directed self-study ≈ 45 hours
- Self-directed learning ≈ 5 hours
- Assessment, review and revision ≈ 55 hours

### APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Pre-requisites</strong></th>
<th>The Term 1 linear module, Introduction to Health Economics (1103), is a pre-requisite for this module</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>English language requirements</strong></td>
<td>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 <a href="#">English language requirements</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student numbers</strong></td>
<td>80 (numbers may be capped due to limitations in facilities or staffing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student selection</strong></td>
<td>Preference will be given to LSHTM MSc students, particularly those registered for MSc Health Policy Planning &amp; Finance (HPPF) or the MSc Public Health (Health Economics), 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. Partial Registration (partial participation) by LSHTM research degree students is allowed for this module.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>