



27<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Student,

Welcome to LSHTM. As you will appreciate, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has led to some changes to how we deliver teaching at LSHTM. We will do our very best to accommodate your needs, but initially most of our activity will be virtual.

Currently, many of our staff and students are working from home. While this situation continues to evolve, we envisage that home working will continue to be encouraged, to ensure that the numbers in LSHTM buildings allow appropriate physical distancing. Therefore, much of our term-1 (autumn term) teaching, including the DrPH Taught Modules and the doctoral transferable skills programme, will be delivered online. Online options for our optional taught modules will be available for terms 2 and 3, though some face-to-face participation may also be available.

We have removed the normal expectation of starting your doctoral programme in London for this academic year. You will NOT need to come to London for registration or the orientation programme, which will be delivered online.

The DrPH team are working to provide the best possible experience for the 2021 cohort, including synchronous live taught sessions, panel discussions and other collaborative provision. We are mindful of the issues raised by the differing time zones students may be based in and will accommodate this as best we can in our live provision. We will also provide other activities that can be pursued asynchronously, both individually and in small groups. Depending on the circumstances at the time, we may be able to organise some face-to-face activities in London for those able to attend, but this would be in addition to, not part of, the teaching delivered in the modules. Please be assured that we will offer similar activities in future years to enable everyone to participate in these at some point during their degree programme.

If you do come to London in September, we cannot say at this point what access you will have to LSHTM buildings. Access has improved over recent months, and requests for access to LSHTM buildings can be made to your Faculty with the support of your supervisor. We continue to be guided by government advice and will keep you informed as the situation develops.

Further information regarding COVID-19 and study at LSHTM can be found at

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/covid-19>

We hope you are able to adapt to these alternative ways of working and look forward to welcoming you and helping to make your doctoral studies as enjoyable and productive as possible.

With best wishes,

Sam Alsford & Alex Mold