

## LSHTM Academic Manual 2021-22

### Chapter 2: Qualifications and Taught Credit Framework

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#### Annual Review of the Academic Manual

**s**

The LSHTM Academic Manual was introduced in 2019-20 bringing together all the academic regulations and procedures which constitute LSHTM’s framework for quality and standards for credit-bearing taught provision, research degrees and special programmes. The Academic Manual consists of 11 Chapters all of which are reviewed annually and published as separate documents on [LSHTM website](#) together with a summary of amendments. With the exception of most minor editorial changes (e.g. typos, formatting and spelling or grammatical corrections), all revisions and amendments are noted and approved by Senate before the start of each academic year.

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## **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The Qualifications and Taught Credit Framework defines the structures for all modules and programmes leading to taught awards and research higher education qualifications at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). This credit system is in line with the [Qualifications and Credit Framework](#) (QCF) and the [Higher Education Credit Framework for England](#). All LSHTM qualifications and programmes of study must be aligned with this framework with the exception of short professional courses. This framework is adhered to in the assessment regulations in [Chapter 8a, Intensive Postgraduate Taught Degree Academic Regulations](#) and [Chapter 8b, Distance Learning Postgraduate Taught Degree Academic Regulations](#) of the LSHTM Academic Manual and in individual programme and module specifications.
- 2.1.2 In addition to taught awards and research degree qualifications, the LSHTM offers credit-bearing short courses. These courses are designed to enable students to gain specialist knowledge to help advance their career. LSHTM credit-bearing short courses are designed, delivered and formally assessed in line with the [Higher Education Credit Framework for England](#) Level 7 and QAA Master's Degree Characteristic statements.
- 2.1.3 The main purposes of this framework are:
- To promote a shared understanding of LSHTM qualifications;
  - To promote consistent use of credit and qualifications across LSHTM faculties and departments;
  - To provide a reference point for setting and assessing academic standards when designing, approving, monitoring and reviewing programmes of study and their constituent modules;
  - To ensure that LSHTM's awards are of an academic standard that is consistent with the [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-awarding Bodies](#) (FHEQ);
  - To communicate to students and stakeholders the achievements represented by the qualifications of LSHTM;
  - To inform international comparability of academic standards.

## **2.2 Qualifications of LSHTM**

2.2.1 The following qualifications are accredited by LSHTM, granted under the ordinances of the University of London and governed by this framework.

### **Level 7 of the FHEQ**

- Master of Science Control of Infectious Diseases (MSc)
- Master of Science Demography & Health (MSc)
- Master of Science Epidemiology (MSc)
- Master of Science Global Mental Health with Kings College London (MSc)
- Master of Science Health Data Science (MSc)
- Master of Science Health Policy, Planning & Financing (MSc)
- Master of Science Immunology of Infectious Diseases (MSc)
- Master of Science Medical Entomology for Disease Control (MSc)
- Master of Science Medical Microbiology (MSc)
- Master of Science Medical Parasitology (MSc)
- Master of Science Medical Statistics (MSc)
- Master of Science Nutrition for Global Health (MSc)
- Master of Science One Health (Ecosystems, Humans and Animals) with Royal Veterinary College (MSc)
- Master of Science Public Health - Environment & Health Stream (MSc)
- Master of Science Public Health - Health Economics Stream (MSc)
- Master of Science Public Health - Health Promotion Stream (MSc)
- Master of Science Public Health - Health Services Management Stream (MSc)
- Master of Science Public Health - Health Services Research Stream (MSc)
- Master of Science Public Health - Public Health (MSc)
- Master of Science Public Health for Eye Care (MSc)
- Master of Science Public Health for Development (MSc)
- Master of Science Reproductive & Sexual Health Research (MSc)
- Master of Science Tropical Medicine & International Health (MSc)
- Master of Science Veterinary Epidemiology with Royal Veterinary College (MSc)

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- Postgraduate Certificate in Learning & Teaching (PGCILT)
- Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health (PGCert)

Taught Master's by distance learning managed by University of London Worldwide Programmes

- Master of Science Clinical Trials (MSc/PGCert/PGDip)
- Master of Science Demography & Health (MSc/PGCert/PGDip)
- Master of Science Epidemiology (MSc/PGCert/PGDip)
- Master of Science Global Health Policy (MSc/PGCert/PGDip)
- Master of Science Infectious Diseases (MSc/PGCert/PGDip)
- Master of Science Public Health (MSc/PGCert/PGDip)

**Level 8 of the FHEQ**

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- PhD by Prior Publication (PhD)
- Doctor of Public Health (DrPH)

**Exit Awards**

2.2.2 An approved programme of study may include one or more exit awards to recognise the achievements of any students unable to complete the full qualification. These are included in the programme specification. Students will only be considered for an exit award where it is an approved component of the programme of study on which they are registered and where they are unable to complete or have failed to meet the requirements for the full qualification. Exit awards are not awarded automatically nor are they a student entitlement.

2.2.3 All LSHTM Master's degrees have exit awards of PGDip, excepting the MSc Health Policy, Planning & Financing, which has no exit awards.

2.2.4 The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) has an exit award of Master of Philosophy.

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2.2.5 The Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) has an exit award of PGCert

## **2.3 Credit Framework**

2.3.1 Credit is awarded to a student on successful completion of the outcomes associated with a particular block of learning at a specified academic level (Level 7). Level 8 qualifications are not credit-rated, except for where taught elements are included as part of the DrPH. Where a student fails to gain credits, they will be required to resit the assessment. The LSHTM Resit regulations can be found in [Chapter 8a](#) (for Intensive students) or [Chapter 8b](#) (for distance learning students) of the LSHTM Academic Manual.

2.3.2 The Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme (CATS) is used by many universities in the United Kingdom to monitor and record passage through a programme and enables students to move credits they accumulate from one institution to another. In line with CATS, LSHTM equates one credit to 10 notional learning hours.

2.3.3 The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is an arrangement which guarantees the academic recognition of studies taken across collaborating European countries, providing a comparative scale on which to measure academic achievement. Credits must be converted to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) using the ratio 1 CATS credit = 0.5 ECTS credits = 10 notional learning hours.

### **Award of Master's (MSc)**

2.3.4 To be awarded an MSc, a student must obtain at least 180 credits from the specific set of modules and project offered by the programme as set out in the Programme Specification. This may include a mix of compulsory and optional modules.

### **Award of Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)**

2.3.5 If a student fails to pass the MSc Project, they may be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) if they have gained at least 120 credits. A student will need to have passed the Core element and four term 2/3 modules. The PGDip will have the same name as their MSc. However, no

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stream name will be attached unless they have passed the compulsory modules for the MSc stream, where relevant.

2.3.5a If a student has gained at least 120 credits but does not meet the criteria for a PGDip with the name of the MSc attached, they may be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Diploma of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

**Award of Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)**

2.3.6 If a student fails to complete the requirements for the PGDip but they have gained at least the 60 credits for the Core element, they may be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert). The PGCert will have the same name as the MSc. However, no stream name will be attached.

2.3.6a If a student has gained at least 60 credits but does not meet the criteria for a PGCert with the name of the MSc attached, they may be eligible for the award of Postgraduate Certificate of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

**Credit-bearing Short Course**

2.3.7 Credit-bearing short courses do not hold a formal award or qualification. However, students will gain credit upon successful completion of the summative assessment. LSHTM's credit framework for credit-bearing Short Courses is set at a maximum of 30 credits of learning, based on the FHEQs Masters Level 7.

2.3.8 The following table outlines the CATS and ECTS credits and learning hour equivalencies for each LSHTM qualification based on the [FHEQ](#):

<b>Qualification</b>	<b>CATS credits</b>	<b>ECTS credits</b>	<b>Notional Learning hours</b>
<b>Postgraduate certificate</b>	60	30	600
<b>Postgraduate diploma</b>	120	60	1200
<b>Taught master's</b>	180	90	1800

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### **Learning Hours**

- 2.3.9 Notional learning hours represent the entirety of student effort required to undertake and complete a module. This includes all aspects of learning and teaching activity: self-directed learning, coursework, classroom-based activity, laboratory work, practical work, preparation for assessments.

## **2.4 Recognition of Prior Learning**

- 2.4.1 Recognition of prior learning (RPL) is the process whereby students are exempted from part of their chosen programme of academic study by recognition of comparable learning and attainment.
- 2.4.2 RPL may be granted towards particular programmes.
- 2.4.3a Up to one-third of the total credits of an MSc programme is permitted to be assessed by RPL—e.g. up to 60 UK credits—provided it is at the same level of the FHEQ.
- 2.4.3 b RPL requirements for the Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching (PGCiLT) are provided in the programme specification and programme specific regulations.
- 2.4.4 Students are not permitted to use credit twice, meaning that credit cannot be transferred where it has previously been used for another award.
- 2.4.5 LSHTM does not recognise experiential learning.
- 2.4.6 LSHTM has a separate [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#).

## **2.5 Award Scheme**

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### **2.5.1 MSc Award Scheme**

2.5.1.1 The MSc Award Scheme sets out rules for making awards for Intensive Master's degrees taught at LSHTM.

2.5.1.2 The MSc Award Scheme covers the following Master of Science (MSc) programmes:

- Control of Infectious Diseases (CID)
- Demography & Health (D&H)
- Epidemiology (EPI)
- Global Mental Health (GMH)\*
- Health Data Science (HDS)
- Immunology of Infectious Diseases (IID)
- Medical Entomology for Disease Control (MEDiC)
- Medical Microbiology (MM)
- Medical Parasitology (MP)
- Medical Statistics (MS)
- Nutrition for Global Health (NGH)
- Public Health (PH)
- Public Health for Eye Care (PHEC)
- Public Health for Development (PH4D)
- Reproductive & Sexual Health Research (RSHR)
- Tropical Medicine & International Health (TMIH)

*\*MSc Global Mental Health is taught jointly with KCL but falls under the LSHTM MSc Awards Scheme.*

2.5.1.3 The MSc Award Scheme **does not cover**:

- Joint programmes offered in collaboration with other University of London Colleges, which do not fall under the LSHTM MSc Award Scheme. Individual award schemes and regulations exist for these programmes, maintained by whichever college has been designated as the 'assessment institution' under the collaborative agreement:



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- **MSc Health Policy, Planning & Financing (HPPF)** (Joint with the London School of Economics)
- **MSc One Health (Infectious Diseases)** (Joint with the Royal Veterinary College).
- **MSc Veterinary Epidemiology** (Joint with the Royal Veterinary College).
- Distance learning programmes offered in collaboration with University of London Worldwide, for which a separate Award Scheme can be found in [Chapter 8b of the LSHTM Academic Manual](#).

### **Structure of MSc Awards**

2.5.1.4 LSHTM operates a crediBt framework whereby the final award is determined on the basis of accumulating the required number of credits.

2.5.1.5 The MSc programme is made up of credit-bearing **modules**, which are grouped into three Elements: Core modules; Compulsory and Elective modules; Project. A Grade Point Average (GPA) will be calculated for each Element.

2.5.1.6 The GPA from each Element is included in the calculation for a final award GPA, as detailed in 2.5.1.8.

2.5.1.7 LSHTM's modules are individually assessed using a Grade Point (GP) matrix. Each module GP contributes to the GPA for each element (as outlined in Table 1). Table 2a shows module assessment framework for all LSHTM MScs except MSc Health Data Science. The module assessment framework for MSc Health Data Science is shown in Table 2b.

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Table 1. **Structure of MSc Awards**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Award Element</b>
Core modules (Term 1)	Exam Paper 1 Exam Paper 2 Practical Exams (where required) AND / OR Individual Core module assessments, including Practical Exams where required	Core GPA
Modules (Terms 2 and 3)	Individual module assessments	Module GPA
Research project	Some Projects have components	Project GPA

**Table 2a. Assessment framework for all LSHTM MScs except MSc Health Data Science**

<b>Module type</b>	<b>Delivery</b>	<b>Module GP Assessment</b>	<b>GPA requirement</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
Multiple Compulsory Core modules of various sizes	Term 1 (Oct-Dec)	Unseen written exams in the summer (Papers 1 & 2), plus a practical exam in Term 1 for certain programmes only  AND/OR  Core modules are assessed individually.  The module assessment may be divided into multiple smaller assessments and/or include practical examinations	A minimum mark of 2.00 is required for all components combined, with no component < 1.00	<u>Compensation</u> can be applied to <i>one</i> exam paper or certain modules with a mark between 1.00 and 1.99, provided the overall core GPA is $\geq 2.00$

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<b>Module type</b>	<b>Delivery</b>	<b>Module GP Assessment</b>	<b>GPA requirement</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
5 Compulsory or Elective modules, 15 credits each	Terms 2 & 3 (Jan-May)	Modules are assessed individually.  The module assessment may be divided into multiple smaller assessments	A minimum mark of 2.00 is required for the Module element GPA	Compensation can be applied to one module with a GP mark of 1.00 to 1.99, provided the overall modules GPA for the 5 modules is at least 2.00
Research project	Term 3 (June-Sept)  Supervised Self-Directed	Project report	A minimum mark of 2.00 is required for the project report	N/A

**Table 2b) MSc Health Data Science module assessment framework**

<b>Modules</b>	<b>Delivery</b>	<b>Module GP Assessment</b>	<b>GPA requirement</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
5 Core modules of various sizes	Term 1 (Oct-Dec)  Online and/or On-campus	Core modules are assessed individually.  The module assessment may be divided into multiple smaller assessments and/or include practical examinations	A minimum Core module GPA mark of 2.00 is required for all core modules	N/A
4 Compulsory or Elective modules, 15 credits each	Terms 2 & 3 (Jan-May)  Online and/or On-campus	modules are assessed individually.  The module assessment may be divided into multiple smaller assessments	A minimum mark of 2.00 is required for the module element GPA	Compensation can be applied to one non-compulsory module with a mark of 1.00 to 1.99,

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Modules	Delivery	Module GP Assessment	GPA requirement	Compensation
				provided the overall Modules GPA is at least 2.00
Research project	Term 3 (April-Sept) Supervised Self-Directed	Project report	A minimum mark of 2.00 is required for the project report	N/A

2.5.1.8 Programme specifications and programme handbooks describe the Compulsory and recommended Elective modules that students may or may not select as part of their programme. Modules have different designations and can be:

- Compulsory** these must be taken in the programme
- Semi-Compulsory** these must be taken in the programme, but students are given a choice of modules to fill this requirement
- Recommended Electives** these are options that can be chosen and are most relevant to the programme content

**Final MSc Award Classification Rules**

2.5.1.9 The award GPA is calculated to indicate the student's standard of performance on the programme and assess eligibility for an award classification of distinction or merit.

The award GPA will be calculated as:

Table 3a. All LSHTM MSc Programme *except MSc HDS and, MSc IID where the extended project has been taken*

Core GPA	x 30%	= Overall Award GPA
Module GPA	x 40%	
Project GPA	x 30%	

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Table 3b. For **MSc IID**, where the extended project has been taken

Core GPA	x 30%	= Overall Award GPA
Module GPA	x 30%	
Project GPA	x 40%	

Table 3c. **MSc HDS**

Core GPA	x 33.33% recurring	= Overall Award GPA
Module GPA	x 33.33% recurring	
Project GPA	x 33.33% recurring	

2.5.1.10 **Core GPA** is generated from all individual Core modules from Term 1, as assessed through the exams, in-course assessments and any practical examination. *Programme assessment details can be found in [Chapter 8a of the LSHTM Academic Manual](#).*

2.5.1.11 **Module GPA** is calculated as:

- **CID, D&H, MM, MP, MS, PH4D, PHEC, NGH, and TMIH:** The four highest-graded modules of the 5 modules taken in Terms 2 and 3 contribute to the award GPA, and the worst module grade is discounted.
- **MEDiC, EPI, IID, PH, and RSHR:** The average GPA from across the specific module(s) detailed in the table below, plus the two or three highest-graded modules (so that the average is based on four modules) of those remaining from the five modules taken in Terms 2 and 3 contribute to the award GPA. The modules listed below must always contribute to the award GPA, and the lowest grade achieved on other modules is discounted.
- **HDS:** The module GPA is the average grade for all the four modules taken in Term 2.
- **GMH:** The average GPA from across all five modules taken in Terms 2 and 3 (two compulsory and three optional) contribute to the award GPA.

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Table 4a. LSHTM MSc Programme Module GPA calculation rules:

<b>MSc Programme</b>	<b>Module GPA calculation must include</b>
MEDiC	3141 Vector Sampling, Identification & Incrimination 3176 Integrated Vector Management
EPI	2400 Study Design: Writing a Study Proposal 2402 Statistical Methods in Epidemiology
IID	3134 Advanced Immunology 1 3144 Advanced Immunology 2
PH (Public Health)	1608 Principles & Practice of Public Health
PH (Environment & Health)	1301 Environmental Epidemiology
PH (Health Promotion)	1807 Health Promotion Approaches and Methods
PH (Health Services Management)	1607 Health Services Management
PH (Health Services Research)	1702 Proposal Development
PH (Health Economics)	1501 Economic Evaluation
RSHR	1804 Sexual Health

Compensation rules can be found in [Chapter 8a of the LSHTM Academic Manual](#).

<b>MSc Programme (GMH)</b>
<p><b>Compulsory Modules in Terms 2 &amp; 3</b></p> <p>2342 Design &amp; Evaluation of Mental Health Programmes KCL Scaling Up Packages of Care for Mental Disorders</p> <p>Students must achieve a GPA of 2.00 or above in each/either module. Compensation by performance in other modules is not permitted. Grades below 2.00 will result in failure of the module and a requirement to resit any components graded below 2.00.</p>

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**Elective Recommended modules taken in Terms 2 and 3**

Students must normally achieve a GPA of 2.00 or above in each individual module to gain credits for that module. However, compensation may be permitted for one non-compulsory Term 2 or 3 module with a GPA between 1.00 and 1.99, provided an average GPA of 2.00 or above has been achieved across all five modules from Terms 2 and 3 (including the module graded between 1.00 and 1.99). The average GPA across all modules taken in Terms 2 and 3 (which should be equally weighted) constitutes the Module GPA. If it is not possible to compensate a grade between 1.00 and 1.99, that module will be failed with no credits being awarded; any components graded below 2.00 must then be resat.

Compensation rules can be found in [Chapter 8a of the LSHTM Academic Manual](#).

2.5.1.12 **Project GPA** is the overall mark given to the student's project.

2.5.1.13 The **final award classifications are Pass, Merit and Distinction**. This classification is determined as follows. In the case of borderlines, i.e. Consider Distinction or Consider Merit candidates, Exam Boards will decide the final classification (either Pass, Merit or Distinction) using the process laid out in the [Assessment Handbook and Board of Examiner Guidance](#).

<b>Overall Award GPA</b>	<b>Classification</b>
2.00 to 3.84	<b>Pass</b>
3.70 to 3.84	<i>Consider Merit</i>
3.85 to 4.29	<b>Merit</b>
4.15 to 4.29	<i>Consider Distinction</i>
4.30 to 5.00	<b>Distinction</b>

**2.5.2 Award Schemes for other Credit-bearing Provision**

2.5.2.1 Programme-specific regulations and award schemes for the following awards can be found [here](#):

- Professional Certificate in Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance
- Postgraduate Certificate in Learning & Teaching
- Postgraduate Diploma in Research Methods

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**2.5.3 Award Schemes for Non-credit-bearing Short Courses**

2.5.3.1 Regulations and award schemes for the following non-credit-bearing courses can be found [here](#):

- Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (DTM&H)
- Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (East African Partnership)
- Professional Diploma in Tropical Nursing

**2.5.4 DrPH Award Scheme**

2.5.4.1 A total of 60 credits are awarded upon successful completion of the two compulsory modules. The research element of the DrPH is not credit-rated and will be awarded in accordance with the research degree regulations in [Chapter 9, Research Degree Academic Regulations of the LSHTM Academic Manual](#).