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MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2020-21
Module Code	IDM203
Module Title	Parasitology
Module Organiser(s)	Dr Paul Ready
Contact email	The LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with University of London Worldwide. Enquiries may be made via the Student Advice Centre . (Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based the LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk .)
Faculty	Infectious & Tropical Diseases: The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/faculties/itd
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS: 15 ECTS: 7.5
HECoS Code	100265
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through provided and online materials
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	Those who wish to study this module as an individual module or as part of another programme should have a prior knowledge of basic biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology and zoology in order to be able to work through and benefit fully from this module.
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None
Target Audience	This module is intended for those who wish to understand the principles of parasitism and the parasitic infections that are a threat to human health worldwide. The module will be of interest to those who wish to understand the complex life cycles and elaborate morphological and biological changes



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	that these pathogens can undergo with a view to attempting to control their infections in individuals and populations.
Module Description	This module equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to understand the biology of parasites, their vectors, the ways in which they cause disease, and how this informs measures to control transmission. The organisms (helminths and protozoans) responsible for the major parasitic diseases will provide the main focus for instruction, because they are the main focus for research. The module is aimed at all students studying the lead and linked programmes.
Duration	Distance learning module studies begin in early October. Students may start their studies at any time from receipt of study materials and work through the material until the start of the June examinations (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed).
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	May/2020

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
PGDip/MSc Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective option
PGDip/MSc Clinical Trials (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective option
PGDip/MSc Epidemiology (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective option
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health (General Stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health: Health and Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective Option



Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module

The overall module aim is to:

- provide students with an understanding of the biology of parasites, vectors and the ways in which they can cause disease.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to:

1. Describe and explain details of the development and transmission of the major parasite pathogens;
2. Describe and explain how specific life stages in complex life cycles cause the clinical and pathological conditions that constitute the disease;
3. Describe and explain the remarkable and diverse ways in which the parasites survive by evading the host responses to them;
4. Describe, plan and critically assess attempts to control each infection by drug treatment, vaccination or by attacking vector or intermediate hosts that are essential to development of the parasite.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

The module is expected to cover the following topics:

- **Section 1 Parasites and parasitism:** gives an insight into the many and varied associations between species that we call parasitism.
- **Section 2 Parasitic Protozoa:** discusses the protozoa of medical importance. These are very diverse and include parasites responsible for major diseases such as malaria, sleeping sickness and amoebiasis.
- **Section 3 Parasitic Helminths:** considers the worm (helminth) parasites causing diseases such as schistosomiasis, elephantiasis and river blindness.
- **Revision Section:** provides students with a collection of fact sheets which can be used to revise once they have completed the material in the other sections.



Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	75	50
Self-directed learning	25	17
Assessment review and revision	50	33
Total	150	100

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Learning is mostly self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. Students should make use of the LSHTM online library resources, and they are strongly encouraged to participate in the optional Formative Assignment and the module-specific discussion forums available on Moodle, in order to optimise tutor support. Written feedback is provided to each student for both the Formative Assignment and the obligatory Assessed Assignment.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

An optional formative assignment is available, and this enables students to obtain written tutor feedback to help prepare for both the Assessed Assignment and the Exam. Formative assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than 15th December and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System. Feedback will be provided in time for use towards the Assessed Assignment task.

Formal assessment of this module includes a two-hour unseen written paper examination with 15 minutes additional reading/planning time (70%) and an assessed assignment comprising a 2500-word essay on a choice of two topics (30%).



Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	2500 words	30	1, 2, 3, 4
Exam	2 hours 15 minutes	70	1, 2, 3, 4

All four ILOs are covered in both the Assessed Assignment and the Exam. In successive years the Exam contains a different selection of parasites.

Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than 31st March and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Unseen written examinations for DL modules are held once a year, in June (including resits). Examinations are normally held in a student's country of residence, in one of over 650 examination centres worldwide. They are arranged mainly through Ministries of Education or the British Council. A list of examination centres can be found at <https://london.ac.uk/current-students/examinations/examination-centres>.

A local fee will be payable direct to the examination centre. This fee is in addition to the programme/module fee and is set by, and paid directly to, the individual examination centres. The level of local examination centre fees varies across the world and neither the University of London nor the LSHTM have any control over the fee amount.

Resitting assessment

Resits will accord with the LSHTM's [Resits Policy](#).

The Resit assessment will be the same assessment type as the first attempt (see previous table).



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Resources

Indicative reading list

- Cheesbrough, M., (2005) *District Laboratory Practice in Tropical Countries Part 1*, 2nd Ed. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 0521676304.
- John, D.T., & Petri, W.A., (2006) *Markell and Voge's Medical Parasitology*, 9th Ed. Saunders. ISBN: 0721647936.
- Goering, R.V., Dockrell, H.M., Zuckerman, M. and Chiodini, P.L., (2018) *Mims' Medical Microbiology and Immunology*. 6th Ed. ISBN: 978-0702071560.

Other resources

Study Guide: Paper version and via Moodle.

Reader: Reprints of associated journal articles.

In addition to the materials above, students are given access to the **LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle** where they can access the study guide, reading list, web-based discussion forums, formative and assessed assignments, supplementary materials and the **LSHTM online library resources**.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the module learning materials, including a study guide (with accessible printable versions of sessions) and online reading list (containing essential readings, and textbooks if available), and additional resources including supplementary exercises. All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible. The LSHTM Moodle has been made accessible to the widest possible audience, using a VLE that allows for up to 300% zoom, permits navigation via keyboard and use of speech recognition software, and that allows listening through a screen reader. All students have access to "[SensusAccess](#)" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

If you have specific, access requirements please contact the Inclusive Practice Manager via special.arrangements@london.ac.uk to request an alternative format of the study guide and for special exam arrangements.