



## MODULE SPECIFICATION

<b>Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)</b>	2020-21
<b>Module Code</b>	PHM104
<b>Module Title</b>	Principles of Social Research
<b>Module Organiser(s)</b>	Leslie Kelly
<b>Contact email</b>	<p>The LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with the University of London. Enquiries may be made via their <a href="#">Student Advice Centre</a>.</p> <p>(Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based the LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to: <a href="mailto:distance@lshtm.ac.uk">distance@lshtm.ac.uk</a>).</p>
<b>Faculty</b>	<p>Public Health &amp; Policy: The London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine</p> <p><a href="https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/faculties/php">https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/faculties/php</a></p>
<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 7
<b>Credit Value</b>	<p><b>CATS:</b> 10</p> <p><b>ECTS:</b> 5</p>
<b>HECoS Code</b>	100962 : 101307
<b>Mode of Delivery</b>	Distance Learning
<b>Mode of Study</b>	Directed self-study, through online materials (Virtual Learning Environment)
<b>Language of Study</b>	English
<b>Pre-Requisites</b>	None
<b>Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body</b>	None
<b>Module Cap (Maximum number of students)</b>	None
<b>Target Audience</b>	Compulsory module for all students on the DL MSc/PGDip and PGCert Public Health programmes. Alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module.
<b>Module Description</b>	This module provides students the knowledge of the basic principles of social research practice and theory as applied to health.
<b>Duration</b>	Studies for distance learning modules begin in early October. At this time, module materials will be made available on



	Moodle and the module textbook will be made available in e-format or hard copy, once fees have been paid. Students may start their studies at any time from the beginning of October and work through the material until the start of the June examinations. Students must adhere to other earlier assessment submission deadlines.
<b>Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)</b>	05/2020

<b>Programme(s)</b>	<b>Status</b>
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
PGCert and PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
MSc Public Health (General stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
MSc Public Health: Health and Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory

## Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

<b>Overall aim of the module</b>
The overall module aim is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce the basic principles of social research practice and theory as applied to health.</li> </ul>

### Module Intended Learning Outcomes

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

1. Understand how social science research methods can contribute to public health and health services;
2. Recognise the strengths and weaknesses of different study designs, including experimental, cross-sectional, observational, documentary approaches, and participatory research designs and corresponding research ethics;
3. Identify the main methods used in qualitative research, including core characteristics of qualitative studies; formulation of research questions; qualitative interview techniques; and thematic analysis;
4. Understand key aspects of quantitative research, including sampling strategies, questionnaire design, nominal, ordinal, interval and ratio levels of measurement and validity and reliability; and
5. Appreciate the complimentary roles of different methods in health research, including the benefits and potential challenges of working across disciplines.

### Indicative Syllabus

#### Session Content

The module is expected to cover the following topics:

- A broad introduction to key concepts in qualitative and quantitative methodology and the main data collection methods used in social research for health, including perspectives from some of the social science disciplines that have contributed to public health, including psychology, sociology, medical anthropology and history of medicine.

### Teaching and Learning

#### Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	70	70
Self-directed learning	0	0
Assessment, review and revision	30	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### Teaching and Learning Strategy

Learning is via directed self-study. A guide to studying the module is provided, together with access to a range of study resources, discussion forums and collaborate sessions. The textbook that supports this module provides a detailed set of learning objectives at the start of each chapter, and also offers focused reading and various learning activities. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussions and collaborate sessions to obtain tutor support, and to make use of the LSHTM on-line library resources. Written feedback is provided on submitted assignments.

Student support is available from the module tutors through the online discussion forums and regularly scheduled 1hr 'live-chat' sessions on specific topics. Module tutors provide asynchronous feedback for all students on the online discussion forums and offer individual feedback on a formative (non-assessed) assignment submitted by the student.

### Assessment

#### Assessment Strategy

A formative assessment is offered to encourage students to test their new knowledge and receive individual feedback. The formative assessment is optional and will not count towards a student's final grade.

The summative assessment of this module is by a two hour-15 minute written examination (100%). Students are advised to spend the first 15 minutes reading the paper and planning responses.

#### Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Exam	2-hour 15 minute	100	All

Unseen written examinations for DL modules are held once a year, in June (including resits). Examinations are normally taken in a student's country of residence, in one of over 650 examination centres worldwide (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).



## Resources

The following materials are provided to students after registration and fee payment for this module in September/October:

- A brief guide to studying the module;
- The textbook *Principles of Social Research* (2nd edition) by Mary Alison Durand and Tracey Chantler;
- A reading list including details of both required and optional reading and links to selected papers;
- A list of useful websites;
- Access to the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) - Moodle, where students can access a range of materials, including some of those listed above; participate in module-specific discussion forums and Collaborate sessions and access the LSHTM online library resources.

Please note the textbook will be made available in e-format or hard copy. All other materials may be accessed via the LSHTM VLE – Moodle.

## Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the majority of the module learning materials, including a study guide and online reading list (detailing both essential and recommended readings), and additional resources including supplementary exercises and optional lecture recordings. In some cases, module materials include a text book that is made available to students in either hard copy or e-format. 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. Please contact the University of London through the “Ask a question” resource on the Student Portal if you require any documents in an alternative format.