



FACE-TO-FACE MSc AWARD SCHEME

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19

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Related Policies & Procedures	Assessment Handbook Exam Board Handbook Extenuating Circumstances Policy Taught Postgraduate Regulations

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1. SCOPE OF THIS DOCUMENT

1.1 This Award Scheme sets out rules for making awards for Masters degrees taught face-to-face at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM, or 'the School').

1.2 This 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)*
- 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. Any variations for this programme will be highlighted in this Award Scheme.*

1.3 This Award Scheme **does not cover**:

1.3.1 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:

- **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).

1.3.2 Distance Learning programmes offered in collaboration with the University of London International Programmes, for which a separate 'Assessment and Award Scheme' exists.

2. GENERAL ASSESSMENT PRINCIPLES

2.1 Assessment of all aspects of these programmes should operate in compliance with the LSHTM Assessment Code of Practice, in the [Assessment Handbook](#). A number of key points from the Assessment Code of Practice have been reproduced below.

Grading scales and criteria

2.2 LSHTM uses a standard assessment system as follows:

- Marking against six integer grade points (GPs) on a scale from 0 to 5.
- Grades 2 and above are pass grades
- Grades below 2 are fail grades

Standard descriptors for the level of work required to attain each grade are as follows:

Grade point	Descriptor	Typical work should include evidence of:
5	Excellent	Excellent engagement with the topic, excellent depth of understanding and insight, excellent argument and analysis. Generally, this work will be 'distinction standard'. ➤ NB that excellent work does not have to be 'outstanding' or exceptional by comparison with other students; these grades should not be capped to a limited number of students per class or cohort. Nor should such work be expected to be 100% perfect – some minor inaccuracies or omissions may be permissible.
4	Very good	Very good engagement with the topic, very good depth of understanding and insight, very good argument and analysis. This work may be 'borderline distinction standard'. ➤ Note that very good work may have some inaccuracies or omissions but not enough to question the understanding of the subject matter.
3	Good	Good (but not necessarily comprehensive) engagement with the topic, clear understanding and insight, reasonable argument and analysis, but may have inaccuracies or omissions.
2	Satisfactory	Adequate evidence of engagement with the topic but some gaps in understanding or insight, routine argument and analysis, and may have inaccuracies or omissions.
1	Unsatisfactory / poor (fail)	Inadequate engagement with the topic, gaps in understanding, poor argument and analysis.
0	Very poor (fail)	Poor engagement with the topic, limited understanding, very poor argument and analysis. Null mark may be given where work has not been submitted, or is in serious breach of assessment criteria/regulations.

2.3 **Variation: for MSc GMH:** Student results for modules led by Kings College London (KCL) will be graded using KCL's grading system, and then converted to the LSHTM grading system for the programme overall using the following standard grade conversion table:

KCL percentage mark	LSHTM grade point
70-100	5
60-69	4
55-59	3
50-54	2
40-49	1
Less than 40	0

Marking schemes

- 2.4 Staff setting individual assessments should prepare more detailed criteria (marking schemes) for placing students in each grade descriptor, which must be adhered to by marking staff. The descriptors above are intended as a general reference point to ensure consistency, but more specific requirements will differ from assessment to assessment.

Double-marking

- 2.5 All summative assessed work will be double-marked and any discrepancies between markers resolved before a grade is agreed in line with the process outlined in the Assessment Handbook. Pairs of markers must agree any grades that are formally reported to students.

Principles for combining grades

- 2.6 Where an assessment element has a number of components that are individually double-marked to agree an integer grade, these component grades may be averaged together (according to a weighting set out in the marking scheme) to generate an overall grade point average (GPA). Calculations should mathematically combine and bring forward data without rounding where possible; results should be reported to students (and if necessary, rounded) to two decimal places.

3. CREDIT FRAMEWORK AND STRUCTURE OF AWARDS

- 3.1 The School operates a credit framework whereby the final award is determined on the basis of accumulating the required number of credits.
- 3.2 The MSc programme is made up of different credit-bearing **elements**, which may be split into further **components**.

Element	Component	Award Element
Core modules (Term 1)	Exam Paper 1 Exam Paper 2 Practical Exams (where required) 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

3.3 The School's MSc programmes are structured as outlined in the table below. Programme-specific variations are given in section 4.

	Term 1 (Oct-Dec) plus exams	Terms 2 & 3 (Jan-May)	Term 3 (June-Sept)
<i>Element</i>	A range of taught modules of different sizes, which on some programmes are considered together as a 'super-module'	5 taught modules	Research project
<i>Credits</i>	60 credits	75 credits (15 credits per module)	45 credits
<i>Assessed by</i>	Unseen written exams in the summer (Papers 1 & 2), plus a practical exam in Term 1 for certain programmes only OR Individual Core module assessments, plus practical exams for certain programmes only	Individual assessment for each module	Project report
<i>Grades awarded credits</i>	A minimum mark of 2 is required for all components combined, with no component < 1 <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 ≥ 2	A minimum GPA of 2 is required for the module element <u>Compensation</u> can be applied to <i>one</i> module with a mark of 1.00 to 1.99, provided the overall module GPA for the 5 modules is ≥ 2	A minimum mark of 2 is required for the project report.

4. AWARD SCHEME

Core Modules in Term 1

4.1 Modules taken in Term 1 are assessed through exams, and also through in-module and January assessments and/or practical exam for some programmes. Although individual modules in Term 1 may have an indicative credit rating attached to them to help students gauge their size or the amount of work involved, for most programmes credits can only be given for Term 1 as a whole and not for individual modules.

4.2 Where used, the summer exams are structured as two 3-hour unseen written examinations, known as Paper 1 and Paper 2. Individual Boards of Examiners will set and agree specific marking schemes for each paper in advance. Principles for grading questions within exam papers (according to a specific marking scheme for each individual paper), and combining grades into an overall GPA for each paper (according to weightings set out in the marking scheme), are set out in the LSHTM Assessment Code of Practice in the Assessment Handbook.

Variation MSc GMH: This will be adapted where appropriate to also align with KCL assessment practices.

- 4.3 **MScs CID, D&H, EPI, GMH, NGH, PH, PH4D, PHEC and RSHR:** Term 1 is assessed summatively solely through summer exams. The overall GPA for this element of the award (the Core module GPA) is based on an average of the two paper GPAs, weighted equally.

One individual Core component may have a GPA between 1.00 and 1.99 provided the overall Core element GPA is 2.00 or above.

- 4.4 **MSc MS:** Term 1 is assessed summatively through the summer exams and through a practical exam taken during Term 1. The practical exam may be a single component (usually assessed with an integer GP), or several distinct tests (grades from which may be combined into a practical GPA). Any grade may be achieved in the practical exam provided the overall Core GPA is 2.00 or above. For this programme, the overall core GPA is calculated as follows:

Programme	Core element GPA algorithm
MS	$[2.5 \times (\text{Paper 1 GPA} + \text{Paper 2 GPA}) + (\text{Practical GPA})] \div 6$ <i>i.e. a 5:1 weighting between summer exams and the practical</i>

- 4.5 MScs MEDiC, MM, MP, IID and TMIH: Term 1 is assessed summatively through core module assessments taken ahead of Term 2, in-course assessments and/or practical exams taken during Term 1. For MScs MEDiC, MP and IID, compensation can be applied to the Analysis & Design of Research Studies module (3196) only, with a mark between 1.00 and 1.99, provided the overall core GPA is ≥ 2 . For MSc MM, compensation can be applied to the Analysis & Design of Research Studies module (3196), with a mark between 1.00 and 1.99, provided the overall core GPA is ≥ 2 . Compensation can also be applied to one in-module assessment for the core module Bacteriology and Virology (3121) with a GPA between 1.00 and 1.99, as long as the overall in-module assessment GPA is ≥ 2 . For MSc TMIH, compensation can be applied to one of the two in-module assessments, with a mark between 1.00 and 1.99, provided the overall GPA for the core module Tropical Medicine, Parasitology and Public Health (3463) is ≥ 2 ."

- 4.6 The requirements to gain credits for the Core element of the award are set out below. Failure to meet these requirements will result in failure of the entire Core element, with no credits being awarded. Any components graded below 2.00 may or must be resat as determined by the Board of Examiners (as described in Section 5 below):

- 4.6.1 An overall Core GPA of 2.00 or above must be achieved.
- 4.6.2 A GPA of at least 1.00 must be achieved for each individual core component assessed. Limitations on which components can be compensated are indicated in paragraph 4.3-4.5
- 4.6.3 One individual Core component may have a GPA between 1.00 and 1.99 provided the overall Core element GPA is 2.00 or above.

- 4.6.4 For programmes with assessment of Term 1 via summer exams, if the overall examination GPA is less than 2.00, but an increase of one integer grade on one question on one paper could have brought the overall result up to 2.00 or above, Boards of Examiners should use the process for deciding borderline cases to determine whether or not the candidate should pass the examined element and gain the associated credits.

Modules in Terms 2 and 3

- 4.7 Modules taken in Terms 2 and 3 are all worth 15 credits each, and are assessed individually.
- 4.8 Modules may be assessed through a variety of methods including essays, other written coursework, short written exams, multiple-choice tests, practical exams, group work, presentations or other methods. Oversight of assessment for individual modules is delegated by the relevant Boards of Examiners to individual Module Organisers, who will set and agree specific marking schemes for their modules in advance. Principles for grading, and for combining grades from different assessment components into an overall GPA for each module (according to agreed and published weightings), are set out in the LSHTM Assessment Code of Practice in the [Assessment Handbook](#).

Variation for joint programmes: The principles for grading will follow the assessment practices of the institution responsible for the module.

- 4.9 To gain credits for an individual Term 2 or 3 module, students must normally achieve a GPA of 2.00 or above.
- 4.10 Compensation may be permitted for one 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). If it is not possible to compensate a grade between 1.00 and 1.99, the element will be failed; any components graded below 2.00 must then be resat (as described in Section 5 below).
- 4.11 **Variation MSc IID:** Students are able to undertake an extended project (as described at paragraph 4.15 below), which means that they are only required to take three modules, all in Term 2. If one of these modules is graded between 1.00 and 1.99, credits may still be granted provided the average GPA across all three modules is 2.00 or above.
- 4.12 A GPA of at least 1.00 must be achieved for each module from Terms 2 and 3. Grades below 1.00 cannot be compensated and will result in failure of the module, with no credits being awarded, and a requirement to resit (as described in Section 5 below) any components graded below 2.00.

The Research Project

- 4.13 The project is worth 45 credits, and is assessed as a single piece of work.

- 4.14 Students must pass the project with a grade of 2.00 or above in order to gain credits. Boards of Examiners will set and agree specific marking schemes for projects, and make the key details known to students in advance. The overall mark may either be an integer grade point, based on the School's standard grading scale, or a non-integer GPA, calculated from sub-components of the project as defined in the marking scheme. Principles for grading projects are set out in the LSHTM Assessment Code of Practice in the Assessment Handbook.
- 4.15 **Variation MSc IID:** Students are able to undertake an extended project commencing from Term 2 that is worth **75 credits**. A specific marking scheme (with defined sub-components) should be set and agreed for this in advance, and made known to students.

5. RESITS

- 5.1 If a student fails to gain credits for a particular award element on the first attempt, they will be permitted one resit attempt. Only failed components of failed award elements may be resat, i.e. those with a GPA below 2.00, as determined by the Board of Examiners. Where a Core or Term 2/3 module assessment component or the project is resat, its GPA will be capped to 3.00, even though higher specific GPAs may have been achieved for the particular components that have been resat.

Variation MSc GMH: For modules led by KCL, grade capping will follow KCL policy.

- 5.2 If a student fails to gain credits for a required award element on the resit attempt, they will be ineligible for the award and will be withdrawn from the programme. However, the student will retain credits for elements or components that have been passed.

6. CREDITS REQUIRED FOR THE FINAL AWARD

Gaining credits

- 6.1 Credits will be awarded for the successful completion of individual credit-bearing elements (modules or the project) of the award. Where a student fails to gain credits, they will be required to resit as described in Section 5.

Award of MSc

- 6.2 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)

- 6.3 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 PG Dip will have the

same name as their MSc. However, no stream name should be attached unless they have passed the compulsory modules for the MSc stream, where relevant.

Award of Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)

- 6.4 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 PG Cert will have the same name as the MSc. However, no stream name should be attached.

7. FINAL AWARD CLASSIFICATION RULES

- 7.1 Where sufficient credit has been gained for an MSc award, an award GPA should be calculated to indicate the student's standard of performance on the programme and assess eligibility for an award with distinction or merit. The award GPA should be calculated as:

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

Variation MSc IID: Where the extended project has been taken, the award GPA should be calculated as:

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

- 7.2 **Core GPA** is that from Term 1, as assessed through the exams, in course assessments and any practical examination.

- 7.3 **Module GPA** is calculated as:

7.3.1 **CID, D&H, MM, MP, MS, PH4D, PHEC, NGH, RSHR 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.

7.3.2 **MEDiC, EPI, IID and PH:** 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.

MSc Programme (EPI, IID, PH)	Module GPA calculation must include
MEDiC	3141 Vector Sampling, Identification & Incrimination 3176 Integrated Vector Management
EPI	2400 Study Design: Writing a Study Proposal 2402 Statistical Methods in Epidemiology

MSc Programme (EPI, IID, PH)	Module GPA calculation must include
IID	3134 Advanced Immunology 1 3144 Advanced Immunology 2
PH (Public Health)	1608 Principles & Practice of Public Health
PH (Environment & Health)	1300 Environmental Health Policy
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

7.3.3 **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.

MSc Programme (GMH)
<p>Compulsory Modules in Terms 2 & 3</p> <p>2342 Design & 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>
<p>Optional modules taken in Terms 2 and 3</p> <p>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 <u>one</u> 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.</p>

7.4 **Project GPA** is as described at paragraph 4.13.

7.5 The **final award classification** should then be determined as follows. In the case of a Consider Distinction or Consider Merit candidate, Exam Boards will decide the final classification (either Pass, Merit or Distinction) using the process laid out in the LSHTM Exam Board handbook.

Award GPA (see 7.1)	Classification
2.00 to 3.84	Pass
3.70 to 3.84	Consider Merit
3.85 to 4.29	Merit
4.15 to 4.29	Consider Distinction
4.30 to 5.00	Distinction