

# PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION



## 1. Overview

<b>Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification)</b>	2020-21
<b>Programme Title</b>	Epidemiology
<b>Programme Director</b>	Simon Cousens & Ian Douglas
<b>Awarding Body</b>	University of London
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
<b>Faculty</b>	Epidemiology and Population Health
<b>Length of Programme (months)</b>	MSc - Full time = 12 months, Part time = 24 months
<b>Entry Routes</b>	MSc
<b>Exit Routes</b>	MSc/PGDip/PGCert
<b>Award Titles</b>	MSc in Epidemiology (180 credits) Exit awards: PGDip in Epidemiology (120 credits) PGCert in Epidemiology (60 credits)
<b>Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body</b>	N/A
<b>Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points</b>	Consistent with the <a href="#">Framework for Higher Education Qualifications</a> at Masters level (level 7), this programme will provide students with an understanding of the conceptual basis of epidemiology and with training in essential methodological skills for the design, conduct, and analysis of epidemiological studies, and in the interpretation and communication of their results.  See pages 28-29 at: <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf?sfvrsn=170af781_14">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf?sfvrsn=170af781_14</a>

<b>Level of programme within the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)</b>	<p>All modules and awards offered under the programme are at Level 7 (also known as 'M' Masters level) of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales &amp; Northern Ireland (FHEQ).</p> <p>For further information, please see <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf?sfvrsn=170af781_14">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf?sfvrsn=170af781_14</a></p>			
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>CATS:</b>	180	<b>ECTS:</b>	90
<b>HECoS Code</b>	101335			
<b>Mode of Delivery</b>	<p>Students may complete the whole 2020/21 MSc programme online or may choose to come to London in anticipation of some face-to-face teaching.</p> <p>For Epidemiology:</p> <p>Term 1 core module teaching will be delivered online only, with a combination of synchronous (live and interactive) and asynchronous (recordings, independent study, individual exercises, etc) activities.</p> <p>All terms 2 and 3 modules will be offered online. Certain modules will also have some optional on-campus components. The face to face components may be limited to ensure that UK social distancing rules are adhered to.</p> <p>If at any point during the academic year the UK is forced to go into another period of lockdown, this programme will be delivered using online methods only.</p> <p>Throughout the year there will be programme- and LSHTM-level activities, such as group seminars and a themed lecture series and discussion forums. These will allow students to study the programme safely at a distance but remain together as a community.</p>			
<b>Mode and Period of Study</b>	Full time (12 months) or part time/split time (max 24 months)			
<b>Cohort Entry Points</b>	Annually in September			

<b>Language of Study</b>	English
<b>Re-sit Policy</b>	<a href="https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-08a.pdf">https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-08a.pdf</a>
<b>Extenuating Circumstances Policy</b>	<a href="https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-07.pdf">https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-07.pdf</a>
<b>Programme Description</b>	<p>This programme equips students with the knowledge and statistical skills to make valuable contributions to medical research as well as public health in low-, middle- and high-income countries. Epidemiological methods underpin clinical medical research, public health practice and health care evaluation to investigate the causes of disease and to evaluate interventions to prevent or control disease.</p> <p>For further information, please see <a href="http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/masters/mse.html">www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/masters/mse.html</a></p>
<b>Date of Introduction of Programme</b>	September 1979
<b>Date of production / revision of this programme specification</b>	Extraordinary revisions made in August 2020 in response to Covid-19 mitigation planning

## 2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

<b>Educational aims of the programme</b>
<p>The aim of the programme – consistent with LSHTM's mission to improve health worldwide – is to equip students with the knowledge and skills to make valuable contributions to both epidemiological research and public health. Epidemiological methods underpin clinical medical research, public health practice and health care evaluation to investigate the causes of disease, and to evaluate interventions to prevent or control disease. Epidemiology is a key discipline for understanding and improving global health. This programme covers both infectious and non-communicable disease epidemiology, and has a substantial statistical component.</p>
<b>Programme Learning Outcomes</b>
<p>By the end of the programme – drawing on material taught across different modules and assessed in a variety of ways, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) demonstrate advanced knowledge and awareness of the role of epidemiology and its contribution to other health-related disciplines;</li><li>ii) choose appropriate designs and develop detailed protocols for epidemiological studies;</li><li>iii) enter and manage computerised epidemiological data and carry out appropriate statistical analyses;</li><li>iv) assess the results of epidemiological studies (their own or other investigators'), including critical appraisal of the study question, study design, methods and conduct, statistical analyses and interpretation.</li></ul>
<b>Teaching and Learning Strategy</b>
<p>The programme is taught through a variety of teaching methods including: lectures, small group seminars, computer practicals, and group work with peers. For the academic year 2020-21 most of these sessions will be delivered online, using pre-recorded lectures, live Q+A sessions and live, tutor-facilitated practicals and seminars. All elements of the programme have specific intended learning outcomes, with content designed to help students achieve these outcomes. Students are expected to learn through both directed and self-directed study.</p>
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
<p>The programme is assessed through individual module assessments (which may include essays, other written coursework, short written exams, practical exams, group work, presentations or other methods), formal summer exams, and a project report. Such tasks are designed to assess, via the most appropriate method, whether learning outcomes have been achieved. Students will not be required to attend on-campus where assessments can be taken online.</p>

### 3. Programme Structure and features, modules, credit assignment and award requirements

Full-time Masters	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Total Credits
Compulsory Modules	5	2	0	90
Recommended Modules	0	2	1	45
Projects			1	45

Module information is correct at the time of publication, but minor amendments may be made subject to approval as detailed in [Chapter 3 of the LSHTM Academic Manual](#). Optional (i.e. recommended non-compulsory) modules listed are indicative and may change from year to year. <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/changes-courses>

Term	Slot	Module Code	Module Title	Module Type (compulsory or recommended)	Credits (CATS)	Contact hours*
1	AB1	2033	Clinical Trials	Compulsory	10	30
1	AB1	2056	Epidemiology in Practice	Compulsory	15	60
1	AB1	2007	Extended Epidemiology	Compulsory	15	52
1	B1	2484	Epidemiology and -omics	Compulsory	5	12.5
1	AB1	2021	Statistics for EPH	Compulsory	15	45
2	C1	2400	Study Design: Writing a Study Proposal	Compulsory	15	20
2	C2	2402	Statistical Methods in Epidemiology	Compulsory	15	38.5
2	D1	2407	Epidemiology of Non-Communicable Diseases	Recommended	15	30
2	D1	2464	Modelling & the Dynamics of Infectious Diseases	Recommended	15	60
2	D1	2472	Social Epidemiology	Recommended	15	40
2	D1	3135	Spatial Epidemiology in Public Health	Recommended	15	50

2	D2	1301	Environmental Epidemiology	Recommended	15	30
2	D2	2437	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	Recommended	15	63
3	E	2412	Advanced Statistical Methods in Epidemiology	Recommended	15	48

\* Student contact time refers to the tutor-mediated time allocated to teaching, provision of guidance and feedback to students. This time includes activities that take place in face-to-face contexts such as on-campus lectures, seminars, demonstrations, tutorials, supervised laboratory workshops, practical classes, project supervision and external fieldwork or visits, as well as where tutors are available for one-to-one discussions and interaction by email. Student contact time also includes tutor-mediated activities that take place in online environments, which may be synchronous (using real-time digital tools such as Zoom or Blackboard Collaborate Ultra) or asynchronous (using digital tools such as tutor-moderated discussion forums or blogs often delivered through the School's virtual learning environment, Moodle). These contact hours reflect provision during the 2019/2020 session. We anticipate that in 2020/2021 there will be fewer hours with tutor presence at specified times and a greater emphasis on directed study such as recorded lectures, recommended readings and guided exercises. Please refer to the individual 2020/2021 module specifications for more detail. This definition is based on the one provided by the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\) Explaining contact hours \(2011\) guidance document, page 4 available here](#). Student contact time, together with time allocated for independent study and assessment, determines the total student study hours for a module or programme. Although there are separate hours allocated for each of these activities, they should always be clearly linked together to support effective learning. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) defines high quality contact time as structured, focused, purposeful and interactive.

## 4: Entry Requirements

### Criteria for admission

#### General entrance requirements

Applicants must normally satisfy LSHTM's general entrance requirements and additional programme-specific entrance requirements to be considered for admission. Applications must be submitted in accordance with the procedures and deadlines given in the web-based or printed prospectus.

In order to be admitted to a postgraduate taught degree programme of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, an applicant must:

- a) hold a first degree at Second Class Honours standard in a relevant discipline, a registrable qualification appropriate to the programme of study to be followed, in medicine, dentistry or veterinary studies, or another degree of equivalent awarded by an overseas institution recognised by UK Naric or Barrons.

**OR**

- b) hold a professional qualification appropriate to the programme of study to be followed obtained by written examinations and judged by the LSHTM to be equivalent to a Second Class Honours degree or above.

**OR**

- c) have relevant professional experience or training which is judged by the LSHTM to be equivalent to a Second Class Honours degree or above.

*Continued overleaf*

**AND**

satisfy any additional requirements where prescribed for admission to a specific programme.

Entry to the MSc Epidemiology is highly competitive and applicants are recommended to have a second-class honours degree from a UK university, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard. Additional usual requirements for the MSc Epidemiology are also:

- a) that a student should also show evidence of numeracy skills (e.g. A level Mathematics or Statistics or a module with a good mark in their university degree)
- b) that it is preferable for a student to have some work experience in a health-related field.

For further information, please see <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/how-apply/applying-masters-degree-london/you-apply-msc>

### **English language entry requirements**

The English language entry requirement for MSc Epidemiology is **Band A**.

It is essential that all students have a good command of the English language to benefit from their studies at the LSHTM.

As part of the application process, applicants are required to demonstrate how they meet the LSHTM's minimum English language requirements. This is particularly important for applicants requiring a Tier 4 Student visa, as the UK Home Office dictates that every student from outside the UK and European Union (EU) must show evidence of a minimum level of English language ability (called CEFR1 B2 level), in order for a Tier 4 Student visa to be issued for entry to the UK.

Additionally, the LSHTM asks applicants to have minimum English language proficiency levels that are necessary for our academic programmes. These levels are higher than the CEFR B2 minimum level and also apply to EU applicants, although these will not normally require a Tier 4 Student visa.

The academic English language requirements for each of the LSHTM's programmes are categorised into one of three profiles A, B or C. For information on these three profiles, please refer to the LSHTM English Language Requirement Policy:

[https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/english\\_language\\_requirements\\_policy.pdf](https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/english_language_requirements_policy.pdf)