PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification	2020-21
Programme Title	Health Policy, Planning & Financing
Programme Director	Tracey Chantler (LSHTM) / Justin Parkhurst (LSE)/ Mrigesh Bhatia (LSE)
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
Faculty	Public Health and Policy (LSHTM) Department of Health Policy (LSE)
Length of Programme (months)	MSc – Full time = 12 months, Part time = 24 months
Entry Routes	MSc
Exit Routes	MSc
Award Titles	MSc in Health Policy, Planning & Financing
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	N/A
Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points	No applicable benchmark statement
Level of programme within the Framework for Higher Education	Masters (MSc) Level 7

Qualifications (FHEQ)				
Total Credits	**CATS:**	185	**ECTS:**	92.5
HECoS Code	100648, 100450, 101307, 101335, 100489			
Mode of Delivery	For 2020-21, teaching delivery has been adjusted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **LSE** The main mode of delivery for this programme will be online (e.g. recorded lectures and on-line live seminar groups). On-line teaching will be complemented by face-to-face teaching sessions where feasible and deemed safe. **LSHTM** Term 1 modules will be delivered online only, with a combination of synchronous (live and interactive) and asynchronous (recordings, independent study, individual exercises, etc) activities. 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. 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. 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.			
Mode and Period of Study	Full time (12 months) or part time (24 months)			
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in September			
Language of Study	English			
Re-sit Policy	**LSHTM**			

	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-08a.pdf
	LSE
	https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/services/assessment-and-results/exams/re-entry
Extenuating Circumstances Policy	**LSHTM**
	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-07.pdf
	LSE
	https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/services/assessment-and-results/exceptional-circumstances/exceptional-circumstances
Programme Description	This programme aims to develop critical analysis of issues within health policy, planning and financing and to enable students to devise appropriate health policy responses. Students come from a wide range of backgrounds. This is a joint programme provided by LSHTM and LSE. The programme provides training relevant to countries at all levels of development, although participants are able to specialise.
Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year)	1986
Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year)	Extraordinary revisions made in August 2020 in response to Covid-19 mitigation planning

2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

Educational aims of the programme
The aim of the programme – consistent with LSHTM's mission to improve health worldwide – is to develop critical analysis of issues within the areas of health policy and finance and to enable students to devise appropriate health policy responses. The learning outcomes of the programme are provided below.

Programme Learning Outcomes
By the end of the programme, students will be expected to achieve the following learning outcomes – drawing on material taught across different elements and assessed in a variety of ways.   i) comprehend and demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of key principles of a diverse range of international and national health policies, including current and emerging trends;   ii) comprehend and demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of key principles of one or more disciplines relevant to the study of health policy, planning and financing (epidemiology, health economics, and other social sciences);   iii) comprehend and demonstrate specialist knowledge, critical understanding and skills in other areas selected from a range of options on the programme relevant to the study of health policy;   iv) apply their conceptual and theoretical knowledge and skills using a multidisciplinary approach to formulate, design, implement, evaluate and appraise health policies and plans;   v) show competence, both written and verbal, in assessing and communicating empirical evidence and in consolidating and critically appraising debates relevant to issues of health policy;   vi) demonstrate competence in key research and presentation skills, including the ability to plan and carry out a literature search, to critically review published literature, and to evaluate research findings.

Teaching and Learning Strategy
The MSc Health Policy, Planning & Financing is a joint programme run by both the LSE and LSHTM. For the 2020-21 academic year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme will be taught through a mix of online, recorded, and live sessions with tutors and peers, as well as on-campus sessions where feasible and deemed safe. All elements of the programme have specific aims and Intended learning outcomes, with content designed to help students achieve these objectives. Students are expected to learn through both directed and self-directed study
Assessment Strategy
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 dissertation. Such tasks are designed to assess, via the most appropriate method, whether learning objectives have been met. Students will not be required to attend on-campus where assessments can be taken online.

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

Full-time Masters	Term 1/ Michaelmas Term	Term 2 / Lent Term	Term 3 / Summer Term	Total Credits (based LSHTM credit framework)
LSHTM				
Semi-Compulsory Modules	2			20
Recommended Modules			2	30
Total credits of LSHTM modules				**50**
LSE				
Compulsory Courses	1			22.5
Semi-Compulsory Courses	1			22.5
Recommended Courses		2		45
Total credits of LSE courses				**90**
Project				
Dissertation			1	45
Total credits				**185**

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*
LSHTM						
1	AB1	1107	Health Services	Semi-Compulsory**	10	22
1	AB1	1117	Health Policy, Process & Power	Semi-Compulsory** (Barred combination with HP401: Introduction to Health Policy and Politics)	10	28
1	AB1	1123	Issues in Public Health	Semi-Compulsory	10	27
1	AB1	2001	Basic Epidemiology	Semi-Compulsory	10	30
Students must take at least one of 1107 and 1117						

LSE						
1		HP400	Financing Health Care	Compulsory	For further details, please contact the LSE Co-Programme Directors.	
1		HP401	Introduction to Health Policy and Politics	Semi-Compulsory*** (Barred combination with 1117: Health Policy, Process & Power)		
1		HP420	Health Economics	Semi-Compulsory***		
2		HP424	Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy	Semi-Compulsory***		

***Students must take at least one of HP401, HP420 and HP424; any other can also be taken as Recommended

LSHTM						
2	C1	1501	Economic Evaluation	Recommended (Barred combination with HP422 Health Care Economic Evaluation)	15	33
2	C2	1402	Conflict and Health	Recommended	15	37
2	C2	1808	Health Systems	Recommended	15	32
2	D1	1403	Organisational Management	Recommended	15	30
2	D1	1504	Economic Analysis for Health Policy	Recommended	15	45
2	D2	1503	Globalisation & Health	Recommended	15	36
2	D2	1606	Health Decision Sciences	Recommended	15	40
2	D2	1701	Reviewing the Literature	Recommended	15	27
2	C1	1400	Health Care Evaluation	Recommended	15	22
2	C1	1803	Sociological Approaches to Health	Recommended	15	40
2	C2	2417	Design & Analysis of Epidemiological Studies	Recommended	15	37
2	D1	1127	Evaluation of Public Health Interventions	Recommended	15	30

2	D2	2437	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	Recommended	15	63
LSE						
1		HP429	Behavioural Incentive Design in Health and Health Care	Recommended	For further details, please contact the LSE Co-Programme Directors.	
1		HP422	Health Care Economic Evaluation	Recommended (Barred combination with 1501 Economic Evaluation)		
1		HP404	Global Health Policy: Institutions, Actors and Politics	Recommended		
2		HP407	Evidence Review and Synthesis for Decision Making	Recommended		
2		HP412	Global Health Security	Recommended		
2		HP421	Economic Analysis for Health Policy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries	Recommended		
2		HP423	Advanced Health Economics	Recommended		
2		HP425	Statistical Methods in Health Care Economic Evaluation	Recommended		
2		HP428	Randomised evaluations of health programmes: from design to implementation	Recommended		

* 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
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. • The normal minimum entrance qualification for registration is at least a second-class Honours degree of a UK university, or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard, or a registerable qualification in medicine, dentistry or veterinary studies appropriate to the programme. Applications with an appropriate technical qualification, or equivalent qualification and experience from overseas, are also welcomed. • Ideally candidates should have prior work experience in areas relating to health, policy, planning and financing. Preference will be given to such candidates given the competitive nature of this programme. A minimum of one year's experience in health policy or public health related work is recommended. • Any prospective student who does not meet the above minimum entry requirement, but who has relevant professional experience, may still be eligible for admission. The Registry can advise on eligibility to apply in such cases.
For further information, please see   https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/how-apply/applying-masters-degree-london/you-apply-msc

English language entry requirements
Band B 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