

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



1. Overview

Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification)	2020-21
Programme Title	Reproductive & Sexual Health Research
Programme Director	Lynda Clarke
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculty	Epidemiology and Population Health
Length of Programme (months)	MSc – Full time = 12 months, Part time = 24 months
Entry Routes	MSc
Exit Routes	MSc/PGDip/PGCert
Award Titles	MSc Reproductive & Sexual Health Research (180 credits) Exit Awards: PGDip in Reproductive & Sexual Health Research (120 credits) PGCert in Reproductive & Sexual Health Research (60 credits)
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	N/A
Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points	N/A

Level of programme within the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	Masters (MSc) Level 7			
Total Credits	CATS:	180	ECTS:	90
HECoS Code	100246; 100621; 100962; 100473			
Mode of Delivery	<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 Reproductive Sexual Health Research: 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>			
Mode and Period of Study	Full time (12 months) or part time/split time (max 24 months)			
Cohort Entry Points	Annually in September			
Language of Study	English			

Re-sit Policy	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-08a.pdf
Extenuating Circumstances Policy	https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/default/files/academic-manual-chapter-07.pdf
Programme Description	<p>This programme is designed for those interested in acquiring the research skills necessary to conduct policy-relevant research into sexual and reproductive health. It provides a non-clinical foundation in family planning, obstetric health, AIDS and sexually-transmitted infections.</p> <p>The curriculum has a focus on middle- and low-income settings but also provides excellent training in the principles and methods of research for high-income countries.</p> <p>This Master's programme is recognized by the ESRC as providing high quality research training and a small number of ESRC scholarships (including 1+3 scholarships) are available to UK or EU residents. These are advertised each year with the LSHTM scholarships information.</p>
Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year)	1998
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 provide an introduction to the concepts and methods used in reproductive and sexual health research and to equip students with the principles, methods and research skills necessary to conduct policy relevant research. It provides a non-clinical foundation in the main aspects of reproductive and sexual health: family planning, obstetric health and AIDS/STIs (not including laboratory-based studies). The MSc is Europe's only graduate programme in reproductive health research, and is designed mainly for those interested in the developing world, but developed world issues are also accommodated.

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) demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of evidence-based approaches to research of reproductive and sexual health issues;
- ii) critically assess and apply these research approaches to inform development, health and social welfare programmes;
- iii) demonstrate a good understanding of the socio-cultural, political and ethical issues surrounding reproductive and sexual health;
- iv) identify and address appropriate research questions in reproductive and sexual health, using methods from a range of public health disciplines; and
- v) demonstrate the ability to carry out key research skills and activities, including literature review, research study design, and critical analysis and application of research findings.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The programme will be taught, online or on-campus, using synchronous (live and interactive) and asynchronous (recorded or self-directed) teaching methods including: pre-recorded and live lectures, feedback and question and answer sessions, small group seminars, practicals, and groupwork with peers. All elements of the programme have specific learning objectives, with content designed to help students achieve these outcomes. 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, groupwork, presentations or other methods), formal summer exams, and a project report. 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	Term 2	Term 3	Total Credits
Compulsory Modules	5	1		75/80
Recommended Modules		3	1	60
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*
Students choose either 2001 or 2007						
1	AB1	2001	Basic Epidemiology	Compulsory (option)	10	30
1	AB1	2007	Extended Epidemiology	Compulsory (option)	15	52
Students choose one of the following three modules						
1	AB1	2039	Foundations in Reproductive Health	Compulsory	15	50
1	AB1	1104	Principles of Social Research	Compulsory	10	26
1	AB1	2021	Statistics for EPH	Compulsory	15	45
1	AB1	1117	Health Policy, Process & Power	Compulsory (option)	10	28
1	AB1	1103	Introduction to Health Economics	Compulsory (option)	10	30
1	AB1	2011	Population Studies	Compulsory (option)	10	30
2	C1	2423	Research Design & Analysis	Recommended	15	34
2	C2	2401	Family Planning Programmes	Recommended	15	35

2	C2	2436	Population, Poverty and Environment	Recommended	15	17
2	D1	3192	Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections	Recommended	15	30-35
2	D1	2459	Current Issues in Maternal & Perinatal Health	Recommended	15	40
2	D1	1127	Evaluation of Public Health Interventions	Recommended	15	30
2	D1	2472	Social Epidemiology	Recommended	15	40
2	D2	1804	Sexual Health	Compulsory	15	36
3	E	3174	HIV	Recommended	15	60
3	E	2468	Analysing Survey & Population Data	Recommended	15	34

* 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.

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 degree in medicine at the same standard, 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.

AND

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

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 Reproductive and Sexual Health Research is **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