



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification)	2023-24
Programme Title	Epidemiology
Programme Director	Patrick Nguipdop-Djomo & Ian Douglas
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 in Epidemiology (180 credits) Exit awards: PGDip in Epidemiology (120 credits) PGCert in Epidemiology (60 credits)
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	N/A
Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points	Consistent with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications 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: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf?sfvrsn=170af781_14
Level of programme within the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	Masters (MSc) Level 7
Total Credits	CATS: 180 ECTS: 90
HECoS Code	101335
Mode of Delivery	The programme is based at LSHTM in London and delivered by predominantly face-to-face teaching modes.
Mode and Period of Study	Full time (12 months) or part time/split study (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	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. For further information, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/masters/mse.html
Date of Introduction of Programme	September 1979. Full periodic review carried out in 2022.
Date of revision of this programme specification	August 2022

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 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.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge & understanding of:

- the role of epidemiology and its contribution to health-related research and policy
- the main types of epidemiological studies and the key issues with their use

Intellectual & Practical skills - able to:

- design and critically appraise epidemiological studies and protocols, with consideration of the study question, study design, data collection methods, sources of bias, and appropriate statistical analyses
- manage, summarise, analyse, and present epidemiological data (using statistical software) and interpret findings appropriately given study limitations
- apply advanced epidemiological concepts and methods to specific fields (e.g. non-communicable disease epidemiology, infectious disease epidemiology, social epidemiology, spatial epidemiology, prediction modelling, clinical trials)

Transferable skills - able to:

- use problem-solving skills in a range of situations, working individually or in a team
- design, execute, and report on a substantial independent research project
- appraise, critique and communicate health data and health research findings
- manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The programme is taught through a variety of teaching methods including: lectures, small group seminars, pen-and-paper and computer practicals, and group work with peers. 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.

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), a formal summer exam, and a project report. Such tasks are designed to assess, via the most appropriate method, whether learning outcomes have been achieved.

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)
1	AB1	2033	Clinical Trials	Compulsory	10
1	AB1	2056	Epidemiology in Practice	Compulsory	15
1	AB1	2007	Extended Epidemiology	Compulsory	15
1	B1	2484	Epidemiology and -omics	Compulsory	5
1	AB1	2021	Statistics for EPH	Compulsory	15
2	C1	2400	Study Design: Writing a Study Proposal	Compulsory	15
2	C2	2402	Statistical Methods in Epidemiology	Compulsory	15
2	D1	2407	Epidemiology of Non-Communicable Diseases	Recommended	15

2	D1	2464	Modelling & the Dynamics of Infectious Diseases	Recommended	15
2	D1	2472	Social Epidemiology	Recommended	15
2	D1	3135	Spatial Epidemiology in Public Health	Recommended	15
2	D2	1301	Environmental Epidemiology	Recommended	15
2	D2	2437	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	Recommended	15
3	E	2412	Advanced Statistical Methods in Epidemiology	Recommended	15

Contact Time

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. Module contact time will be defined in the individual module specifications and provided to students at the start of their programme.

This definition is based on the one provided by the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\) Explaining contact hours \(2011\)](#). 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.

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 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 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 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