

## LSHTM Skills & Learning: Market Research

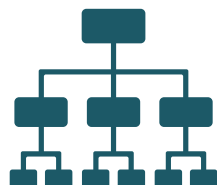
### What Skills do Graduates Need?

#### Current Employment



LSHTM alumni found **communication** to be the most important skill in their current job roles. This included communicating to different audiences, across disciplines and across language barriers. Presenting, writing reports and proposals, and listening to others are some of the communication tools they use most often.

**Management skills** were seen by employers as the most important soft skill for graduates and alumni also found them to be essential in many job roles. Project management, time management and resource management were all considered important.



Many alumni need well-developed **data skills** in their job roles; they need to source, monitor and analyse data and use it to make decisions. Employers felt that this was a skillset sometimes lacking in new graduates joining the workforce.



#### Future Career Prospects



**Technological expertise** was predicted to be the most needed graduate skill in the next 5-10 years. Programming knowledge was seen as necessary due to the growth of big data, and both alumni and employers expected that graduates would need to have a good grounding in innovative technologies.

Alumni expect **research skills** to remain highly relevant over the next decade. Graduates will need to be able to design high quality studies and perform in-depth analysis. They will also need to be able to write good proposals.



Alumni interviewed saw the changing needs of the public health sector as necessitating a **shift in working styles and attitudes**. Certain soft skills will become more important as the global health arena becomes more unpredictable:

- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Flexibility
- Emotional resilience

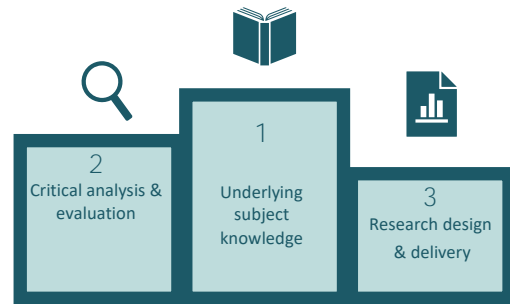
A **multidisciplinary approach** was also seen as ever more vital as public health issues become increasingly connected with other global issues. Knowledge of other sectors and the capacity to cross the boundaries between them was seen as an essential part of future public health work.

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## What Skills does LSHTM Provide?

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### Technical and Specialist Skills



Alumni and current students rated underlying subject knowledge, critical analysis & evaluation and research design & delivery as the top three technical or specialist skills developed during their studies at LSHTM. Alumni also praised the training they had received in epidemiology and the understanding of infectious diseases, health systems and health management.

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### Transferable Skills

Working independently to manage projects

Creating a professional identity

Working in a multidisciplinary community

Alumni and current students surveyed felt that the transferable skills they had most developed during their studies at LSHTM were working independently to manage projects, creating a professional identity and working in a multidisciplinary community. Alumni interviewed also felt that they had developed their networking skills, due to the diversity of the student body and the school network itself.

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## What Skills do Students Want?



For prospective students surveyed, while underlying subject knowledge, working in a multidisciplinary community and creating a professional identity remain important, the changing face of public health means that several other skills are increasing in significance.

The rise in importance of problem solving, communication and leadership for incoming students echoes the predictions of alumni as to how the graduate skillset will need to evolve to meet new public health needs.

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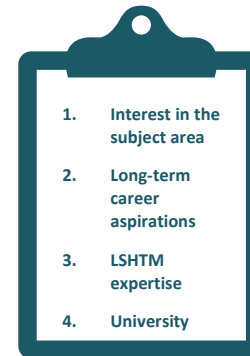
## How can LSHTM Better Meet the Skills Requirements?



LSHTM alumni made some suggestions as to how the school might tailor its offering to maximise the skills development of its students:

- 🌀 **Mentoring.** Personalised guidance including an increase in contact time with teaching staff and a more robust system of pastoral care were recommended, drawing on norms set by universities in the USA.
- 🌀 **Networking.** Better connections between the students and the alumni network would help graduates understand the career paths open to them, and more peer contact would help students support one another in their studies, particularly for distance learning students.
- 🌀 **Alternatives to research.** Since many graduates go onto practical roles rather than academia or research, alumni recommended more exposure to industry for students. This might be through lectures by public health professionals, work placements and internships, or joint programmes with sectors such as policy, law and medicine.
- 🌀 **Career guidance.** Alumni suggested that a more intensive career support service would be highly beneficial to graduates, giving them deeper knowledge of the pathways available to them and the life cycles of different roles.

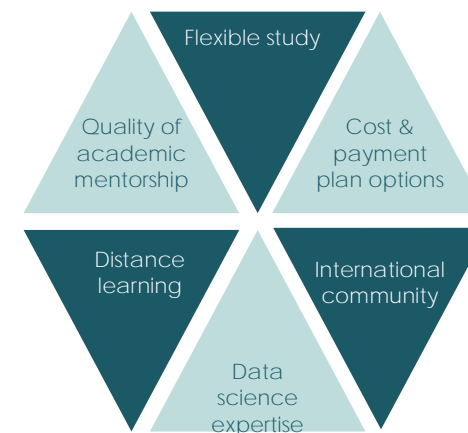
## How do Students Choose Where to Study?



For alumni, current students and prospective students, the top two motivations for choosing LSHTM were a personal interest in the subject area and the relevance of the course for long-term career aspirations.

LSHTM's research expertise and the expertise of the teaching staff ranked third for alumni and prospective students, while university rankings took third place for current students.

For alumni and current students surveyed, a variety of factors were considered in addition to those that led to choosing LSHTM:



For alumni considering further study, **funding** was by far the largest consideration. Many alumni emphasised the additional challenges for students from LMICs, and the increased cost for European students post-Brexit.

The availability of scholarships and small bursaries to assist with living expenses can make all the difference: *'It gets a bit dire when you have to try and pay your fees and you can't afford the basics for yourself. So funding is a real sort of problem.'*

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### How Do Students and Alumni Want to Study in Future?



CPD & Short Courses



Formal Academic Qualifications

- Topics of interest include health policy & planning, medical & technical knowledge and data analysis & modelling.
- A hybrid format is the preferred mode of delivery for current students and alumni surveyed, balancing the capacity to maintain personal and professional commitments with the potential for networking and interacting face-to-face with tutors and fellow students.
- Most alumni interviewed who were interested in further study would choose to take a PhD if possible.
- Alongside funding and institutional reputation, the flexibility to continue work alongside studies was a key consideration for alumni.

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### What type of Partnerships should LSHTM foster?



Alumni identified several key types of organisation with whom partnership might prove beneficial:

- Technical Institutions & Universities
- Business Schools
- International Partners
- Medical or Pharmaceutical Partnerships