

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2023-24
Module Code	PHM206
Module Title	Environmental Health Policy
Module Organiser(s)	James Milner
Contact email	<p>The LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with the University of London. Enquiries may be made via their Student Advice Centre.</p> <p>(Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based the LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to: distance@lshtm.ac.uk).</p>
Faculty	Public Health & Policy: The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/faculties/php
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS: 15 ECTS: 7.5
HECoS Code	101049 : 100648 : 101317
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through online materials (Virtual Learning Environment)
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	It is helpful but not essential to have taken the module Environment, Health and Sustainable Development (PHM106). Environmental Health Policy is complementary in content to the module Environmental Epidemiology (PHM205).
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None

Target Audience	This module is available to students registered for the DL MSc and PGDip in Public Health. It is compulsory for students studying the MSc Public Health: Environment and Health stream and recommended for students studying the Health Promotion and General streams. The module is also open to students on the DL PGDip/MSc Clinical Trials and Epidemiology programmes. Alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module.
Module Description	This module provides students with an overview of methods for assessing and managing environmental health risks.
Duration	Studies for distance learning modules begin in early October. At this time, module materials will be made available on Moodle once fees have been paid. Students may start their studies at any time from the beginning of October and work through the material until the start of the June assessments. However, students are encouraged to commence their studies in October and work steadily through the materials over the course of the academic year and must adhere to other assessment submission deadlines.
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	August 2023

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Compulsory
MSc Public Health (General Stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Economics (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip/MSc Clinical Trials (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip/MSc Epidemiology (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module

This module aims to:

- Improve students' ability to appraise and apply key methodologies for assessing and controlling environmental risks to health.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to:

1. Describe and apply the four stages of quantitative risk assessment: hazard identification, dose-response assessment, exposure assessment and risk characterisation;
2. Demonstrate how risk assessment based on the rational actor paradigm is translated into practice in the control of toxic chemicals, radiological and other environmental hazards;
3. Demonstrate how economic techniques, such as cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses, can support environmental policy making;
4. Describe, compare and apply environmental, social and health impact assessment and priority setting approaches to environmental health risks;
5. Compare and critique alternative theories of risk and risk perception, including cultural theory and the psychometric paradigm, and demonstrate risk communication techniques in environmental health decision making.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

The module is expected to cover the following topics:

- The classical four-stage model for assessing environmental health risks;
- Risk management and decision making tools based on the rational actor paradigm, including economic appraisal;
- Alternative theories of risk and risk perception;
- Other methods for risk assessment, as well as approaches to risk communication and participatory decision making;
- Environmental health policy initiatives at the local and global levels.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	110	73.3
Self-directed learning	0	0
Assessment, review and revision	40	26.7
Total	150	100

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Learning is via directed self-study. A guide to studying the module is provided, together with access to a range of study resources, discussion forums and online webinar discussion sessions. The textbook that supports this module provides a detailed set of learning objectives at the start of each chapter, and also offers focused reading and various learning activities. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussions and online webinar discussion sessions to obtain tutor support, and to make use of the LSHTM on-line library resources. Written feedback is provided on submitted assignments.

Additional learning materials include: a brief guide to the study module, recommended reading from the peer-reviewed literature, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and suggested relevant websites.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussions and real-time tutorials available on Moodle to obtain tutor support, and to make use of LSHTM online library resources.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

This module is assessed via one required summative assignment worth 30% of the student's mark and a summative time-limited assessment that is worth 70% of the student's mark.

Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	Please see the Assignment Instructions for details.	30	All
Time-limited assessment	TBC	70	All

The 30% summative assignment for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than **31 March** and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Time-limited assessments for DL modules are held once a year, mostly in June (including resits).

Assessments are held in accordance with University of London's annual guidance but in 2023/24 they are likely to be held online.

Please note that a separate assessment fee may be payable in addition to the module fee. Further details will be communicated as soon as the final decisions are known.

Resitting assessment

Resits will accord with the LSHTM's [Resits Policy](#).

The Resit assessment will be the same assessment type as the first attempt (see previous table).

Resources

The following materials are provided to students after registration and fee payment for this module in October:

- A brief guide to studying the module;
- The textbook *Environmental Health Policy* by David Ball;
- A reading list including details of both required and optional reading and links to selected papers;
- A list of useful websites;
- Module specific discussion forums;
- Online webinar discussion sessions (live discussion sessions which focus on selected topics) at key points in the study year.

All materials are provided in e-format and may be accessed via the LSHTM VLE – Moodle.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the majority of the module learning materials, including a study guide and online reading list (detailing both essential and recommended readings), and additional resources including supplementary exercises and optional lecture recordings. In some cases, module materials include a textbook that is made available to students in e-format. All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible. The LSHTM Moodle has been made accessible to the widest possible audience, using a VLE that allows for up to 300% zoom, permits navigation via keyboard and use of speech recognition software, and that allows listening through a screen reader. All students have access to "[SensusAccess](#)" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

For students with special needs, reasonable adjustments and support can be arranged – details and how to request support can be found on the University of London Worldwide website at

<https://london.ac.uk/applications/how-it-works/inclusive-practice-access-arrangements>