



August 2024

Dear DrPH candidate,

Congratulations on your acceptance as a research degree student at LSHTM and welcome to the programme. Like other students, you will probably find it challenging as well as inspiring. We hope you will also enjoy yourself, make new friends and learn new skills during your time at the School.

During Welcome Week you will meet the DrPH team, your supervisors and other LSHTM staff, as well as learning more about the School and the programme of study you will be following. To help you prepare, this letter provides key information about the first term.

First, please note, the DrPH taught component starts immediately after Welcome Week. Unlike some other research degree programmes (where students can ease into the autumn term), you will need to be focused on your studies right away. This is important, because the grades you receive for your first term assessments will count towards your degree.

Please, therefore, make sure you give yourself enough time to familiarise yourself with the key aspects of our virtual delivery platforms. I am pleased to say that as soon as you have been formally registered by Registry you will be able to access the DrPH 2024-25 Moodle site and begin the Programme.

Moodle is especially important during the taught modules – this is where all the information and notices will be uploaded about each aspect of the Programme. Also on the Moodle site is a short Welcome to the Programme from the Programme Directors, Joanna Schellenberg and Nicki Thorogood and within each module section, a short introductory video from the Module Organisers.

The DrPH specific induction session will be on **Wednesday 25th September from 14.00 – 17.00 UK time**. This session will be run on zoom and a link is available on the DrPH Moodle page. If you're not able to access Moodle yet, you can access the zoom meeting via the link below:

<https://lshtm.zoom.us/j/96243084255?pwd=6asNi7YMh41iwC4j5Cj4kD6vZadsuP.1>

DrPH classes start on **Monday 30th September**, with the two core modules running in parallel throughout the winter term. These modules will be run on-line only. Written assessments for these modules will be due in early January 2025.

During the first term, the module Evidence Based Public Health Policy (EBPHP) is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday each week while the other module, Understanding Leadership, Management & Organisations (ULMO) runs on Thursdays and Fridays. Although live synchronous sessions will not take up full days each week, for planning purposes students should consider Mondays and Tuesdays as their EBPHP study days and Thursday and Friday as their ULMO study days. This is to allow sufficient time for reading and preparation for the live sessions.

There may be optional sessions or activities taking place on Wednesdays. When there are no scheduled sessions, Wednesday should be considered a private study day.

Part-time students should work out a schedule of study with their supervisor during Welcome Week. Both core modules are compulsory and part-time students can either:

- (a) complete one module in the first year and the other in the second year, or
- (b) take both taught components in the first year and then continue with part-time study in early 2025.

This choice has implications for timetabling the rest of your studies, so if you would like additional advice on this matter please free to get in touch with us. It is particularly important that part-time students who are taking only one module in 2024 keep the study days for the relevant module clear of other commitments, as full participation in the taught modules is a requirement of the programme.

Outline information and suggested preparatory readings for EBPHP and ULMO are included in the module guides and are available here:

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/new-students/msc-research-students/pre-course-information/research-degrees>

You will learn more about these modules at the DrPH induction session on 25th September.

There will be an opportunity to book a short one to one Welcome meeting with us, the Programme Directors on Thursday and Friday 26-27 September. In addition, if you are in or around London, you are warmly invited to come to a small lunch in Room LG24 in Keppel Street on Friday 27th September.

Please have a look at the Moodle site as soon as you can. **You will find here your first task: posting something about yourself on the padlet wall. If you're not able to access Moodle yet, you can access the Padlet wall via the link below:**

<https://padlet.com/francescogrisolia1/drph-2024-25-student-staff-introductions-bs6mxkzgzgdo9od>

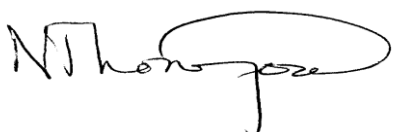
Here we would like you to briefly introduce yourself to your fellow students and tutors.

We suggest that you: -

- Explain a little about yourself or what you are looking forward to most in the programme.
- Add a photo of yourself and perhaps of where you are, or somewhere you like
- Post a favourite recipe or meal, or tell us about the kinds of film, TV, or music you like.

Whether you are a full- or part-time student, your first term will be busy and, we hope, exciting. We look forward to meeting you all at the start of term and wish you the very best with your studies.

Best wishes,



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