



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification)	2024-25
Programme Title	Immunology of Infectious Diseases
Programme Director	Helena Helmby
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculty	Infectious and Tropical Diseases
Length of Programme (months)	MSc - Full time = 12 months, Split study = 24 months
Entry Routes	MSc
Exit Routes	MSc/PGDip/PGCert
Award Titles	MSc in Immunology of Infectious Diseases (180 credits) Exit awards: PGDip in Immunology of Infectious Diseases (120 credits) PGCert in Immunology of Infectious Diseases (60 credits)
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	N/A
Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points	No relevant PGT QAA benchmark for this MSc Programme.



Level of programme within the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	Masters (MSc) Level 7
Total Credits	CATS: 180 ECTS: 90
HECoS Code(s)	100345:100265:100948 (1:1:1)
Mode of Delivery	This programme is based at LSHTM in London and delivered by predominantly face-to-face teaching modes. International travel for some teaching delivery including Term 3 research projects is available.
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 combines theoretical knowledge and practical training in the immunology of infectious diseases through comprehensive teaching and research methods. Students will gain specialised skills in applying scientific concepts, evaluating scientific data and carrying out modern immunological techniques. Students will benefit from the unique mix of immunology, vaccinology, molecular biology, virology, bacteriology, parasitology, mycology and clinical medicine at the LSHTM.</p> <p>Infectious diseases represent an increasingly important cause of human morbidity and mortality throughout the world. Vaccine development is thus of great importance in terms of global health. In parallel</p>



	<p>with this growth, there has been a dramatic increase in studies to identify the innate, humoral or cellular immunological mechanisms which confer immunity to pathogenic viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites. As a result, increasing numbers of scientists, clinicians and veterinarians wish to develop their knowledge and skills in these areas.</p> <p>The flexible nature of the programme allows students to focus on attaining a broader understanding of infectious disease through attending taught units. Students also undertake a research project within groups led by experienced team leaders. Such projects can involve basic investigations of immune mechanisms or applied field-based studies in either UK or overseas.</p>
Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year)	The last periodic review of the programme occurred in 2022-23
Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year)	August 2024

2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

Educational aims of the programme
<p>The aim of the programme – consistent with the LSHTM’s mission to improve health worldwide – is to provide advanced theoretical knowledge and practical training in the immunology of infectious diseases through a comprehensive range of teaching and research methods. It equips students with the range of specialised knowledge and skills in applying scientific concepts, evaluating scientific data and carrying out modern immunological techniques.</p>



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 specialist knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of host immunity to infection against the diverse range of pathogens which confront human populations;
- (ii) apply this specialist knowledge to a range of practical skills and techniques, in particular modern molecular and cellular techniques for assessing immune responses to pathogens;
- (iii) critically assess, select and apply appropriate research methods to investigate basic immunological mechanisms and applied issues in the immunology of infection;
- (iv) critically evaluate primary scientific data and the published scientific literature;
- (v) integrate and present key immunological concepts at an advanced level, both verbally and in written form.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The programme is taught through a variety of teaching methods including: lectures, small group seminars, practicals and group work 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 one assessment mid Term 1, written assessments during the week before the start of Term 2, additional individual module assessments (which may include essays, other written coursework, short written exams, group work, presentations or other methods), and a project report in Term 3. Such tasks are designed to assess, via the most appropriate method, whether learning objectives have been met.



3. Programme Structure and features, modules, credit assignment and award requirements:

****Without Extended Project****

Full-time Masters	Term 1	Term 2/3	Term 3	Total Credits
Compulsory Modules	2	2		90
Recommended Modules		3		45
Project			1	45

****With Extended Project****

Full-time Masters	Term 1	Term 2/3	Term 3	Total Credits
Compulsory Modules	2	3		105
Recommended Modules				
Extended Project		1	1	75

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	3196	Analysis & Design of Research Studies	Compulsory	10
1	AB1	3120	Immunology of Infectious Diseases	Compulsory	50
2	C1	3134	Advanced Immunology 1 (linked)	Compulsory	15
2	C2	3144	Advanced Immunology 2 (linked)	Compulsory	15
2	D1	3158	Advanced Training in Molecular Biology	Recommended	15
2	D1	3167	Immunology of Clinical Diseases	Recommended	15
2	D2	3177	Immunology of Parasitic Infection	Recommended	15



2	D2	3260	Molecular and Cell Biology of Infectious Diseases	Recommended	15
2	D2	3130	Mycology	Recommended	15
2	D1	3000	Extended Project	Compulsory (only with Extended Project)	15
3	E	3169	Novel Drug Discovery & Antimicrobial Resistance	Recommended	15
3	E	3174	HIV	Recommended	15
3	E	3465	Neglected Tropical Diseases	Recommended	15
3	E	3191	Vaccine Immunology	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

Please refer to the programme's entry requirements [here](#).