



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

| | |
|---|---|
| Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification) | 2024-25 |
| Programme Title | Reproductive & Sexual Health Research |
| Programme Director | Melissa Palmer |
| 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 Reproductive & Sexual Health Research (180 credits) Exit Awards: PGDip in Reproductive & Sexual Health Research (120 credits) PGCert in Reproductive & Sexual Health Research (60 credits) |
| Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body | N/A |
| Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement and/or other external/internal reference points | N/A |

| | |
|---|---|
| Level of programme within the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) | Masters (MSc) Level 7 |
| Total Credits | CATS: 180 ECTS: 90 |
| HECoS Code | 100246; 100621; 100962; 100473 |
| 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 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 is designed for those interested in acquiring the research skills necessary to conduct and appraise policy-relevant research into sexual and reproductive health. It provides a non-clinical foundation in family planning, maternal and newborn health, HIV , and sexually-transmitted infections.</p> <p>The curriculum has a focus on middle- and low-income settings but also provides excellent training in the principles and methods of research for high-income countries.</p> <p>This Master's programme is recognized by the ESRC as providing high quality research training and a small number of ESRC scholarships (including 1+3 scholarships) are available to UK or EU residents. These are advertised each year with the LSHTM scholarships information.</p> |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year) | 1998 |
| Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year) | December 2023 |

2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

| |
|--|
| Educational aims of the programme |
| <p>The aim of the programme – consistent with LSHTM's mission to improve health worldwide – is to provide an introduction to the concepts and methods used in reproductive and sexual health research and to equip students with the principles, methods and research skills necessary to conduct and appraise policy relevant research. It provides a non-clinical foundation in the main aspects of reproductive and sexual health: family planning, maternal and newborn health, and HIV/STIs (not including laboratory-based studies). The MSc is Europe's only graduate programme in sexual and reproductive health research, and is designed mainly for those interested in low and middle income settings, but issues related to high-income settings are also accommodated.</p> |
| Programme Learning Outcomes |
| <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of evidence-based approaches to research of reproductive and sexual health issues; ii) critically assess and apply these research approaches to inform development, health and social welfare programmes; iii) demonstrate a good understanding of the socio-cultural, political and ethical issues surrounding reproductive and sexual health; iv) identify and address appropriate research questions in reproductive and sexual health, using methods from a range of public health disciplines; and v) demonstrate the ability to carry out key research skills and activities, including literature review, research study design, and critical analysis and application of research findings. |

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The programme is taught through a variety of teaching methods including: lectures, small group seminars, practical, and groupwork 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 individual module assessments which may include essays, other written coursework, short written exams, practical exams, groupwork, presentations or other methods and a project report. Such tasks are designed to assess, using the most appropriate method, whether learning objectives have been met.

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 | 1 | | 75/80 |
| Recommended Modules | | 3 | 1 | 60 |
| 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) |
|--|------|-------------|--|---|----------------|
| Students choose either 2001 or 2007 | | | | | |
| 1 | AB1 | 2001 | Basic Epidemiology | Compulsory (option) | 10 |
| 1 | AB1 | 2007 | Extended Epidemiology | Compulsory (option) | 15 |
| 1 | AB1 | 2039 | Foundations in Reproductive Health | Compulsory | 15 |
| 1 | AB1 | 1104 | Principles of Social Research | Compulsory | 10 |
| 1 | AB1 | 2021 | Statistics for EPH | Compulsory | 15 |
| Students choose <u>one</u> of the following three modules | | | | | |
| 1 | AB1 | 1117 | Health Policy, Process & Power | Compulsory (option) | 10 |
| 1 | AB1 | 1103 | Introduction to Health Economics | Compulsory (option) | 10 |
| 1 | AB1 | 2011 | Population Studies | Compulsory (option) | 10 |
| Students choose <u>one</u> of the following four modules | | | | | |
| 2 | C1 | 2423 | Research Design & Analysis | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | C2 | 2401 | Family Planning Programmes | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | C2 | 2436 | Population, Poverty and Environment | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | D1 | 3192 | Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections | Recommended | 15 |

| | | | | | |
|---|----|------|---|-------------|----|
| 2 | D1 | 2459 | Current Issues in Maternal & Perinatal Health | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | D1 | 1127 | Evaluation of Public Health Interventions | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | D1 | 2472 | Social Epidemiology | Recommended | 15 |
| 2 | D2 | 1804 | Sexual Health | Compulsory | 15 |
| 3 | E | 3174 | HIV | Recommended | 15 |
| 3 | E | 2468 | Analysing Survey & Population Data | 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

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 degree in medicine at the same standard, 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.

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 Reproductive and Sexual Health Research is **band B**.

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