



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2024-25
Module Code	IDM204
Module Title	Viral Infections
Module Organiser(s)	Dr David Miles and Dr David Clarke
Contact email	The LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with University of London Worldwide. Enquiries may be made via the Student Advice Centre . (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 .)
Faculty	Infectious & Tropical Diseases: The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/faculties/itd
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS: 15 ECTS: 7.5
HECoS Code	100265:100345 (1:1)
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through provided and online materials
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	Those who wish to study this module as an individual module or as part of another programme should have a prior knowledge of basic biochemistry, cell biology, genetics and basic immunology in order to be able to work through and benefit fully from this module.
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None
Target Audience	This module is intended for those who wish to understand the principles of virology, the role of viruses in important human diseases and the possible ways to prevent their dissemination.

Module Description	The module equips students with the knowledge to understand the principles of virology in important human diseases and the possible ways to prevent their dissemination. The aim of the module is to undertake a systematic overview of the important current and emergent viruses causing infections in humans. The module is intended for those with prior knowledge in basic biochemistry, cell biology, genetics and possibly basic immunology. The five learning outcomes for the module are described below.
Duration	Distance learning module studies begin in early October. Students may start their studies at any time from receipt of study materials and work through the material until the start of the June assessments (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed).
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	February 2023

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
PGDip/MSc Infectious Diseases (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective option
PGDip/MSc Clinical Trials (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective option

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
The overall module aim is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the basic principles of virology and apply them to current and emerging viral infections of global importance.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> apply the principles underlying clinical virology to clinical and public health outcomes, related to specific viruses; demonstrate a systematic understanding of how viral life cycles relate to pathology; critically evaluate mechanisms for prevention and treatment of viral infections.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

The module is expected to cover the following topics:

- **Section 1 Introduction to viruses**

Section 1 provides the scientific background essential for the understanding of the biology of viruses. It is aimed at students who have a command of cell biology, molecular biology and basic immunology. Supplementary reading is provided for those without the necessary background. The biology of viruses is set in the context of their interactions with humans both as individuals and populations. In this section students will also receive basic information regarding virus classification and different aspects of their life cycle. Important issues such as host resistance are also discussed.

- **Section 2 Pathogenic viruses**

Section 2 describes the biology of individual viruses, both endemic and emergent, and the diseases they cause. Where the information is available, an indication is given as to numbers of people infected. The organization of this module reflects current understanding of viruses and the way in which they are studied. Their importance as pathogens is indicated but there is no direct link between the extent of the knowledge about a virus and its significance as a pathogen. The ability to investigate a virus is limited by technical considerations. Important issues such as cancer development are also discussed.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	75	50
Self-directed learning	25	17
Assessment, review and revision	50	33
Total	150	100

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The teaching and learning strategy is structured around an extensive module coursebook, written through the expertise of our module team with associated publications. There is rapid response online support via Moodle. A real-time journal club will be held in January, which is also recorded and available online, that will consolidate skills in critical appraisal of a virology publication.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

The assessment comprises two components. Firstly, an assessed assignment question of 2500 words on a choice of two subjects, for example antiviral therapy or emergent infections comprising 30% of the grade. Secondly, a Time-Limited Assessment, comprising 70% of the grade. The assessed assignment and time-limited assessment will focus on a given group of viruses and assess the learning outcomes of the module.

Assessment submission deadlines

Assignment submission deadline **31st March**.

Time-limited assessment takes place in **June**.

Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	2500 words	30	2, 3
Time-limited Assessment	3000 words	70	1 - 3

Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than **31st March** and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Time-limited assessments for DL modules are held once a year, in **June** (including resits). Time-limited assessments will be held in accordance with annual UoL guidance.

Please note that a separate assessment fee may be payable in addition to the module fee.

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). (Note that for those resitting module assessments, a fee will be payable.)

Resources

Indicative reading list

- Collier, L., Oxford, J., & Kellam, P., (2006) *Human Virology*. 5th Ed. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0198714688.
- Cann, A., (2015). *Principles of Molecular Virology*. 6th Ed. Academic Press. ISBN: 978-0128019467.

Textbooks will be made available in e-format or hard copy to registered students in early autumn.

Other resources

Study Guide: Paper version

Reader: On-line reading list via the Virtual Learning Environment

In addition to the materials above, students are given access to the **LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment, (VLE; Moodle)** where they can access the study guide, reading list, web-based discussion forums, assignments, supplementary materials and the **LSHTM online library resources**.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the module learning materials, including a study guide (with accessible printable versions of sessions), an online reading list (containing essential readings), Textbooks in e-format and additional resources including supplementary exercises. 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.

If you have specific, access requirements please contact the Inclusive Practice Manager via special.arrangements@london.ac.uk to request an alternative format of the study guide and for special exam arrangements.