

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification)	2025-26
Programme Title	Demography & Health
Programme Director	Sarah Walters
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculty	Epidemiology and Population Health (EPH)
Length of Programme (months)	MSc – Full time = 12 months, Part time = 24 months
Entry Routes	MSc
Exit Routes	MSc/PGDip/PGCert
Award Titles	MSc in Demography & Health (180 credits) Exit Awards: PGDip in Demography & Health (120 credits) PGCert in Demography & Health (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 For more information on subject benchmarking, please see: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Level of programme within the Framework for Higher Education	Masters (MSc) Level 7

Qualifications (FHEQ)	
Total Credits	CATS: 180 ECTS: 90
HECoS Code	101408
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 the dynamics of population change and its causes and consequences, with a global focus. The curriculum includes advanced technical training in the theories and methods of demography, equipping students with skills to assess and analyse a wide range of demographic data, to understand and interpret population dynamics, and to make population projections according to different scenarios and forecasts. Students will engage with the rapidly evolving landscape of demographic data, and apply cutting-edge skills in population data science.</p> <p>The programme will enable students to understand the critical role of population change as a driver and consequence of socio-economic, political and environmental change, and to critically assess population policies and public debates. The focus is on the synergies between population studies and health in the context of contemporary global challenges.</p>

	For further information, please see www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/masters/msdh.html
Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year)	1970 as MSc Medical Demography. The programme in its current form was validated in 2024.
Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year)	August 2024

2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

Educational aims of the programme
The aim of the programme – consistent with LSHTM's mission to improve health worldwide – is to offer broad training in the theories and methods of demography and population science and their application to population health. Students will acquire the interdisciplinary 'toolkit' of demographers, bringing together advanced population data science with critical and theoretical approaches to population change and policy. Emphasis is placed on socioeconomic, environmental and political determinants and consequences of population change. Students can choose to specialise in the technical aspects of population data science, or to take a more policy-focussed pathway through the programme.
Programme Learning Outcomes
By the end of the programme, students will be expected to achieve the following learning outcomes. Please note that modules listed below may be subject to change.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of scientific, evidence-based approaches to the study of population issues; ii) assess and apply demographic approaches critically to assess global population policies and programmes; iii) formulate demographic research questions relevant to contemporary global challenges such as inequality, climate change, security and conflict, and use demographic and health data, and appropriate methods of analysis, to address them; iv) identify causes and consequences of population change, including political, environmental and socioeconomic factors, and relate these to underlying population dynamics;

- v) demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of demographic behaviour in social, economic and policy contexts;
- vi) assess and apply findings of population studies to global health policy;
- vii) demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of major global population trends, including migration, ageing, fertility decline and population growth, in low, middle and high income countries.

Teaching and Learning Strategy

The programme will be taught through a variety of teaching methods including lectures, small group seminars, practical classes, 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 <u>either</u> 2001 or 2007					
1	AB1	2001	Basic Epidemiology	Compulsory (Option)	10
1	AB1	2007	Extended Epidemiology	Compulsory (Option)	15
Students choose <u>either</u> 2057 or 2007					
1	AB1	2057	Demographic Methods	Compulsory	15

1	AB1	2011	Population Studies	Compulsory	10
1	AB1	1104	Principles of Social Research	Compulsory	10
1	AB1	2021	Statistics for EPH	Compulsory	15
2	C1	2423	Research Design & Analysis	Recommended	15
2	C2	2436	Population, Poverty and Environment	Recommended	15
2	C2	2401	Family Planning Programmes	Recommended	15
2	D1	1127	Evaluation of Public Health Interventions	Recommended	15
2	D1	2472	Social Epidemiology	Recommended	15
2	D2	2429	Population Dynamics & Projections	Compulsory	15
3	E	2468	Analysing Survey & Population Data	Recommended	15
3	E	3174	HIV	Recommended	15

Contact Hours

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](#).