



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification)	2025-26
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 / Split study = 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 The programme in its current form was validated in 2019.
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 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.
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. <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

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