



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Overview

Academic Year (student cohorts covered by specification)	2025-26
Programme Title	Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (DTM&H)
Programme Director	Clare Warrell
Awarding Body	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Teaching Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculty	Infectious and Tropical Diseases
Length of Programme (months)	Professional Diploma – Full time = 12 Weeks
Entry Routes	Professional Diploma
Exit Routes	Professional Diploma
Award Titles	Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	The Accreditation Committee of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) has approved the curriculum of the Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (Professional DTM&H) course as suitable for doctors training in clinical tropical medicine and travellers' health in the USA. Completion of an accredited course and examination is a required part of this training. The Royal College of Physicians (UK) has approved the LSHTM Professional DTM&H as an eligible course for the RCP DTM&H examinations.
Relevant PGT QAA Benchmark Statement	No relevant PGT QAA benchmark

Level of programme within the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)	Masters (MSc) Level 7
Total Credits	CATS: N/A (not credit bearing) ECTS: N/A (not credit bearing)
HECos Code	Not applicable
Mode of Delivery	This programme is based at LSHTM in London and delivered by predominantly face-to-face teaching modes.
Mode and Period of Study	Full time for 12 consecutive weeks
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 intensive three-month full-time course combines practical laboratory work, lectures, seminars and small group teaching to provide doctors with the learning that will form the basis of professional competence in tropical medicine. It is designed for physicians planning to work in the tropics, physicians with tropical experience requiring broader and deeper insights, or practitioners in non-tropical countries requiring experience in clinical parasitology, imported diseases and travel medicine.</p> <p>Most teaching is face to-face by international experts, offering students unique access to leaders in global health and tropical medicine. Parasitology teaching pairs introductory lectures with complementary wet lab practical training.</p>

Date of Introduction of Programme (month/year)	The last periodic review of the course occurred in 2017-18.
Date of production / revision of this programme specification (month/year)	August 2024

2. Programme Aims & Learning Outcomes

Educational aims of the programme
<p>The course aims to teach doctors the skills required to understand, diagnose, treat and prevent diseases that are especially prevalent in tropical and developing countries where resources may be limited. The course has a strong epidemiological base but the scientific basis of infectious diseases is also given priority. A particular feature of the course is the diversity of students who attend. Among the students who take the professional diploma course each year, more than 25 different countries are usually represented. Students range in experience from recently qualified doctors (though usually no earlier than 3 years post-graduation) to specialist infectious disease physicians and surgeons with many years of experience working in tropical countries. The course is continually updated in response to changing needs, new developments in knowledge and technology, and student feedback. It has remained highly popular with students throughout its history which spans over 100 years.</p>
Programme Learning Outcomes
<p>By the end of the course, 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Compare and contrast the management of communicable and non-communicable diseases in different contexts ii. Critically evaluate the evidence for public health interventions in resource-limited settings iii. Prepare and examine biological specimens for identification of common parasitic and bacterial pathogens and associated vectors

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Much of the course is devoted to seminars, in which a multi-disciplinary team of experts from within and outside the LSHTM covers a particular disease or group of diseases in depth. Lectures cover the causative organisms, epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical features, diagnosis, management and prevention and control of these diseases. Time is set aside after each lecture for discussion. Implications for travel medicine are discussed where appropriate. Other seminars focus on aspects of community public health. These include an introduction to epidemiological methods used in the study of communicable diseases, and lectures on water supply, sanitation and nutrition. Seminars are also held on maternal and child health, non-communicable disease and mental health. Lectures are linked with hands-on practical sessions in which the laboratory diagnosis of all the major parasitic diseases is taught.

Clinical activities include problem-based teaching, small group discussions and case presentations of "paper cases" often derived from cases seen at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases. The course is intensive, without much free time during the three months. Sessions start at 09.00 most mornings and teaching continues most days until 17.00; classes also continue uninterrupted during the 'reading week'. See more at: <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/short-courses/DTMH>

Assessment Strategy

The examination, which runs over two days in the final weeks of the course, consists of a best-of-five format multiple-choice question paper, short note public health questions and a parasitology practical exam. See more at: <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/short-courses/DTMH>

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

The course is not divided into modules but comprises a total of 450 notional learning hours, based on a mix of contact teaching time, directed study and self-directed study time plus assessment. It is generally expected that students will spend on average 40 hours a week on study, including face-to-face sessions and private study. Each week of the course will typically include 35 hours of contact time within the LSHTM and 5 hours of self-directed study.

4: Entry Requirements

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