



**UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON**

# Programme Specification 2019–2020

## Demography and Health

MSc  
PGDip  
PGCert  
Individual modules

**Important document – please read**



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## Important information regarding the Programme Specification

### About this document

Last revised: 28 June 2019

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme, the entry level qualifications, as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress. Some of the information referred to in this programme specification is included in more detail on the University of London website. Where this is the case, links to the relevant webpage are included.

Where links to external organisations are provided, the University of London is not responsible for their content and does not recommend nor necessarily agree with opinions expressed and services provided at those sites.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided, whether here or on the website, registered students should use the *Ask a question* tab in the [student portal](#); otherwise the *Contact Us* button on each webpage should be used.

### Terminology

The following language is specific to the Demography and Health programmes:

**Modules:** Individual units of the programme are called modules. Each module is a self-contained, formally structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

### Key revisions made

Programme specifications are revised annually. The Senate Postgraduate Teaching Committee of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), as part of its annual review of standards, confirms the programme structure and the educational aims and learning outcomes, and advises on any development in student support.

Any changes that may impact on continuing students are listed below. For all new students, the programme and general information provided in this document is correct and accurate and will be applicable for the current year.

### Significant changes made to the programme specification 2019-2020:

- The GPA range for consider distinctions for final qualifications has changed from 4.0 – 4.29 to 4.15 – 4.29 from 2019/20.

## Title and name of awards

Postgraduate Degrees of the University of London may be classified. The qualification certificate will indicate the level of the academic performance achieved by classifying the qualification. The classification of the degree will be based on the ratified marks from the completed assessments.

The classification system for the Demography and Health programmes is as follows:

Distinction; Merit; Pass.

Specific rules for the classification of qualifications are given in the [Programme Regulations](#), under the Assessment and Award Scheme.

### Programme name

Demography and Health

### Qualification titles

- Master of Science Demography and Health
- Postgraduate Diploma Demography and Health
- Postgraduate Certificate Demography and Health

### Exit qualifications

- Postgraduate Diploma Demography and Health
- Postgraduate Certificate Demography and Health

An exit qualification is an intermediate qualification for which the student may not have registered at the outset but which may be awarded on completion of specific modules (or credit accumulated) in a longer programme of study, if the student leaves the programme.

Exit qualifications are awarded at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and once a student has accepted an exit qualification they will not normally be permitted to continue their study of the same qualification with the University of London.

### Individual modules

There is also provision for individual modules to be studied on a stand-alone basis.

### Qualification titles may be abbreviated as follows:

Master of Science Demography and Health - MSc

Postgraduate Diploma Demography and Health - PGDip

Postgraduate Certificate Demography and Health - PGCert

### Level of the programmes

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland forms part of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education of the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#) (QAA).

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The qualifications (including exit qualifications) are placed at the following Levels of the FHEQ:

- MSc Demography and Health Level 7
- PGDip Demography and Health Level 7
- PGCert Demography and Health Level 7

Individual modules are offered at Level 7.

### **Relevant QAA subject benchmarks**

Not applicable

### **Awarding body**

University of London

### **Registering bodies**

University of London and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

### **Academic direction**

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

### **Accreditation by professional or statutory body**

Not applicable

### **Language of study and assessment**

English

### **Mode of study**

Flexible and online study

### **Blended learning**

Students may also be permitted to study up to two elective modules by blended learning in place of distance learning modules. Blended learning enables a student to combine distance learning with a period of part-time study at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. An additional fee will be payable.

### **Programme structures**

The MSc Demography and Health consists of:

- Four compulsory core modules (two DEM1 modules, EPM101 and EPM102); and
- Two compulsory DEM2 modules;

and either

- Six elective modules selected from a list of options (which must include at least two other DEM2 modules);

or

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- Three elective modules selected from a list of options (which must include at least two other DEM2 modules); and
- A Project Report.

The PGDip Demography and Health consists of:

- Four compulsory core modules (two DEM1 modules, EPM101 and EPM102); and
- Two compulsory DEM2 modules; and
- Two elective modules selected from a list of options.

The PGCert Demography and Health consists of:

- Four compulsory core modules (two DEM1 modules, EPM101 and EPM102).

### Maximum and minimum periods of registration

The maximum and minimum period of registration, from a student's effective date of registration, are:

	Minimum	Maximum
MSc	Two years	Five years
PGDip	Two years	Five years
PGCert	One year	Five years
Credit bearing individual modules	One year	Two years

Study materials are made available at the start of the academic year after registration and on payment of the applicable fee.

### Credit value of modules

Further information about the credit systems used by universities in the UK and Europe is provided by the [Quality Assurance Agency](#) and the [European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System](#).

Where credits are assigned to each module of a programme, credit indicates the amount of learning carried out in terms of the notional number of study hours needed, and the specified Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England (FHEQ) credit level indicates the depth, complexity and intellectual demand of learning involved. The details below indicate the UK credits and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) values.

For the Demography and Health programme, credits are assigned to the modules as follows:

- 15 UK credits or 7.5 ECTS credits for each module at FHEQ level 7
- 45 UK credits or 22.5 ECTS credits for the project at FHEQ level 7.

Each qualification equates to the following number of credits:

- MSc Demography and Health – 180 UK credits or 90 ECTS credits
- PGDip Demography and Health - 120 UK credits or 60 ECTS credits

- PGCert Demography and Health - 60 UK credits or 30 ECTS credits

One UK credit equates to a notional ten hours of study.

## **Recognition of Prior Learning**

Recognition of prior learning is a generic term for the process by which we recognise and, where appropriate, award credit for learning that has taken place at an institution other than the University of London. See the [General Regulations](#) (Section 3) and [Programme Regulations](#) for more rules relating to prior learning.

For the Demography and Health programmes the University of London may recognise your prior learning and allow you exemption from a compulsory module towards the qualification. This can only be considered at the point of application for the programme.

Further information on recognition of prior learning is on the [website](#).

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## **Entrance requirements**

### **Postgraduate entrance requirements**

Applicants must submit an application in line with the procedures and deadlines set out on the University of London [website](#).

Details of the programme specific requirements are given on the [programme page](#), under the Requirements section.

### **English language requirements**

All applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. These are set out in detail on the programme page under the [Requirements](#) tab.

Where an applicant does not meet the prescribed English language proficiency requirements but believes that they can demonstrate the requisite proficiency for admission the University may, at its discretion, consider the application.

### **Internet access and computer specification**

Students will require regular access to a computer (or mobile device\*) with an internet connection to use the University of London website and the Student Portal to access the LSHTM's online learning site where many of the programme's study resources are located.

The computer should have at least the following minimum specification:

- a web browser (Firefox is recommended). This must accept cookies and have JavaScript enabled;
- a CD/DVD-ROM drive (some non-DEM modules only);
- screen resolution of 1024 x 768 or greater;
- sufficient internet bandwidth to enable downloading of essential learning materials that are up to approximately 50MB in size.

and the following software:

- MS Word (doc and .docx);
- MS Excel;
- a pdf reader (e.g. Adobe Acrobat).

### **Additional requirements**

- Students will need to use a calculator
- A headset/microphone may be required to participate in live webinar sessions online.

### **Students with access requirements**

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with specific access requirements to have the same chance as all other students to successfully complete their studies.

The University is committed to managing the application procedure and the programme itself to ensure that services are accessible for all students and that an inclusive environment is created. Students with a disability or others who may need special arrangements to assist in taking examinations (such as separate room or special aids) should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the [Inclusive Practice Manager](#). Requests will be considered by a University panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or access requirements are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by such arrangements when compared with other students. These considerations remain separate from the academic selection processes.

For further information, see the [Inclusive Practice Policy](#)

### **Sources of funding and scholarships**

Information about potential sources of funding and scholarships is updated annually and where available is included in the prospectus web pages.

For further information see the [website](#)

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## **Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes**

### **Educational aims**

The main educational aim of these programmes – consistent with LSHTM's mission to improve health worldwide – is to offer a broad training in the theories and methods of demography and the population sciences and their application to health, social welfare and economic development. Completion of the MSc may allow students to progress to a higher research degree in public health or medicine.

The compulsory core modules aim to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of scientific, evidence-based approaches to the study of population issues;



- assess and apply these approaches to inform development, health and population programmes;
- identify causes and consequences of population change and relate these to underlying population dynamics; demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of demographic behaviour in social, economic and policy contexts;
- formulate research questions and use demographic and health data, and appropriate methods of analysis, to address them;
- demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of major population trends, including historical trends, in developed and developing countries.

In addition elective modules aim to:

- increase the breadth and depth of knowledge of specialised fields within the general area of demography and health;
- enable students to develop a critical awareness of the current issues that dictate the direction of current research in demography and health;
- enable students to develop and apply knowledge of population studies to health and social policy.

## **Learning outcomes**

### **Knowledge, understanding, intellectual and cognitive**

An MSc, PGDip and PGCert student who has successfully studied the compulsory core modules will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the methods used to study population issues and to show successful accomplishment of the above educational aims.

In addition, a student who has successfully studied the elective modules will be able to:

- acquire and apply more advanced knowledge and skills in addition to those covered in the core modules to solve complex problems;
- critically evaluate the principles underlying a multidisciplinary approach to the control of demography and health.

In addition, to the competences acquired from studying the compulsory core modules a student who has successfully undertaken the Project Report option will be able to:

- further develop skills to analyse population issues with regard to health;
- critically evaluate the research/scholarly works that form the basis of his/her original report;
- critically evaluate their own work including the methodologies used;
- develop their written communication skills by producing a well-structured and well written report in a prescribed style and standard.

### **Transferable skills**

A student will be able to:

- use problem solving skills in a range of situations;
- use fluent and effective communication and discussion skills in a written context;

- have a capacity to handle ideas and scrutinize information in critical, evaluative and analytical ways;
- manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines.

A student who successfully completes the core (PGCert) modules will have the essential introduction to a variety of methods, approaches, facts and concepts key to understanding the study of population issues.

### **MSc and PGDip students**

MSc and PGDip students who study the elective modules will build on these foundations. These students will choose from a range of options which further knowledge in specific areas. MSc students may also apply the skills they have learnt to a particular problem and produce a Project report.

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## **Learning, teaching and assessment strategies**

The programme is primarily delivered using computer-based interactive and online study materials that are provided for each module studied. This material introduces each topic in the form of lessons, activities and self-assessment questions. The materials include tools to aid development of the skills of information search, comprehension and analysis and the generation of original and thoughtful assignments. Some materials are provided in the form of interactive CD/DVD-ROMs (depending on the modules chosen), and most are supported by textbooks and 'readers' which contain copies of journal articles, most supplied online.

Advice and practical information such as programme deadlines, study techniques, planning, preparation for assessment is available in the LSHTM programme-specific Student Handbook and the [Academic Writing Handbook](#). Students manage their own learning and study schedule, but advice can be sought from the support team at any stage of the academic year.

Students submit assignments, including essays, short-answer tests and case-studies to be marked by tutors who will also provide feedback to help students review their progress. Students can also practice exam techniques. Students can also interact with tutors and fellow students via the Virtual Learning Environment. Students will be able to engage in dialogue, develop and negotiate conclusions with others, which are key components in the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and transferable skills. Students are encouraged to use the resources within the LSHTM library.

Each module is assessed by a written assignment and a timed unseen written examination consisting of questions structured to allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate knowledge and understanding. The way that students manage data, solve problems, evaluate ideas and the organizational skills they use to structure answers, allows the standard of intellectual and transferable skills to be assessed.

The written assignment allows a student to carry out a more in depth study of the topic. Students demonstrate the skills associated with data collection, analysis, selection and producing a well-reasoned essay.

Some MSc students will also submit a project report which will not only assess their knowledge but also their ability to plan, gather data, reason and produce a well-structured report.

For most modules students will be assessed by coursework and by written examination. Questions are structured to allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate knowledge and understanding. The way that students manage data, solve problems, evaluate ideas and the organisational skills they use to structure their written answers allows the standard of intellectual and transferable skills to be assessed.

Assessment criteria for the programme take into account the level at which these skills have been achieved.

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## **Assessment methods**

Each core DEM1 module (PGCert, PGDip and MSc) will be assessed by a timed unseen written examination and a written assignment.

The majority of the elective modules (PGDip and MSc) will be assessed by a timed unseen written examination and a written assignment. The grade awarded for each module will be weighted 70:30 (examination: assignment).

The Project Report (MSc only) will be assessed by submission of one written report of up to 10,000 words. It should normally be submitted in the final year of the degree.

The written examinations take place on one occasion each year, normally commencing in June. These are held at established centres worldwide.

## **Individual modules**

A student may choose whether or not to be formally assessed in the credit bearing individual modules for which they are registered. Students who choose to be formally assessed will be examined in the same way as students studying for a full qualification.

Full details of the dates of all examinations are available on the <a href="#">website</a> .
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## **Student support and guidance**

The following summarises the support and guidance available to students:

- University of London [Student Guide](#): This provides information which is common to all students and gives information about matters of importance from the start of a student's relationship with the University of London through to their graduation.
- [Programme Regulations](#)
- [The University of London Online Library](#): This provides a range of full-text, multidisciplinary databases where journal articles, book reviews and reports can be found.
- Senate House Library: Registered students may use the resources located within the University of London Senate House library
- Employability skills module – guidance on how to manage your career in the future, available through the VLE.

- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

### **Support and guidance from LSHTM**

- The LSHTM Moodle Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). This gives online access to the main module materials, module discussion forums, information on assignments, links to essential and recommended readings (where available), past examination papers and examiner reports, and study skills' resources.
- [LSHTM online library](#) resources.
- Student support staff are available to offer help and advice on administrative matters. Course Directors can also be contacted for personal advice e.g. planning studies, advice on elective module options. Communication may either be via the online 'Student Support Help' discussion forum on Moodle or by email, and sometimes by Skype if needed.
- Each module has at least one Module Organiser (MO) and a group of tutors assigned to it. The tutors provide academic support to those studying on specific modules, in the following ways:
  - assisting in interpreting and understanding the material presented by answering queries on the online discussion forums
  - grading and providing written feedback on the assignments
  - offering some real-time 'webinars' in which students are encouraged to participate.
- The tutors are specialists in their subject area, and will change according to the module being followed at the time.
- A project supervisor works with students undertaking the project in the final year of the MSc.
- An LSHTM programme-specific Student Handbook, available on the LSHTM Moodle site, provides guidance on all aspects of the programme. It includes background information about the programme, advice on getting started, studying as a distance learner and organising study time, a description of the resources and programme materials available and how to access them, networking and support issues, procedures for assessment and examinations (including programme deadlines).
- Students are encouraged to exchange ideas with other students on the course and to organize mutual support via email or other forms of communication. An online discussion forum 'Student Cafe' is available within the LSHTM Moodle site which is accessible to students only, while individual contact details can be made available through the Student Network Directory (subject to student consent). This contains contact details of other students on the course so students can build up their own network if they wish (for example, to organise study groups).



## Quality evaluation and enhancement

The University of London delivers the majority of its flexible and distance learning programmes through a collaboration between the University of London Worldwide and member institutions of the University of London. However some of the flexible and distance learning programmes draw solely on academic input from the University of London, and are delivered without academic lead by a member institutions. The policies, partnerships (where applicable) and quality assurance mechanisms applicable for the programmes are defined in the following key documents: The Quality Framework, the [Quality Assurance Schedules](#), [Guidelines for Examinations](#), [General Regulations](#) and, for each programme, [programme specific regulations](#).

### Qualifications standards

All University of London qualifications have to align with the [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies](#) to assure appropriate standards for each qualification. In addition, every programme that is developed by a member institution of the University of London (or a consortium with representation by more than one member institution) will be developed to the same standard as would be applied within the institution concerned. Proportionate and robust approval procedures, including external scrutiny and student engagement are in place for all programmes. Learning materials are written and all assessments are set and marked by academic staff who are required to apply the University's academic standards.

### Review and evaluation mechanisms

Some of the key mechanisms in place to assure the standards of all University of London qualifications and the quality of the student experience, include:

- Annual programme reports are produced for all programmes in order to review and enhance the provision and to plan ahead;
- Independent external examiners submit reports every year to confirm that the programmes have been assessed properly and meets the appropriate academic standards;
- Annual student information statistics: prepared for all systematic reporting within the University of London;
- Periodic programme reviews are carried out every 4-6 years to review how a programme has developed over time and to make sure that it remains current and up-to-date.

### Student feedback mechanisms

The Student Experience Survey, carried out every two years, collects feedback from the student body on a range of topics relating to the student lifecycle. The results are considered in a number of different ways, including by the Pro-Vice Chancellor, the programme team, principal committees and departments at the University of London responsible for the different aspects of the student experience. Once the findings have been considered in detail, responses are published from both the University of London and from the individual Programme Directors.

Additional survey activity may also be conducted from time to time through the student portal, by email or from the programme team. This includes a request for module specific feedback, which subsequently feeds into the annual module review process.

VLEs also provide the opportunity for informal feedback and discussion.

An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University to the majority of committees through an annual appointment round. Some programmes also recruit student members at the programme level. Students are frequently invited to take part in quality review processes such as Periodic Programme Reviews, Programme approval, Thematic Reviews, MOOC review panels and *ad hoc* focus groups. Opportunities such as these are advertised through social media and on the website. More information can be found on the [website](#).

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## **After graduation**

### **Further study**

Successful completion of the programme may allow students to progress to a higher level qualification in the subject area.

### **Graduate employment routes**

It is expected that successful students will have enhanced career prospects within the health professions. Successful completion of the MSc may allow students to progress to postgraduate research in the field of demography and health.

### **The Alumni Network**

Upon graduation, students automatically become members of the University of London Alumni Network, a diverse community of over 100,000 alumni in more than 180 countries. The Alumni Network can provide past students with lifelong links to the University of London and each other. Benefits include social and networking events, access to local groups, a bi-annual magazine, social networking groups, and the opportunity to become an Alumni Ambassador for the University of London.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine also welcomes former students to its alumni association and this is free to join.

For further information, please see <https://london.ac.uk/alumni>, [www.facebook.com/londonualumni](https://www.facebook.com/londonualumni), [www.instagram.com/londonu](https://www.instagram.com/londonu) and <https://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-london/> and also <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/alumni>