



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

Programme Specification 2020–2021

Global Health Policy

MSc
PGDip
PGCert
Individual courses

Important document – please read



IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

Alternative Assessments during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak

In these unprecedented times, the University has and continues to respond quickly to the impact of COVID-19, which has resulted in changes to our assessment processes.

In line with our current General Regulations, the University may offer you alternative assessments where necessary. This includes holding online timed assessments in place of written examinations, which are usually held at examination centres. Please note that this statement replaces any published information relating to assessments or written examinations in any of our materials including the website. Previously published materials relating to examinations should therefore be read in conjunction with this statement.

The University of London continues to work towards supporting the academic progression of all its students. The University also continues to be mindful of the health and wellbeing of its students during this pandemic, whilst protecting the academic standards of its awards.

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Important information regarding the Programme Specification

Last revised 27 August 2020

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 **Global Health Policy** programme:

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, 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.

Where changes have been made which may impact on continuing students, these 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 2020-2021

No significant changes.

Programme title and qualifications

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 Global Health Policy programmes is as follows:

Distinction; Merit; Pass.

Specific rules for the classification of qualifications are given in the [Academic Manual Chapter 8b](#).

Programme title

Global Health Policy

Qualifications

Master of Science in Global Health Policy

Postgraduate Diploma in Global Health Policy

Postgraduate Certificate in Global Health Policy

Exit qualifications

Postgraduate Diploma in Global Health Policy

Postgraduate Certificate in Global Health Policy

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 award 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 in Global Health Policy - MSc

Postgraduate Diploma in Global Health Policy - PGDip

Postgraduate Certificate in /Global Health Policy - PGCert

Level of the programmes

The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (FHEQ) forms part of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education of the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#) (QAA).

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

- MSc Level 7
- PGDip Level 7
- PGCert Level 7

Individual modules are offered at Level 7.

Relevant QAA subject benchmarks group(s)

Not applicable

Awarding body

University of London

Registering bodies

University of London and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

Academic direction

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

Accreditation by professional or statutory body

None

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 study at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. An additional fee will be payable.

Programme structures

The **MSc Global Health Policy** consists of:

- Four compulsory GHM1 modules; and

either

- Five elective modules selected from a list of options and a Project;

or

- Eight elective modules selected from a list of options.

The **PGDip Global Health Policy** consists of:

- Four compulsory GHM1 modules; and
- Four elective modules selected from a list of options.

The **PGCert Global Health Policy** consists of:

- Four compulsory GHM1 modules.

Full details of the Scheme of Award are included in the [Programme Regulations](#).

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 modules of a programme, credit indicates the amount of learning carried out in terms of the notional number of study hours needed, and the specified 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 Global Health Policy 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 award equates to the following number of credits:

Programme Specification 2020-2021 Global Health Policy (MSc/PGDip/PGCert/Individual modules)

- MSc Global Health Policy - 180 UK credits or 90 ECTS credits
- PGDip Global Health Policy - 120 UK credits or 60 ECTS credits
- PGCert Global Health Policy - 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](#) and the [LSHTM Academic Manual](#) for more rules relating to prior learning and credit transfer.

For the Global Health Policy programmes the LSHTM may recognise your prior learning. This can only be considered at the point of application for the programme.

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

Entrance requirements

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

All details of the programme specific entry requirements are given on the programme page, under the [Requirements](#) tab.

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 of London may, at its discretion, consider the application.

Internet access and computer specification

Students will require regular access to a computer with an internet connection to use the University of London's online resources and systems. A webcam may be required in the event that online timed assessments (if offered) are proctored, and in such a case, it is a student's responsibility to ensure that they have a webcam.

The computer should have at least the following minimum specification:

- a web browser with Cookies and JavaScript enabled (a latest version of Firefox or Chrome is recommended);
- a good internet connection;
- 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 applications installed:

- Microsoft Word (.doc and .docx);
- Microsoft Excel;
- a pdf reader.

Additional requirements

- Students may 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 a disability, learning difficulty or access requirements to have the same opportunity 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 access arrangements to assist in taking examinations, should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the [Inclusive Practice Manager](#). A separate room or other arrangements may be considered.

Requests are considered by a University of London panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or specific 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 [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](#).

Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes

These programmes aim to offer a challenging, flexible scheme of study invigorated by research, which provides students with the knowledge and skills to engage in planning and decision making to improve the health of populations at global and national levels. This involves understanding the range of actors and institutions influencing global health arenas, the nature of health threats from changes in the global landscape, and in-depth understanding of additional health-specific topics with global relevance.

These programmes are primarily aimed at professionals who may already be involved in health planning or promotion at local, national, or international levels; but they also welcome undergraduate students with relevant degrees who are working with or planning to work for international agencies with concerns of health and development; or students working with, or studying the range of global actors influential in health decision making. LSHTM's Global Health Policy programme is a rigorous educational programme for professionals and students who wish to use academic study to deepen their understanding of and increase their potential for career development in agencies engaged with global health problems, or alternatively to progress to a higher research degree in a field related to public health, global policy, or related areas.

The programmes aim to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of core economics and politics concepts affecting global health;
- enable students to understand key global health challenges;
- encourage independent critical thinking and the development of analytical skills that can be used to apply concepts to practical challenges and evaluate problems facing global health policy making.

The learning outcomes of the programmes are as follows:

Knowledge, understanding, intellectual and cognitive

Students will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of basic concepts of economics and politics/political science in relation to their application to global health issues;
- understand the global nature of the health threats and challenges posed by environmental change and issues;
- demonstrate knowledge of a range of key global health issues;
- demonstrate the ability to analyse and critically discuss complex policy questions;
- apply understanding of the core disciplines of economics, politics, and political economy to real world global health policy debates and challenges;

MSc students who have selected the Project option will:

- carry out supervised independent research and produce a well-researched, well-structured, well-written, and clearly argued report.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

The programme is delivered using a variety of study resources including lecture notes and slides, audio and video recordings, a selection of essential and recommended readings and activities. Each module is made up of sessions.

Each session would usually contain:

- Aim of the session;

- Intended learning outcomes;
- Lecture notes (or textbook chapter);
- Activities to help students self-evaluate their understanding of the material and critical skills, spaced within the lectures. Students are invited to discuss their answers on the session discussion forums; and
- Summary containing the key learning points of the session.

All essential and some recommended readings are provided for each session in the Library section of each module area of the VLE, using Leganto. Essential readings are a compulsory part of the study materials, while recommended readings are provided for further reference and research.

Students are encouraged to communicate with tutors and fellow students via the VLE in module specific web-based discussion forums. In this way, students can ask questions, engage in discussion, and develop and negotiate conclusions with others, which are key components in the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and transferable skills. Students are also invited to participate in real time webinars or listen to recordings of these.

Advice and practical information such as study techniques, planning and preparation for assessment is available in the LSHTM programme-specific Student Handbook, available to students after registration on the GHP Student Zone on Moodle 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

Student learning will be evaluated by a range of methods, including formative assignments, assessed assignments and unseen written examinations.

Formative Assignments (FA) are available for the students to complete in some GHM1 modules. These do not count towards the final award but students are strongly encouraged to complete these. FAs give students an opportunity to (i) apply subject-specific knowledge and skills, allowing them to review their progress and understanding, (ii) highlight to tutors any difficulties relating to the study materials, and (iii) receive personal tutorial feedback on their work and any highlighted issues.

Some modules are assessed in part or fully by written assessed assignments (AA). AAs give students an opportunity to discuss issues in depth, encouraging independent thinking and judgement, as well as to apply knowledge and skills taught in the module in a practical way that sometimes reflects a real-life scenario. Some assessed assignments may involve group work.

Unseen written examinations are held in June each year and consist of questions structured to allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate knowledge and understanding of the material, as well as critical, analytical and independent thinking skills. The way that students manage data, solve problems, evaluate ideas and the organisational skills they use to structure answers allows for further assessment of the standard of their intellectual and transferable skills.

The GHM300 Project and project report allow students to apply theoretical concepts and demonstrate analytical skills developed in the course of the programme. Students will be able to apply knowledge from both core and elective modules to a global health policy-

related topic of their choice, reviewing what is known about the subject, and using various research methods to answer key questions about a gap in knowledge or critical issue.

Assessment methods

Some GHM1 modules will be assessed solely by one two-hour 15 minute unseen written examination. Some GHM1 and GHM2 modules will be assessed by a written assessed assignment and one two-hour 15-minute unseen written examination (in these modules the weighting between the examination and the assignment may vary). Some GHM2 modules will be assessed solely by assessed assignments (the weighting between these may vary). For further information on assessment for particular modules, please check the relevant [Module Specification Document](#).

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

The GHM300 Project module (MSc only) is assessed by submission of one written report of between 7,000-10,000 words.

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 award.

Full details of the dates of all examinations are available on the website .
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Student support and guidance

The following summarises the support and guidance available to students:

- [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 access to a range of full-text, multidisciplinary databases where journal articles, book reviews and reports can be found.
- University of London library: Registered students may use the resources located within the Senate House library
- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

Support and guidance from LSHTM

- The LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle). This gives online access to the main module materials (which may also be sent in hard copy, depending on the module), 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 Library - Online resources](#)
- Distance Learning Office staff are available to offer help and advice on administrative matters. Student support staff will direct all other queries to the relevant person – e.g. programme directors or members of the teaching teams.
- Dedicated discussion forums are set up over the summer to assist students in choosing their elective modules.
- Each module has at least one Module Organiser (MO) and a team of tutors assigned to it. The tutor team provides 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 assignments
 - offering real-time webinars in which students are encouraged to participate.
- A project supervisor works with students undertaking GHM300 Project.
- An LSHTM programme-specific Student Handbook, available on the GHM Student Zone on Moodle, 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).
- An online discussion forum Student Cafe and a dedicated Student Representative Forum is available in the GHM Student Zone, which is accessible to students only.
- Students are encouraged to introduce themselves in the GHM Student Zone and are welcome to share individual contact details through the Student Network Directory, in order to build up their own networks 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](#).

Qualification 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: 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 a programme has 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: 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.

Improvements are made as necessary to ensure that systems remain effective and rigorous.

Student feedback and engagement

The principal channel for collecting feedback from students is the Student Experience Survey. Carried out every two years, this collects feedback from the student body on a range of topics relating to the student lifecycle. The results are analysed externally and then considered in a number of different ways, including by the programme team, principal committees and the senior leadership team. Details of any resulting actions taken are published on the Virtual Learning Environment and the Student Portal.

Additionally, on completion of their programme of study students will be invited to take a survey that seeks to measure what they have gained from their studies.

There are also opportunities for students to get involved in governance. An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University of London 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](#).

Students can also apply to join the Student Voice Group, which meets four times a year to consider initiatives for enhancing student experience. Notes from these meetings are published on the Student Portal.

After graduation

Further study

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

Graduate employment routes

The programmes will be relevant both for those wishing to move into health planning or promotion, particularly at national or international levels and for those who are planning to work for international agencies engaged with global health problems.

The Alumni Community

Upon finishing a course of study, graduates automatically become members of the University of London alumni community, a diverse global network of more than one million graduates in over 180 countries, providing lifelong links to the University and to each other.

Alumni are encouraged to keep in touch after they graduate and to become active members of the alumni community; in return they receive a number of benefits and services, including an extensive programme of events and engagement opportunities.

More information is available on the alumni [webpage](#).

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

Follow the alumni community on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)