



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

Programme Specification 2018–2019

Public Health
(with additional specialist
subject streams at MSc
level)

MSc
PGDip
PGCert
Short courses

Important document – please read



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Important information regarding the Programme Specification

Last revised 15 June 2018

About this document

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 Public 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 quality 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 2018-2019:

- PHM210 Managing Health Services is no longer being withdrawn.

Title and name of awards

Programme name

Public Health

Award titles

Students are registered on one of the following:

- Master of Science Public Health (MSc)
- Postgraduate Diploma Public Health (PGDip)
- Postgraduate Certificate Public Health (PGCert)

On successful completion of the programme students will receive a Master's degree in Public Health which will reflect their choice of stream:

- Public Health (Health Services Management)
- Public Health (Health Promotion)
- Public Health (Environment and Health)

Exit awards

- Postgraduate Diploma Public Health (PGDip)
- Postgraduate Certificate Public Health (PGCert)

Individual modules

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

Level of the programmes

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

The awards are placed at the following Levels of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ):

- | | |
|------------------------|---------|
| • MSc Public Health | Level 7 |
| • PGDip Public Health | Level 7 |
| • PGCert Public 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.

www.london.ac.uk; www.lshtm.ac.uk

Academic direction

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

Accreditation by professional or statutory body

The MSc Public Health is accredited by the [Agency for Accreditation of Public Health Education in the European Region](#) which is the accreditation body of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region.

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.

More details about blended learning can be found in the [Programme Regulations](#).

Programme structures

MSc Public Health*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five compulsory PHM1 modules • One additional PHM1 module selected from a list of options
And either:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four elective PHM2 modules selected from a list of options • Four additional elective modules selected from a list of options
Or:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One elective PHM2 module selected from a list of options • Four additional elective modules selected from a list of options • A Project Report
MSc Public Health (Environment and Health)* MSc Public Health (Health Promotion)* MSc Public Health (Health Services Management)*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five compulsory PHM1 modules (including stream-specific module) • One additional PHM1 module selected from a list of options
And either:

Programme Specification 2018-2019 Public Health (and additional specialist subject streams) (MSc/PGDip/PGCert/Individual modules)

- One compulsory PHM2 module; and
- Three elective PHM2 modules selected from a list of options; and
- Four additional elective modules selected from a list of options

Or:

- One compulsory PHM2 module; and
- Four elective modules selected from a list of options
- A Project Report

* Detailed module options are provided in the Programme Regulations.

The PGDip Public Health consists of:

- Four compulsory PHM1 modules; and
- Two elective PHM2 modules selected from a list of options; and
- Two additional elective modules selected from a list of options.

The PGCert Public Health consists of:

- Four compulsory PHM1 modules; and
- Two additional PHM1 modules selected from a list of options.

Individual modules

A selection of modules are available to be studied on an individual basis. You may take as many modules as you wish without registering for an award within the Public Health programme.

Full details of the modules available are included in the [Programme Regulations](#).

Exit awards

Students who for academic or personal reasons are unable to complete the 180 credits required for the MSc award, or the 120 credits for the PGDip award may exit with the successful completion of 120 or 60 credits and be awarded a PGDip or PGCert respectively, provided they fulfil the relevant criteria. Exit awards are granted at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and once a student has accepted an exit award they will not be permitted to continue their study of the same award with the University of London, unless they return the exit award prior to continuing their studies.

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 Public Health	Two years	Five years
PGDip Public Health	Two years	Five years
PGCert Public Health	One year	Five years
Individual modules Public Health	One year	Two years

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

Credit value of modules

Further information about the credit systems used by universities in the UK and Europe is available in:

The Higher Education Credit Framework for England,

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Academic-Credit-Framework.pdf>

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England,

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Framework-Higher-Education-Qualifications-08.pdf>

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS),

http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/ects_en.htm

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 Public Health programmes, credits are assigned to the modules as follows:

- 10 UK credits for each PHM1 module
- 15 UK credits for each PHM2 module
- 45 UK credits for the project.

Each award equates to the following number of credits:

- MSc - 180 UK credits or 90 ECTS credits
- PGDip - 120 UK credits or 60 ECTS credits
- PGCert - 60 UK credits or 30 ECTS credits

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

Recognition of Prior Learning

This programme allows for recognition of prior learning.

Details on how to apply for [recognition of prior learning](#) can be found on our website. See the [General Regulations](#) (Section 3) and [Programme Regulations](#) for further information.

Entrance requirements

Postgraduate entrance requirements

Full details of entrance requirements are provided on the website under the [Requirements](#) section.

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

English language requirements

Applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme.

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.

Detailed information on the [English language](#) requirement tests are given on the LSHTM website.

Computer and Internet access requirements

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

* Please note: full mobile access is not available for all modules.

Additional requirements

- Students will need to use a calculator.
- A headset/microphone may be required to participate in "real time" online discussions.

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 specific 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 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 are

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 information, please see: <http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/funding/> and <https://london.ac.uk/applications/funding-your-study>.

Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes

The main educational aim of the LSHTM distance learning Public Health programmes is to offer a challenging, flexible scheme of study to provide students with the knowledge and skills to improve the health of populations, communities and particular groups within them. Students will acquire knowledge and skills in a range of public health subjects, including: the promotion of health and the prevention of diseases; the provision and evaluation of treatment and care; and the investigation and control of environmental threats to health. Students are encouraged to develop transferable and subject-specific skills to address multi-faceted and current health problems in their local setting, as well as internationally.

These programmes are primarily aimed at professionals who may already be involved in public health at a community, hospital or district level, in research, in ministries of health or other health- or development-related organizations. LSHTM's Public Health programme is a rigorous educational programme for practitioners, policy-makers or researchers who wish to use academic study to deepen their understanding and increase their potential for career development in public health. Successful completion of the MSc will enable students to address local health problems and, at the same time, to progress to a higher research degree in public health or medicine.

The Public Health programmes aim to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the core disciplines in public health;
- enable students to understand key issues of public health;
- encourage independent critical and evaluative skills that can be used to apply well-founded scientific, social and economic judgements;
- provide students with a broad understanding of methodologies in public health research.

The learning outcomes of the Public Health programmes include:

Knowledge, intellectual and cognitive understanding

Students will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fundamental concepts and methods of epidemiology, and their application in public health;
- understand the use of basic statistical methods and how to interpret research results, including use of statistical computer packages;
- recognise and evaluate the main concepts, principles, and practices of public health;
- display sufficient knowledge to explain the main contribution of health economics;
- demonstrate the critical skills needed in order to be able to read, appraise or commission social research for public health;
- apply knowledge of the core disciplines of public health to real world health problems;
- carry out a project, evaluate critically their own work and produce a well-structured and well-written report (applies only to MSc students who elect to complete a project).

Transferable knowledge and skills

Students 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 scrutinise information in critical, evaluative and analytical ways;
- manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines.

Students who pass the PHM1 modules will have the essential introduction to a variety of methods, approaches and concepts concerning public health. MSc students and those registered for the PGDip will study the PHM2 modules and have the opportunity to study specific selected modules offered by some of the other DL programmes. These modules build on the knowledge gained from studying the PHM1 modules. Students will choose from options that advance their knowledge in specific areas.

MSc students

MSc students may also apply the skills they have learnt to a particular problem in an area of their own interest if they elect to do a project report.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

The majority of modules for this programme are delivered using textbooks developed specifically for the Public Health (PH) programme and materials made available in electronic format on the LSHTM's online learning site, Moodle. In some cases, all materials are provided online (see module specification documents for details). Students are advised to work through the materials, participate in self-learning activities and engage in discussions that take place within the module forums on the Moodle site

Students are supported by teaching staff who provide feedback through the use of the PH Moodle site. Students are encouraged to post academic questions for the attention of tutors involved in delivering each module.

Students studying PHM1 modules are recommended, but not required, to submit one assignment per module which will be marked by module teaching staff who will also provide feedback. Students studying elective modules are required to submit one compulsory assignment per module for assessment. Students who elect to undertake a project (PHM305 Project Report) are required to complete and submit a project report.

Advice and practical information, such as study techniques, planning and preparation for assessment is available in the LSHTM programme-specific Student Handbook (which is available online to students after registration) 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 may also communicate with each other via the module-specific discussion forums and via the Student Café forum on the Moodle site. Students will be able to engage in dialogue and develop and negotiate ideas and problem-solving with fellow students and teaching staff, which are key components in the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and transferable skills.

The PHM1 modules are each assessed by an unseen written examination that counts for 100% of their grade. The PHM2 modules are each assessed by an unseen written examination and a written assignment. The mark awarded for each PHM2 module will be weighted 70:30 (examination: assignment). Students who elect to study one or more of the EPM2, GHP2, IDM2, IDM5 modules open to PH students should consult the relevant module specification documents for details of the assessment methods.

The unseen written examinations will consist of questions structured to allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate knowledge, skills and understanding. Students' level of understanding of concepts and their ability to apply the techniques that they have learned is assessed by, for example, the way they manage data, solve problems, evaluate ideas and the organizational skills they use to structure answers.

The PHM2 modules' assessment allows a student to undertake a more in-depth study of the topic. Students demonstrate the skills associated with, for example, data analysis, reasoning and producing a well-reasoned, well-evidenced essay.

MSc students may also submit a Project Report, which will develop and deepen their knowledge and also their ability to plan, gather data, reason and produce a well-structured, well-crafted report.

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

Assessment methods

Each PHM1 module (MSc, PGDip and PGCert) will be assessed by one two-hour and 15 minute unseen written examination.

Each PHM2 module for the MSc and PGDip, will be assessed by one two-hour and 15 minute 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 award.

Full details of the dates of all examinations are available on the [website](#).

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.
- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.
- [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.
- Employability skills module – guidance on how to manage your career in the future, available through the VLE.

Support and guidance from LSHTM

- The LSHTM online learning site (Moodle). This gives online access to the module materials (note if the module is supported by a textbook, a hardcopy will be sent to students) 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. Programme 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 team of tutors assigned to it. The tutor team provides academic support to those studying 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; advice on, networking and support issues; and details of procedures for assessment and examinations (including programme deadlines).
- Students are encouraged to exchange ideas with other students on the programme and to organise 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 programme 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 collaborates with the member institutions to deliver the University of London programmes. The policies, partnerships and systems are defined within the key documents: The Quality Framework, the [Quality Assurance Schedules](#), [Guidelines for Examinations](#), [General Regulations](#) and, for each programme, [programme specific regulations](#).

Parity of award standards

Every programme of study is developed and approved by an academic institution of the University of London, or a consortium with representation by more than one academic institution to the same standards and requirements as would be applied in the institution/s concerned.

Learning materials are written and examinations are set and marked by academic staff who are required to apply the University's academic standards.

Review and evaluation mechanisms

Procedures are in place to assure the standards of the award and the quality of the student experience, which include programme development, delivery, management, systematic

monitoring and ongoing review and enhancement of all programmes. Improvements are made as necessary to ensure that systems remain effective and rigorous.

- Annual programme reports are produced for all programmes in order to review and enhance the provision and to plan ahead;
- Every year independent external examiners submit reports to confirm that the programmes have been assessed properly and meet the appropriate academic standards;
- Annual student information statistics are produced and are referenced in all systematic reporting within the University of London International;
- 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.

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 at <https://london.ac.uk/current-students/getting-involved>

After graduation

Further study

Successful completion of the programme may serve as preparation for students who wish to progress to a higher research degree in public health or medicine.

Graduate employment routes

The programmes will be relevant for those wishing to increase their potential for career development in public health at a community, hospital or district level, in research, in ministries of health or other health or development related organizations.

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.

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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, www.instagram.com/londonu, <https://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-london/>

and also

<http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni/>