



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

Programme Specification 2018–2019

Infectious Diseases

MSc
PGDip
PGCert
Short courses

Important document – please read



Table of Contents

Important information regarding the Programme Specification	2
Title and name of awards	3
Entrance requirements	6
Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes.....	7
Learning, teaching and assessment strategies	9
Assessment methods	10
Student support and guidance	11
Quality evaluation and enhancement.....	11
After graduation	13

Important information regarding the Programme Specification

About this document

Last revised: 15 June 2018

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 Infectious Diseases 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 reviewed annually. The Senate Postgraduate Teaching Committee quality committee London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) providing academic direction, 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:

- From 2018-2019, students on the MSc or Postgraduate Diploma programme can select PHM218 *Applied communicable disease control* as an elective module.
- From 2018-2019, module IDM102 *Principles of biology* will no longer be assessed by a written examination and an assessed assignment. Instead, students will be required to submit two assessed assignments for the module.

Title and name of awards

Programme name

Infectious Diseases

Award titles

Students are registered on one of the following:

- Master of Science Infectious Diseases (MSc)
- Postgraduate Diploma Infectious Diseases (PGDip)
- Postgraduate Certificate Infectious Diseases (PGCert)

Exit awards

- Postgraduate Diploma Infectious Diseases (PGDip)
- Postgraduate Certificate Infectious Diseases (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 Infectious Diseases | Level 7 |
| • PGDip Infectious Diseases | Level 7 |
| • PGCert Infectious Diseases | 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
<https://london.ac.uk>; www.lshtm.ac.uk/

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.

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

Programme structures

The **MSc Infectious Diseases** consists of:

- four compulsory IDM1 modules; and
- either
- six elective IDM modules selected from a list of options; and
- two additional elective modules selected from a list of options;
- or
- three elective IDM modules selected from a list of options; and
- two additional elective modules selected from a list of options; and
- a Project Report.

The **PGDip Infectious Diseases** consists of:

- four compulsory IDM1 modules; and
- three elective IDM modules selected from a list of options; and
- one additional elective module selected from a list of options.

The **PGCert Infectious Diseases** consists of:

- four compulsory IDM1 modules.

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 Infectious Diseases 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 Infectious Diseases	Two years	Five years
PGDip Infectious Diseases	Two years	Five years
PGCert Infectious Diseases	One year	Five years
Individual modules	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,
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 Infectious Diseases programme, credits are assigned to the modules as follows:

- 15 UK credits for each core and elective module;
- 45 UK credits for the project.

Each award equates to the following number of credits:

Programme Specification 2018-2019 Infectious Diseases (MSc/PGDip/PGCert Individual modules)

- MSc Infectious Diseases - 180 UK credits (90 ECTS credits)
- PGDip Infectious Diseases - 120 UK credits (60 ECTS credits)
- PGCert Infectious Diseases - 60 UK credits (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

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 tab.

English language requirements

Applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. Acceptable scores are detailed under English language requirements on the LSHTM webpage.

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 applications installed:

- a computer that accepts Microsoft Word formats (.doc and .docx);
- Microsoft Excel software;
- a pdf reader;

* 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 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 [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

Educational aims

The main educational aim of these programmes is to offer a challenging scheme of study energised by the results of current research, which improves the students' ability to develop academic and practical insights into the biology of infective agents and their interaction with the host. It is intended that students will be encouraged to develop a range of transferable and subject specific expertise using their initiative and working out problems themselves.

These programmes are designed for recent graduates and health professionals who feel that their skills need updating in this rapidly evolving field. It is expected that successful students

will have enhanced career prospects within the health professions. 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 public health, biostatistics and epidemiology;
- increase understanding of the principles of biology and how these principles apply to the understanding of infectious diseases and their control;
- encourage independent critical and evaluative skills that can be used to apply independent scientific judgement;
- teach students a broad understanding of the methodology of research into infectious disease;
- facilitate self-development into professionally organized and interactive individuals by practising skills of selection, assimilation and communication.

In addition elective modules aim to:

- increase the breadth and depth of knowledge of specialised fields within the general area of infectious diseases;
- enable students to develop a critical awareness of the current issues that dictate the direction of current research in infectious diseases;
- enable students to develop and apply knowledge of infectious disease biology, methodology and policy to systematically and creatively solve complex problems e.g. the design of control programmes.

Learning outcomes

For MSc, PGDip and PGCert students, the learning outcomes of the programmes are as follows:

Knowledge, understanding, intellectual and cognitive

Students who have successfully studied the compulsory core modules will be able to:

- understand how epidemiological measures and statistical methods can be used to evaluate threats and opportunities in management of infectious diseases;
- distinguish between different groups of pathogens;
- understand how the biology of the pathogen and the host interact to produce disease;
- understand how knowledge of the biology of infectious diseases can be exploited in disease control;
- explain the principles underlying a multidisciplinary approach to the control of infectious diseases;
- understand some of the political, social and economic factors which affect success and failure in the control of infectious diseases.

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;
- apply knowledge of the biology of infectious diseases and host/pathogen interactions to the development of disease control strategies;
- critically evaluate the principles underlying a multidisciplinary approach to the control of infectious diseases.

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 and test a new hypothesis to either address gaps in knowledge or answer an original question in the field of infectious diseases;
- 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 to understanding the biology of infectious disease and its control.

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.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

The programme is primarily delivered using study guides that are provided for each module studied. These guides introduce each topic in the form of lessons, activities and self-assessment questions. The study guides include tools to aid development of the skills of information search, comprehension and analysis and the generation of original and thoughtful assignments. Some study guides are provided in the form of interactive CD-ROMs, and most are supported by textbooks and 'readers' which contain copies of journal articles.

Advice and practical information such as programme deadlines, study techniques, planning, 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 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 a web-based conferencing system. 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.

The majority of IDM modules are assessed by an 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.

Elective module assessments also include an assignment. The 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 written examination and in some cases, also by coursework. 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.

Assessment methods

Core modules; IDM101, IDM103 and IDM104 (PGCert, PGDip and MSc) will be assessed by one two-hour and 15 minute unseen written examination. Core module IDM102 will be assessed by two written assignments.

The majority of the elective IDM modules (PGDip and MSc) 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.

Find full details of the assessment and the scheme of award in the [Programme Regulations](#).

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.
- [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.
- 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 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 online library](#) resources
- Distance Learning Office 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 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.
- 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 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;
- 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 go on to take further study 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 infectious diseases.

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.

Programme Specification 2018-2019 Infectious Diseases (MSc/PGDip/PGCert Individual modules)

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.instagram.com/londonu),
<https://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-london>
and also
<http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/alumni/>