



Epidemiology

MSc

PGDip

PGCert

Individual courses

Important document – please read

Important information regarding the Programme Specification

Last revised 16 May 2022

About this document



Programme Specification 2022-2023 Epidemiology MSc/PGDip/PGCert/Individual modules

The qualifications (including exit awards) 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

Not applicable

A compulsory Project Report

And

A final qualifying examination paper (drawing on materi

For the Epidemiology 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:

MSc Epidemiology - 180 UK credits or 90 ECTS credits

PGDip Epidemiology - 120 UK credits or 60 ECTS credits

PGCert Epidemiology - 60 UK credits or 30 ECTS credits

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

Recognition of Prior Learning



Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes

These programmes aim to prepare students with the knowledge and skills to make valuable contributions to both epidemiological research and public health. Epidemiological methods are used increasingly in medical research, public health practice and health care evaluation to investigate the causes of disease, and to evaluate interventions to prevent or control disease. These programmes are mainly designed for those planning careers in epidemiological research, as well as academics in other health areas and other health professionals. They are also suitable for those who need an understanding of epidemiology, such as medical journalists and scientific officers in government and industry. Successful completion of the MSc may allow students to progress to a higher research degree.

The main educational aims of these programmes are to offer a challenging scheme of study invigorated by research, which advances students' ability to develop the academic and practical skills needed as an epidemiologist. Students will be encouraged to develop a range of transferable and subject specific expertise using their initiative and working out problems for themselves.

develop detailed protocols for epidemiological studies (to a limited extent only for PGCert students);

carry out appropriate statistical analysis of epidemiological data and interpret results (to a limited extent only for PGCert students);

acquire and apply more advanced epidemiological skills relating to specific fields of interest (e.g. non-communicable / communicable diseases, advanced statistical skills) and depending on student choice (PGDip and MSc students only);

carry out and write up a substantial independent piece of epidemiological work (MSc students only).

Transferable 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 core EPM1 modules will have the essential introduction to a variety of methods, approaches and concepts in epidemiology. They will have an understanding of the fundamentals of epidemiology, including key statistical principles and will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the practical aspects needed for planning and conducting research. Core module students will also be able to show basic skills in writing research papers and searching and evaluating the scientific literature.

PGDip and MSc students who proceed to the EPM2 and elective modules will build on the foundations learnt from the core modules. These students will learn how to design their own epidemiological research study, prepare a grant application and develop further statistical knowledge and skills needed to analyse and interpret data from the common forms of epidemiological studies. Students will then choose from a range of options which further knowledge in specific areas.

MSc students will also apply the epidemiological skills they have learnt to a particular problem in an area of their own interest and produce a project report.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives for each module using the materials provided. This includes reading and reflecting on computer-assisted learning (CAL) materials and/or text-



The Final Examination Paper EPM400 (MSc only) will be assessed by one timed examination which draws on material from all the compulsory modules and should be taken at the time when students attempt the last of the written papers for the MSc.

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

The written examinations take place on one occasion each year, normally commencing in June.

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.

For full details of the dates of all examinations, refer to 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

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 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 programme 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](#).

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

