



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
External System

University of London External System

Postgraduate Diploma Public Health Programme Specification 2008-09

General Information	
Programme title	Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health
Final award	Postgraduate Diploma
FHEQ level of final award	Masters 'M' Level
Associated programmes (including short courses)	MSc degree Some individual Core and Advanced Modules may be taken as Short Courses
FHEQ level of associated award(s)	Masters 'M' Level
Awarding body	University of London
Lead College	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Programme Director	Rosalind Plowman
Mode of study	Distance Learning
Programme accredited by	Not accredited by any other body
Programme started	2005
Study year start date	October
Relevant QAA subject benchmarks	Not applicable
Registration period	Minimum period is one year Maximum period is five years
Average time to graduation	New course so unknown at moment.
Teaching Institution attendance required?	No

Admission Details	
Intake quota	No
Admissions requirements	<p>An applicant must have:</p> <p>A first degree from a university or other institution acceptable to the University of London in a subject appropriate to the course or in another discipline that has, in the opinion of the University, included a suitable preliminary training; or previous education and experience without a first degree, which satisfies the University that the applicant has obtained a level of academic proficiency equivalent to a first degree.</p> <p>For all applicants an advanced level of ability to work in English is required. Applicants may be required to pass or to have passed within the last five years, at the appropriate level, a test of proficiency in English acceptable to the University – for example a TOEFL score of 600 (or 250 in the computerised test) and a minimum of 5 in the TWE or a British Council (IELTS) overall score of 7 or over with a minimum of 7 in the written sub-test.</p>

	<p>All students will be required to have access to a computer with minimum hardware requirements and to e-mail (see the prospectus and Student Handbook). Students are responsible for ensuring adequate system maintenance. Students will also require a calculator.</p> <p>Refer to the MSc and Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health Regulations that are reviewed annually.</p>
Possible exemptions	None
Credit and transfer/progression arrangements	<p>Applications for credit will be considered on a discretionary basis.</p> <p>In order to transfer their registration to the MSc degree, students registered for the Postgraduate Diploma must normally have obtained a pass at the required level in each of the six Postgraduate Diploma modules, and received a recommendation from the Examiners that they may proceed to the advanced modules of the MSc degree.</p>

Programme Outcomes	
Distinctive features of the Programme	The mission of LSHTM is to contribute to the improvement of health worldwide through the pursuit of excellence in research, postgraduate teaching and advanced training in national and international public health and tropical medicine. This distance learning programme is designed to make LSHTM resources available to the many people who are unable to come and study in London.
Possible routes to further study	Successful students may progress to register for the distance learning MSc in Public Health.
Possible graduate employment routes	This course is aimed primarily at people who wish to use academic study to deepen their understanding and increase their potential for career development in public health. Suitable applicants may already be involved in public health at community, hospital or district level, in research, in ministries of health or other health-related organisations.

Programme Content and Structure	
Learning aims, objectives and intended outcomes	This course aims to provide students with knowledge and skills to improve the health of populations, communities and particular groups within them, through the promotion of health and prevention of diseases; the provision and evaluation of treatment and care; and the investigation and control of environmental threats to health. By the end of this course students should be able to demonstrate their ability to apply knowledge of the core disciplines of public health (statistics, epidemiology, health economics and social research) to real world health problems.
Learning and teaching methods, including support, guidance, materials provided and study requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are provided with textbooks for each study module. Students are advised to work through the text, participating in self-learning activities, which are followed by feedback sections and self-assessment questions. • Students are supported by tutor interaction and feedback through the use of the PH Webboard. • There are tutor-marked assignments including essays, short-answer tests and case-studies, to help students review their progress and receive tutorial feedback. • A registered student will also receive: Programme Regulations, Student handbook, past examination papers and Examiners' reports. • Students also have access to a student-to student network - this allows

	<p>registered students to communicate with each other and to provide mutual support.</p>
Programme structure	<p>The Postgraduate Diploma consists of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four compulsory core modules • two additional core modules <p>In any one year, students registered for the Postgraduate Diploma may choose to study and be examined in a minimum of one and a maximum of six core modules.</p> <p>In order to be able to progress to the MSc degree, students registered for the Postgraduate Diploma must normally have obtained a pass at the required level in each of the six Postgraduate Diploma modules, and received a recommendation from the Examiners that they may proceed to the advanced modules of the MSc degree.</p> <p>At the discretion of the Examiners, students who have been examined in, and have passed, three modules may be permitted to progress to the MSc degree and proceed to the advanced modules. Students will be required to take the examination for the remaining three core modules in the following year.</p> <p>For additional information students should refer to the MSc and Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health Programme Regulations which are reviewed annually.</p>
Syllabus	<p>Four compulsory modules</p> <p><i>Basic epidemiology</i></p> <p><i>Basic statistics for public health & policy</i></p> <p><i>Introduction to health economics</i></p> <p><i>Principles of social research</i></p> <p>Plus</p> <p>Two additional core modules selected from the following:</p> <p><i>Issues in public health</i></p> <p><i>Environment, health and sustainable development</i></p> <p><i>Health promotion theory</i></p> <p><i>Health services</i></p> <p><i>Health policy, process and power</i></p> <p>Students who intend to register for the MSc should be aware that one of the additional core modules may be compulsory for a specialist MSc stream. Students who have not completed a particular stream-specific module will not be able to register for that stream.</p> <p>(There are four streams to the MSc degree. These include a General stream and three subject streams as follows: Environment and Health, Health Promotion, and Health Services Management. Students who successfully complete the general stream will be awarded the MSc Public Health. Students who successfully complete a subject stream will have the name of the stream reflected in the title of the award.)</p> <p>Students should refer to the MSc and Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health Programme Regulations which are reviewed annually.</p>
Programme Regulations	<p>For additional information Students should refer to the MSc and Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health Programme Regulations which are reviewed annually.</p> <p>http://www.londonexternal.ac.uk/current_students/general_resources/regulations/index.shtml</p>
Assessment methods,	<p>Each core module will be assessed by one two-hour unseen written paper.</p>

including the proportion of the different methods used									
Marking scheme and classification criteria	<p>The Postgraduate Diploma will be awarded with a grading of Distinction, Pass, Fail. The calculation of the unseen written papers, assignments and the final result is provided in the Programme Regulations.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Grade</td> <td>Class Equivalent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>Distinction</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B+,B,C</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D,E</td> <td>Fail</td> </tr> </table> <p>For additional information students should refer to the MSc and Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health Programme Regulations which are reviewed annually.</p>	Grade	Class Equivalent	A	Distinction	B+,B,C	Pass	D,E	Fail
Grade	Class Equivalent								
A	Distinction								
B+,B,C	Pass								
D,E	Fail								
Estimated study hours overall	In order to complete the programme in the minimum period a student should be prepared to study between 15 and 25 hours per week during the annual study calendar of 36 weeks.								
Intellectual development (rational of progression through programme)	This course aims to provide students with knowledge and skills to improve the health of populations, communities and particular groups within them, through the promotion of health and prevention of diseases; the provision and evaluation of treatment and care; and the investigation and control of environmental threats to health. By the end of this course students should be able to demonstrate their ability to apply knowledge of the core disciplines of public health (statistics, epidemiology, health economics and social research) to real world health problems.								

Quality Assurance	
Particular indicators of quality	<p><i>Lead college (LSHTM) quality assurance procedures</i></p> <p>The School is responsible for programme design, content and teaching, including the design and marking of student assessments.</p> <p>All proposals for new or significantly modified modules are discussed in detail by the Programme Committee and then taken to the School's Learning & Teaching Policy Committee for approval.</p> <p>Examinations are set and marked by an Exam Board following detailed procedures laid down by the School for the conduct of all Postgraduate Diploma examinations.</p>
Methods of assuring, evaluating and improving quality and standards of the programme	<p>The Ordinances and Regulations of the University state that: 'Candidates granted degrees and other awards shall have attained the same academic standard irrespective of mode or place of study or examination.' Degrees and Diplomas awarded to External students are, therefore, examined to the same standard as those granted to Internal students of the University.</p> <p>In support of this standard, the External System and individual Lead Colleges share responsibility for ensuring the quality of External provision. The Quality Assurance Framework for the External System defines this shared responsibility and covers areas including:</p> <p><i>The bidding process</i></p> <p>External Systems must undergo validation & approval under Lead College mechanisms and with reference to national QAA benchmark statements.</p> <p><i>Student and programme management</i></p> <p>This includes the admission, registration and progression of students, establishment of assessment procedures and appointment of boards of examiners.</p> <p><i>System wide matters</i></p>

	<p>Academic policy and development is the responsibility of the Board of the External System. The qualifications framework for External Systems outlines the different levels of undergraduate and postgraduate study and the awards which may be made to External students.</p> <p><i>Systematic reporting and the review process</i></p> <p>External Examiners make annual reports on assessment procedures and standards set and achieved. Annual Programme Reports provide annual summaries of programme information. These reports are considered and acted on as part of an annual review process.</p>
Programme validation/approval	This course was approved by the School's Education Committee and subsequently by the Senate.
Appointment of External Examiners	External Examiners for External System programmes are nominated and their appointment approved by the Lead College or Consortium, using approval processes which are parallel with those used for the appointment of External Examiners assessing College-based students.
Student feedback mechanisms	External System wide student feedback mechanisms are currently under development therefore no standard data are available yet.