

Module Specification



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

LONDON SCHOOL of HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE



GENERAL INFORMATION

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| Module name | Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers |
| Module code | EPM105 |
| Module Organiser(s) | Lucy Pembrey, Suzanne Penfold, Helen Owen |
| Contact email | The LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with the University of London International Programmes. Enquiries may be made via their Student Advice Centre at: www.londoninternational.ac.uk/contact-us . (Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk .) |
| Home Faculty | Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/eph/ |
| Level | This module is at Level 7 (postgraduate Masters level) of the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales & Northern Ireland (FHEQ). |
| Credit | LSHTM award 15 credits on successful completion of this module. |
| Accreditation | Not currently accredited by any other body. |
| Keywords | Research methods, Epidemiology, Communicable diseases (in general), Non-communicable diseases (in general), Values / Human rights / (bio)Ethics, Communication (oral, written), Team-work (including interdisciplinary, inter-professional), systematic reviews. |

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

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| Overall aim | The module aims to provide basic skills for writing epidemiological research papers and searching and evaluating the scientific literature. |
| Intended learning outcomes | By the end of this module, students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outline strategies for writing good-quality epidemiological research papers • search and manage the literature and other sources of information in preparation for addressing a specific research question as part of study design, writing a paper, or undertaking a review • specify the principles of systematic reviews and the importance of conducting them, and describe the concept of evidence-based medicine • critically appraise research papers and other sources of information by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ checking the scientific clarity and reproducibility ○ evaluating the methodological quality ○ assessing the quality of the presentation • demonstrate the main skills required to act as a referee for a research paper once s/he has the topic and epidemiological knowledge |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write a draft of a research paper with appropriate contents and format to demonstrate understanding of the quality and structure required for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. |
| Target audience | Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers is a core module for all students on the DL PG Certificate/PG Diploma and MSc Epidemiology programmes and an elective module for students on the DL PG Diploma/MSc Demography & Health programmes. |
| CONTENT | |
| Session content | <p>The module includes sessions addressing the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of an epidemiological paper • Searching the medical literature • Evaluating the epidemiological literature • Critical evaluation of original papers • Systematic reviews and introduction to evidence-based medicine • Peer review of epidemiological research papers • Writing an outline of an epidemiological research paper • Writing the first draft • Revising drafts and preparing the final manuscript • Dealing with the journal. |
| TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT | |
| Study resources provided or required | <p>The following materials are provided to students after registration for this module once a year in September/October:</p> <p>EPM105 Writing & Reviewing Epidemiological Papers, Study Guide & Reader. CAL session WR8a provided on CDROM</p> <p><u>Textbooks:</u> <i>The Pocket Guide to Critical Appraisal</i> (Crombie) <i>Winning the Publications Game</i> (Albert) – available as an e-book only.</p> <p>In addition to the materials above, students are given access to i) the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle, which contains resources such as discussion forums and supplementary programme materials and ii) the LSHTM online library.</p> |
| Teaching and learning methods | <p>Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. The key learning methods are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and reflecting on paper-based, CAL and online materials which introduce, explain and apply the principles and methods covered in the module. • Accessing academic support which is available from the module tutors through the web-based discussion forums and real-time sessions (using Blackboard Collaborate) in which students are encouraged to participate. • Completing formative assignment(s) and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors. • Completing the assessed assignment and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors. |
| Assessment details | Formal assessment of this module is through an assessed assignment comprising of two written papers (100%). |

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| | If students fail the module overall, they are allowed one further attempt at the assignment. |
| Assessment dates | Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than 31 August and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System. |
| Language of study and assessment | English (please see 'English language requirements' below regarding the standard required for entry). |
| TIMING AND MODE OF STUDY | |
| Duration | <p>Students may start their studies at any time from receipt of study materials (despatched annually usually during September/October, depending on date of registration) and work through the material until Assessed Assignment submission at the end of August (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed).</p> <p>Students registering after September (continuing and individual module students only) should note that introductory messages, and some online activities (for example discussion forums and/or real-time welcome sessions) may have already taken place before they get access to the Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle). All such messages and recordings (where applicable) will be available to access throughout the study year.</p> |
| Dates | Tutorial support for this module is available from the beginning of January through to the Assessed Assignment submission at the end of August. Formative Assignments (FAs) must be submitted by 30 June. |
| Mode of study | By distance learning. |
| Learning time | <p>The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed self-study (reading and working through the provided module material) ≈ 85 hours • Self-directed learning (general reading around the subject, library, Moodle discussion forums) ≈ 15 hours • Assessment, review and revision ≈ 50 hours |
| APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND FEES | |
| Pre-requisites | <p><u>Epidemiology and Demography & Health</u> students should have studied and have an understanding of EPM101 <i>Fundamentals of Epidemiology</i> and EPM102 <i>Statistics with Computing</i>, and are recommended to have studied EPM103 <i>Practical Epidemiology</i> also prior to studying this module.</p> <p><u>Students studying this module as an individual module</u> must have basic epidemiological knowledge and skills equivalent to EPM101 <i>Fundamentals of Epidemiology</i> and EPM102 <i>Statistics with Computing</i> and are recommended to have equivalent knowledge and skills to EPM103 <i>Practical Epidemiology</i></p> <p>Those wishing to study this module must have regular access to the internet to participate in module-specific discussions on Moodle, benefit from online library facilities and submit assignments.</p> |
| English language requirements | A strong command of the English language is necessary to benefit from studying the module. Applicants whose first language is not English or whose prior university studies have not been conducted wholly in English must fulfil LSHTM's English language requirements , with an acceptable score in an approved test taken in the two years prior to entry. Applicants may be asked to take a test even if the standard conditions have been met. |

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| Student numbers | There is no cap on the number of students who can register for this distance learning module. The number of students actively studying this module varies, but typically approx. 200 students register for the module per year. |
| Student selection | This module is compulsory for students registered on the DL PG Certificate/PG Diploma/MSc Epidemiology programmes, and an elective module for students on the DL PG Diploma/MSc Demography & Health programmes. Alternatively, students may register for this as an “individual module”. This module is also open to LSHTM research degree students via the mixed mode study option. |
| Fees | The current schedule of fees can be viewed at www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees (click on the LSHTM programme link). |
| Scholarships | Scholarships are not available for individual modules. Some potential sources of funding are detailed on the LSHTM website. |
| Admission deadlines | <p>Applications for LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are managed by the University of London International Programmes. To apply to take either a formal award (i.e. PG Certificate, PG Diploma or MSc) or an individual module, click the relevant link on the right hand side of the page at http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/lshtm/epidemiology-msc-postgraduate-diploma-postgraduate-certificate</p> <p>Key deadlines are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Application deadline: 31 August <i>(Note: applicants who submit applications on or after 1 June 2017 will be required to pay an application fee of £100 at the point of submission, which will be deducted from the balance of fees payable upon registration. If the application does not result in registration, the application fee will not be refunded. No application fee will apply to applications submitted on or before 31 May 2017.)</i> ➤ Registration deadline: 30 September (new students) ➤ Registration deadline: 31 October (continuing students and those taking the module as an individual module). <p>Please note: The academic year starts 1 October. Students who register after 1 October should note that module welcome and Collaborate sessions held in October are recorded, but they cannot request an extension to assignment submission deadlines or apply for an examination extenuating circumstance as a result of registering later than 1 October.</p> <p>(In-house LSHTM research students wishing to study this module should note information given in the mixed mode study option links for DrPH/research degree students at http://intra.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/researchdegrees/rdsupportframework/profdev/rd_mixedmodeinformation.pdf)</p> |
| ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT | |
| This module specification applies for the academic year 2017-18 | |
| Last revised/approved [09 / 03 / 2017], by [Lucy Pembrey] | |
| Further revisions revised [Date / Month / Year], by [Name] | |
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