

Module Specification



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**
INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMES

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
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MEDICINE



GENERAL INFORMATION

Module name	Study Design: Writing a Grant Application
Module code	EPM201
Module Organiser(s)	Seyi Soremekun, Natalie Friend-du Preez and Joanna Schellenberg (Deputy)
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; Statistics; Quantitative methods; Planning and programming (including budgeting and evaluation); Values/Human rights/(bio)Ethics; Grant application writing.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

Overall aim	The module aims to provide students with experience in designing an epidemiological research study and preparing a grant application suitable for submission to a funding agency.
Intended learning outcomes	By the end of this module, students should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain the relevance of a systematic review of research evidence to defining a research question • critique the existing evidence for a particular research topic • define a research question and formulate study objectives • choose an appropriate and ethical study design • plan field procedures, including sample selection, identification of data to be collected and data collection methods • plan a time schedule for the conduct of a study, summarise the logistic requirements and prepare a budget • prepare a detailed grant application of a standard suitable for submission to a funding agency, including points 2 to 6 above

Target audience	Study Design: Writing a Grant Application is a compulsory module for those studying the DL PG Diploma/MSc in Epidemiology and an elective module for those studying the DL PG Dip and MSc Demography & Health programmes.
CONTENT	
Session content	In the paper-based and online sessions students will learn about the main issues that need to be considered when preparing a grant application. The sessions discuss the elements of a good proposal including choice of research question, study design, field and data management methods, planning study budgets and sample sizes. There will also be optional material on selecting appropriate funding bodies and how these assess proposals. Students will also have access to relevant lectures from the in-house equivalent module. Please note that this content is in the process of being updated and so there may be some changes to that detailed above.
TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT	
Study resources provided or required	The following materials are provided to students after registration for this module once a year in September/October: EPM201 Study Design: Writing a Grant Application Study Guide & Reader <u>Software:</u> Stata EpiData <u>Textbooks:</u> <i>The Pocket Guide to Grant Applications</i> (Crombie, Florey) <i>Field Trials of Health Interventions in Developing Countries - A Toolbox</i> (Smith, Morrow and Ross) (provided as an e-book only). 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.
Teaching and learning methods	Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. The key learning methods are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and reflecting on paper-based 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 forum in which students are encouraged to participate. • Completing the assessed assignment and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors.
Assessment details	Formal assessment of this module is on the basis of the completed EPM201 Grant Application Form (100%). 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	Tutorial support for this module is available from the beginning of January through to the Assessed Assignment submission deadline of 31 August. The grant outline must be submitted by 31 May.
Mode of study	By distance learning.
Learning time	The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directed self-study (reading and working through the provided module material) ≈ 60 hours • Self-directed learning (general reading around the subject, library, Moodle discussion forums) ≈ 40 hours • Assessment, review and revision ≈ 50 hours
APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND FEES	
Pre-requisites	<p><u>Epidemiology students</u> must have passed EPM101 <i>Fundamentals of Epidemiology</i> and EPM102 <i>Statistics with Computing</i>, and should have studied and have an understanding of EPM103 <i>Practical Epidemiology</i> and EPM105 <i>Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers</i> prior to studying this module.</p> <p><u>Demography & Health students</u> should have studied and have an understanding of EPM101 <i>Fundamentals of Epidemiology</i>, EPM102 <i>Statistics with Computing</i>, EPM103 <i>Practical Epidemiology</i> and EPM105 <i>Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers</i> 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>, EPM102 <i>Statistics with Computing</i>, EPM103 <i>Practical Epidemiology</i> and EPM105 <i>Writing and Reviewing Epidemiological Papers</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.
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. 150 students register for the module per year.
Student selection	<p>This module is a compulsory module for those registered on the DL PG Dip and MSc Epidemiology and an elective module for those registered on the DL PG Dip and MSc Demography & Health programmes.</p> <p>Alternatively, students may register for this as an “individual module”.</p> <p>This module is also open to students registered on LSHTM face-to-face (i.e. London-based) MSc programmes (subject to programme-specific limitations) and research degree students.</p>
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

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/lshmt/epidemiology-msc-postgraduate-diploma-postgraduate-certificate>

Key deadlines are as follows:

- Application deadline: 31 August
(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.)
- Registration deadline: 30 September (new students)
- Registration deadline: 31 October (continuing students and those taking the module as an individual module).

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.*

(In-house LSHTM MSc and research students wishing to study this module should note information given in the mixed mode study option links, for MSc students at http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/taughtcourses/handbooks_regs_pols/index.html, and for DrPH/research degree students at http://intra.lshtm.ac.uk/edu/researchdegrees/rdsupportframework/profdev/rd_mixedmodeinformation.pdf.)

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This module specification applies for the academic year 2017-18

Last revised/approved 01/02/2017, by Seyi Soremekun and Natalie Friend-du-Preez

Further revisions revised [Date / Month / Year], by [Name]

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