**Module Specification**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>Epidemiology of Non-communicable Diseases</th>
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<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>EPM30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Organiser(s)</td>
<td>Caitlin Shannon, Juliet Addo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact email</td>
<td>The LSHTM distance learning courses and modules are run in collaboration with the University of London International Programmes. Enquiries may be made via their Student Advice Centre at: <a href="http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/contact-us">www.londoninternational.ac.uk/contact-us</a>. (Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to <a href="mailto:distance@lshtm.ac.uk">distance@lshtm.ac.uk</a>.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Faculty</td>
<td>Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine <a href="http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/eph/">http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/eph/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>This module is at Level 7 (postgraduate Masters level) of the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales &amp; Northern Ireland (FHEQ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>LSHTM award 15 credits on successful completion of this module</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Not currently accredited by any other body</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>Non-communicable diseases (in general); Cardiovascular diseases; Diabetes; Cancer; Burden of Disease; Epidemiology; Risk assessment; Low and middle income countries; High income countries.</td>
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**AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE**

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<th>Overall aim</th>
<th>This module aims to provide an introduction to the key areas and methods in epidemiology of non-communicable diseases.</th>
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| Intended learning outcomes | On completion of this module students should be able to:  
  • define the scope of non-communicable diseases epidemiology and appreciate the changing importance of non-communicable diseases as a major public health burden in different parts of the world,  
  • describe the aims and role of epidemiology of reproductive outcomes and be familiar with the most common methodological issues in this area,  
  • explain the rationale for a life-course approach to the aetiology of non-communicable diseases,  
  • interpret socio-economic inequalities in health,  
  • appraise the value and limitations of molecular biomarkers in measuring exposure, susceptibility and disease outcomes in epidemiological studies of non-communicable diseases,  
  • explain how functional genetic variant associations with common chronic diseases can provide robust estimates of the effects of environmental exposures on these diseases,  
  • describe the role of infectious agents in the aetiology of non-communicable diseases, |
• distinguish between determinants of disease at an individual level and at a population level,
• explain the concept of screening for disease control and how it can be used as a tool in public health,
• discuss the importance of non-communicable diseases in low and middle income countries.

**Target audience**
This module is intended for those with an interest in non-communicable diseases including those concerned with public health in low and middle income countries.

**CONTENT**

**Session content**
Module content is structured around the self-study sessions listed below:
- EN01 Introduction to epidemiology of non-communicable diseases
- EN02 Epidemiology of reproductive outcomes
- EN03 Life-course approach to non-communicable diseases
- EN04 Measuring inequalities in health
- EN05 Molecular epidemiology: use of biological markers
- EN06 Mendelian randomization: understanding environmental causes of diseases
- EN07 Infectious agents and non-communicable diseases
- EN08 Individual vs. population strategies for prevention
- EN09 Population-based screening programmes
- EN10 Non-communicable diseases in low and middle income countries.

**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:
- CD-Rom - EPM303
- EPM303 Epidemiology of Non-Communicable Diseases Study Guide & Reader.
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 course materials and ii) the LSHTM online library.

Students who are taking this as an individual module or as part of the MSc Clinical Trials course also have online access to the EPM1 computer-based sessions (this access will exclude tutor support and associated textbooks).

**Teaching and learning methods**
Learning is self-directed against a detailed set of learning objectives using the materials provided. The key learning methods are:
- Reading and reflecting on CAL (computer-assisted learning) materials which introduce, explain and apply the principles and methods covered in the module.
- Reading and reflecting on paper-based materials which support the learning in the CAL sessions.
- 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 the formative assignment and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors.
- Completing the assessed assignment and reflecting on written feedback from module tutors.
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<th>Assessment details</th>
<th>Formal assessment of this module includes a two-hour unseen written paper examination (70%) and an assessed assignment (30%). If students fail the module overall, they are allowed one further attempt at the failed element (examination and/or assignment).</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment dates</td>
<td>Assignments for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than the 31 March and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System. For students who are required to re-sit, the next assessment will be in the following academic year. Unseen written examinations for DL modules are held once a year, in June (including resits). Examinations are normally taken in a student's country of residence, in one of over 650 examination centres worldwide (arranged mainly through Ministries of Education or the British Council). A list of examination centres can be found at <a href="http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/community-support-resources/current-students/examinations/examination-centres">www.londoninternational.ac.uk/community-support-resources/current-students/examinations/examination-centres</a>. A local fee will be payable direct to the examination centre. This fee is in addition to the course/module fee and is set by, and paid directly to, the individual examination centres. The level of local examination centre fees varies across the world and neither the University of London International Programmes nor the LSHTM have any control over the fee amount. For students who are required to re-sit, or granted a deferral or new attempt at the written examination, the next examination date will normally be the following June.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language of study and assessment</td>
<td>English (please see ‘English language requirements’ below regarding the standard required for entry).</td>
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**TIMING AND MODE OF STUDY**

| Duration | Students may start their studies at any time from receipt of study (despatched annually usually during September and October, depending on date of registration) and work through the material until the start of the June examinations (although assessment submission deadlines which are earlier than this must be observed). Students registering after September (individual module students only) should note that introductory messages, and some online activities (for example web-based discussions 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. |
| Dates | Tutorial support for distance learning modules is available only from the beginning of October through to the examination in June. |
| Mode of Study | By distance learning. |
| Learning time | The notional learning time for the module totals 150 hours, consisting of:  
  - **Directed self-study** (reading and working through the provided module material) ≈ 80 hours  
  - **Self-directed learning** (general reading around the subject, library, Moodle discussion forums) ≈ 20 hours  
  - **Assessment, review and revision** ≈ 50 hours |
**Pre-requisites**

Students should have completed EPM101, EPM102, EPM103 and EPM105 (core modules) or have equivalent experience.

Clinical Trials students must ensure that they have studied CTM207 *Design and Analysis of Epidemiological Studies* before studying this module.

Global Health Policy students must ensure that they have studied EPM101 *Fundamentals of Epidemiology* before studying this module, and have a knowledge of basic statistics and practical epidemiological concepts (copies of EPM102 *Statistics with Computing* and EPM103 *Practical Epidemiology* are copied on the CD-ROM with the EPM101 module).

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.

**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. 70 students register for the module per year.

**Student selection**

This module is available to those registered for the DL MSc Epidemiology, Clinical Trials or Global Health Policy courses. It is also available to those studying for the DL PG Diploma Epidemiology, Clinical Trials and Global Health Policy courses under the credit framework scheme.

Alternatively, students may register for this as an "individual module".

This module is also open to students registered on LSHTM face-to-face (i.e. London-based) MSc courses (subject to course-specific limitations) and research degree students.

**Fees**

The current schedule of fees can be viewed at [www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees](http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/fees) (click on the LSHTM course 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 courses 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](http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/lshtm/epidemiology-msc-postgraduate-diploma-postgraduate-certificate).

Key deadlines are as follows:

- **If taken as part of a formal award (i.e. PG Certificate, PG Diploma or MSc):**
  - Application deadline: 30 June each year
  - Registration deadline 31 August each year *(continuing students may register until 30 September but are strongly recommended to register before this deadline because the study year starts beginning of October)*

- **If taken as an individual module:**
  - Application deadline: 31 August each year
  - Registration deadline: 30 November each year
(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/msc_mixedmodeinformation.pdf, 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: 2013-14**

**Last revised/approved** 08 / 05 / 2013, by Juliet Addo

Further revisions revised 11 June 2013 by Sue Horrill

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[www.lshtm.ac.uk](http://www.lshtm.ac.uk)