

Module Specification



UNIVERSITY
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MEDICINE



GENERAL INFORMATION

Module name	Global Epidemiology of Non-communicable Diseases
Module code	EPM307
Module Organiser(s)	Laura Woods, Katie Palmer, Dorothea Nitsch
Contact email	<p>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.</p> <p>(Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based LSHTM MSc or research degree students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to distance@lshtm.ac.uk.)</p>
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	Non-communicable diseases (in general); Cardiovascular diseases; Diabetes; Cancer; Burden of Disease; Epidemiology; Risk assessment; Low and middle income countries; High income countries.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

Overall aim	This module aims to provide an introduction to the key areas and methods in the global epidemiology of non-communicable diseases.
Intended learning outcomes	<p>On completion of this module students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• understand the ways in which global and population level forces are shaping the distribution of risk factors and disease occurrence• explain the rationale for a life-course approach to the aetiology of non-communicable diseases• critically analyse the relationships between socio-economic position and risk of NCDs• understand the use and limitations of molecular biomarkers in measuring exposure, susceptibility and disease outcomes of NCDs• appraise how genetic variation associated with common environmental exposures or disease risk factors can provide estimates of the causal effects on common diseases

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognise the key concepts in reproductive epidemiology, with a focus on trends and methodological issues that arise in studying the most common adverse reproductive outcomes. critically evaluate secular and geographic trends in common NCDs (cardiovascular disease & diabetes, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, mental health), the causes of these trends and their contribution to overall disease burden.
Target audience	This module is intended for those with an interest in non-communicable diseases in any population setting including those concerned with public health in low and middle income countries.
CONTENT	
Session content	<p>The module content is structured around the self-study sessions listed below:</p> <p>GN01 Introduction to the epidemiology of non-communicable diseases: introduction and overview</p> <p>GN02 Upstream determinants of non-communicable diseases</p> <p>GN03 Life-course approach to non-communicable diseases</p> <p>GN04 Socio-economic inequalities in health</p> <p>GN05 Molecular epidemiology: Biomarkers</p> <p>GN06 Mendelian randomisation: a tool to understanding environmental causes of disease</p> <p>GN07 Epidemiology of reproductive health</p> <p>GN08 Cardiovascular diseases and Type 2 diabetes</p> <p>GN09 Cancer epidemiology</p> <p>GN10 Respiratory diseases (COPD and asthma)</p> <p>GN11 Mental health (Depressive disorder and schizophrenia)</p> <p>GN12 Emerging issues and ongoing challenges of non-communicable diseases</p>
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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CD-Rom - EPM307 EPM307 <i>Global Epidemiology of Non-Communicable Diseases</i> Reader. <p>In addition to the materials above, students are given access to</p> <p>i) the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle, which contains resources such as discussion forums and supplementary programme materials and</p> <p>ii) the LSHTM online library.</p> <p>Students who are taking this as an individual module or as part of another MSc programme also have online access to the EPM1 computer-based sessions (this access will exclude tutor support and associated textbooks).</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 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Assessment details	<p>Formal assessment of this module includes a two-hour unseen written examination with 15 minutes' additional reading/planning time (70%) and an assessed assignment (30%).</p> <p>If students fail the module overall, they are allowed one further attempt at the failed element (examination and/or assignment).</p>
Assessment dates	<p>The Assessed Assignment for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than 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.</p> <p>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 www.londoninternational.ac.uk/community-support-resources/current-students/examinations/examination-centres.</p> <p>A local fee will be payable direct to the examination centre. This fee is in addition to the programme/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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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 material (despatched annually usually during September/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).</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 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	<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) ≈ 80 hours • Self-directed learning (general reading around the subject, library, Moodle discussion forums) ≈ 20 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 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> and EPM102 <i>Statistics with Computing</i> and should have studied both these modules prior to studying EPM307.</p> <p><u>Clinical Trials students</u> must ensure that they have studied CTM207 <i>Design and Analysis of Epidemiological Studies</i> before studying this module.</p> <p><u>Global Health Policy students</u> must ensure that they have studied EPM101 <i>Fundamentals of Epidemiology</i> <u>before</u> studying this module. Students should also have a good working knowledge of basic statistics and practical epidemiological concepts and, in particular, are expected to work through the Computer Assisted learning (CAL) sessions of EPM102 <i>Statistics with Computing</i> and EPM103 <i>Practical Epidemiology</i> before studying this module; the CAL sessions will be provided alongside the EPM101 material.</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> and 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	<p>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.</p>
Student numbers	<p>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. 80-100 students register for the module per year.</p>
Student selection	<p>This module is available to those registered for the DL PG Dip and MSc Epidemiology, Demography & Health, Clinical Trials or Global Health Policy programmes. 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> <p>Students may not register for this module if they have already successfully completed EPM303 <i>Epidemiology of Non-communicable Diseases</i>.</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	<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: <i>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.</i></p> <p>(In-house LSHTM MSc and research students wishing to study this module should note information given in the mixed mode study option links at https://lshtm.sharepoint.com/Teaching-and-Support/Pages/taught-programmes-handbooks-regulations-policies.aspx.)</p>
ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT	
<p>This module specification applies for the academic year 2017-18</p> <p>Last revised/approved 09/02/2017 by Katie Palmer</p> <p>Further revisions revised 01/08/2017 by Anne Tholen</p>	
<p>London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel St., London WC1E 7HT. www.lshtm.ac.uk</p>	