

Module Specification



UNIVERSITY
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INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMES

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



GENERAL INFORMATION

Module name Project Report

Module code IDM600

Module Organiser(s) Dr Patricia Gorak-Stolinska

Contact email 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:
<http://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 Infectious & Tropical Diseases
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
<http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/itd/>

Level This module is at Level 7 (postgraduate Masters 'M' level) of the QAA [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) in England, Wales & Northern Ireland (FHEQ)

Credit LSHTM award 45 credits on successful completion of this module

Accreditation Not currently accredited by any other body

Keywords Research project, infectious diseases, proposal, ethical approval, risk assessment, original research, literature review, laboratory research, field project, research methods.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

Overall aim This module aims to provide students with an opportunity to propose, plan and conduct a piece of original research, to gain specialist knowledge in a self-selected subject area. It provides the opportunity for exploring and analysing a real problem in an area related to infectious diseases and to apply techniques and approaches that have been covered in the course. The student should then be able to communicate and discuss their findings by producing a final written project report. The final report will be assessed on a student's ability to apply methods and concepts to carry out a thorough, rigorous piece of academic work.

Intended learning outcomes By the end of this module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate independent research skills.
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically and develop original ideas; develop a research question, formulate a hypothesis, and critically evaluate the literature.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the practical aspects of planning and conducting a study, including potential problems and pitfalls; carry out a risk assessment, be aware of intellectual property issues, be aware of ethical issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply skills including methodological, analytical skills and knowledge gained while studying the advanced modules to a real world problem. • Analyse data or literature and form conclusions based on this analysis. • Demonstrate familiarity with either conventional research-reporting or policy-reporting styles, including project layout and referencing; write a scientific report according to prescribed standards. • Produce an extended piece of writing that is clear and coherent. • Demonstrate the ability to present research findings and/or policy recommendations in a clear and systematic format. • Where appropriate, reflect on social or ethical issues relating to the research.
Target audience	This option is available to all students undertaking the MSc Infectious Diseases. It is particularly relevant for individuals interested in pursuing a career in research or those interested in going on to study for a PhD.
CONTENT	
Session content	Students work through a staged process with the guidance of the project organiser and their project supervisor, to refine, plan, implement, analyse and write up their research project. Project handbook and guidance notes are made available in the ID Student Zone of Moodle.
TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT	
Study resources provided or required	<p>The following materials are provided on-line to students after registration for this module once a year in September:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project Handbook and guidance notes. ➤ Students are expected to participate in an on-line “Information Skills Intermediate Module” and group activity run by the library. This is part of your research skills training for this module. <p>Students are given access to the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment, Moodle (for web-based discussions forums, study resources and activities etc.) and the LSHTM online library resources.</p>
Teaching and learning methods	<p>Learning is self-directed with specialised academic support and supervision. Student support is available from the project organiser via a web-based discussion forum in which students are encouraged to participate. In addition, project supervisors provide academic support via email, written feedback is provided on the project proposal and on one draft of the project report.</p>
Assessment details	Formal assessment of this module is by submission of one written report up to 10,000 words. If students fail the module overall, they are allowed one further attempt at the failed assignment.
Assessment dates	<p>The project report can be submitted once annually, no later than 30 September and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.</p> <p>Students must complete an ‘examination entry registration’ form in order for marks to be considered at the Exam Board, even though assessment is only by a Project Report.</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	Distance learning module studies begin in early October. Students may start their studies at any time, proposals must be submitted for academic approval by 1 November , and once approved students can continue to work on the project until the submission deadline of 30 September the following year.
Dates	<p>The Project Organiser is available throughout the academic year to answer general queries. Students are allocated a supervisor, usually by the end of January, to answer academic queries.</p> <p>30 September: Project Module registration deadline 1 November: project proposal submission deadline 24 January: project proposal approval deadline 1 February: examination entry registration deadline 21 July: draft submission deadline 30 September: final submission deadline.</p>
Mode of study	By distance learning.
Learning time	<p>The notional learning time for the module totals 450 hours, consisting of: Self-directed learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a proposal outline • Academic discussions with supervisor via email • Risk assessment and ethical approval applications • Experimental work, data collection and analysis • Preparation of a written report of (7000-10000 words).
APPLICATION, ADMISSION AND FEES	
Pre-requisites	<p>It is strongly recommended that MSc ID students study module IDM601 <i>Research Design, Management and Analysis</i> prior to carrying out their project. Please consult with the course director if you are in doubt whether to take IDM601.</p> <p>Important: It should be noted that although the project report option is open to all Infectious Diseases (ID) MSc students, students must obtain the permission of the Project Organiser to pursue this option. Students wishing to apply to carry out a project option are required to submit a proposal for review by November 1 preceding the year in which they wish to be examined. The proposal will then be reviewed for content and to judge the student's capacity to carry out a successful project report. Criteria for approval include clear project concept and proposed methods and strong written English language skills. Feedback on proposals will be provided by a member of LSHTM staff with expertise in a relevant field. Students' whose proposal is approved will be granted permission to carry out a project report. Once approval has been given, a project supervisor is confirmed. A project supervisor will be available to provide academic advice for a maximum of two consecutive years.</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 approximately 20 students register for the module per year.
Student selection	This module is only available to be studied by students on the DL MSc Infectious Diseases course. Students are encouraged to take this module in their final year of study.
Fees	For the current schedule of 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	<p>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 on the relevant link on the right hand side of the page at http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/lshtm/infectious-diseases-msc-postgraduate-diploma-postgraduate-certificate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Registration deadline for the Project Module: 30 September each year. <p>Other key deadlines are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Application deadline: 31 August each year <p>(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.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Registration deadline (new students and those registering for the project module, IDM600): 30 September each year ➤ Registration deadline (continuing students, with the exception of those registering for the project module IDM600, and those taking individual modules): 31 October. <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>(This module is not available as an individual module and is not available to LSHTM research students.)</p>
ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT	
This module specification applies for the academic year 2017/18.	
Last revised/approved , by P Gorak-Stolinska on 3/3/17	
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