



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

Programme Specification 2025–2026

Global Health Policy

MSc
PGDip
PGCert
Individual courses

Important document – please read

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Important information regarding the Programme Specification

Last revised 26 February 2025

About this document

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme, the entry level qualifications, as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress. Some of the information referred to in this programme specification is included in more detail on the University of London website. Where this is the case, links to the relevant webpage are included.

Where links to external organisations are provided, the University of London is not responsible for their content and does not recommend nor necessarily agree with opinions expressed and services provided at those sites.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided, whether here or on the website, registered students should use the *ask a question* button in the University of London [student portal](#) otherwise the *Contact Us* button on each University of London webpage should be used.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the **Global Health Policy** programme:

Modules: Individual units of the programme are called modules. Each module is a self-contained, formally-structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Key revisions made

Programme specifications are revised annually and approved by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine's Programme and Module Review Committee. The LSHTM Senate Postgraduate Taught Committee, as part of its 5 year periodic review of standards, confirms the programme structure and the educational aims and learning outcomes, and advises on any development in student support.

Any changes that may impact on continuing students are listed below. For all new students, the programme and general information provided in this document is correct and accurate and will be applicable for the current year.

Significant changes made to the programme specification 2025-2026

From 2025-26 students studying on the MSc programme only will be able to study up to four modules via blended learning.

Programme title and qualifications

Postgraduate Degrees of the University of London may be classified. The qualification certificate will indicate the level of the academic performance achieved by classifying the qualification. The classification of the degree will be based on the ratified marks from the completed assessments.

The classification system for the Global Health Policy programmes is as follows:

Distinction; Merit; Pass.

Specific rules for the classification of awards are given in the 2025-2026 [Programme Regulations](#), under Scheme of Award.

Programme title

Global Health Policy

Qualifications

Master of Science in Global Health Policy

Postgraduate Diploma in Global Health Policy

Postgraduate Certificate in Global Health Policy

Exit qualifications

Postgraduate Diploma in Global Health Policy

Postgraduate Certificate in Global Health Policy

An exit qualification is an intermediate qualification for which the student did not register at the outset. An exit qualification may be awarded upon completion of specific modules and accumulation of a required number of credits (where relevant) in case of a student's withdrawal from or inability to complete their intended programme of study.

Exit qualifications are awarded at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and once a student has accepted an exit qualification they will not normally be permitted to continue to study for a higher qualification offered by the programme.

Individual modules

There is also provision for individual modules to be studied on a stand-alone basis without registering for a PGCert, PGDip or PGCert with the appropriate fee.

Qualification titles may be abbreviated as follows:

Master of Science in Global Health Policy - MSc

Postgraduate Diploma in Global Health Policy - PGDip

Postgraduate Certificate in /Global Health Policy - PGCert

Level of the programmes

The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (FHEQ) forms part of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education of the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#) (QAA).

The qualifications (including exit qualifications) are placed at the following Levels of the FHEQ:

- MSc Level 7
- PGDip Level 7
- PGCert Level 7

Individual modules are offered at Level 7.

Relevant QAA subject benchmarks group(s)

Not applicable

Awarding body

University of London

Registering bodies

University of London and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

Academic direction

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

Accreditation by professional or statutory body

None

Language of study and assessment

English

Mode of study

Flexible and online study.

Blended learning

PG Diploma and MSc students may also study on-campus modules by blended learning in place of distance learning modules. Blended learning enables a student to combine distance learning with a period of study at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. The modules offered for blended learning are modules delivered on-campus in London for intensive MScs. A list of modules available for blended learning is published prior to the start of the academic year under the Blended Learning tile, DL General Zone on LSHTM Moodle. An additional fee will be payable to the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine for each module.

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PG Diploma students may study up to two modules via blended learning, while MSc students may study up to four modules in this manner.

Programme structures

The **MSc Global Health Policy** consists of:

- Four compulsory GHM1 modules; and
either
- Five elective modules selected from a list of options and a research Project;
or
- Eight elective modules selected from a list of options.

The **PGDip Global Health Policy** consists of:

- Four compulsory GHM1 modules; and
- Four elective modules selected from a list of options.

The **PGCert Global Health Policy** consists of:

- Four compulsory GHM1 modules.

Full details of the Scheme of Award are included in the 2025 – 2026 Programme Regulations.

Maximum and minimum periods of registration

The maximum and minimum period of registration, from a student's effective date of registration, are:

	Minimum	Maximum
MSc	Two years	Five years
PGDip	Two years	Five years
PGCert	One year	Five years
Credit bearing individual modules	One year	Two years

Credit value of modules

Further information about the credit systems used by universities in the UK and Europe is provided by the [Quality Assurance Agency](#) and the [European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System](#).

Where credits are assigned to modules of a programme, credit indicates the amount of learning carried out in terms of the notional number of study hours needed, and the specified FHEQ credit level indicates the depth, complexity and intellectual demand of learning involved. The details below indicate the UK credits and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) values.

For the Global Health Policy programme, credits are assigned to the modules as follows:

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- 15 UK credits or 7.5 ECTS credits for each module at FHEQ level 7
- 45 UK credits or 22.5 ECTS credits for the project at FHEQ level 7.

Each award equates to the following number of credits:

- MSc Global Health Policy - 180 UK credits or 90 ECTS credits
- PGDip Global Health Policy - 120 UK credits or 60 ECTS credits
- PGCert Global Health Policy - 60 UK credits or 30 ECTS credits

One UK credit equates to a notional ten hours of study.

Recognition of prior learning

Recognition of prior learning is the process whereby students are exempted from part of their chosen programme of academic study by recognition of comparable learning and attainment. See [LSHTM policy and](#) programme regulations.

Applications for recognition of prior learning should be submitted to the University of London Registry alongside the programme application form. No RPL requests will be considered after an offer of admission has been made.

Entrance requirements

Applicants must submit an application in line with the procedures and deadlines set out on the University of London [website](#).

All details of the programme-specific entry requirements are given on the University of London [programme page](#), under the Entry Requirements tab.

English language requirements

All applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. These are set out in detail on the programme page under the Requirements tab. All teaching is in English. Therefore, students need to have the required level of written and spoken English to cope with their studies right from the start.

Additional information on English language proficiency tests is given on the [website](#).

Where an applicant does not meet the prescribed English language proficiency requirements but believes that they can demonstrate the requisite proficiency for admission, the University of London may, at its discretion, consider the application.

Internet access and computer specification

Students will require regular access to a computer with an internet connection to use the University of London's online resources and systems.

Students must be able to download and install software to their Windows, MacOS or similar device to include secure examination browsers for online assessment purposes (if offered on your programme of study). Depending on the security settings for each assessment you may be required to have full administrator rights on your computer to install and run the software needed to take part in the assessment. Full administration rights are likely to apply to a computer that you own but not to one provided by your employer, for example.

Computer requirements

The computer must have at least the following minimum specification:

- Windows: 10 and 11 on 64-bit platforms
- MacOS Big Sur version 11 and higher
- CPUs newer than 2011 (Intel Sandy Bridge Core i3, i5 and i7 or newer)
- OpenGL 2.0 graphics driver
- Local storage for the recording of proctored examinations (75MB per hour)
- Web camera & microphone (internal or external)
- A broadband internet connection capable of streaming video and a minimum of 0.15Mbps upload speed.
- Minimum device requirements are subject to change and older operating systems may become obsolete over time.

It should also have the following applications installed:

- Word processor (for Microsoft Word documents)
- A PDF reader (e.g. Adobe)

Some modules may have additional requirements such as video and audio recording options, Microsoft Excel, STATA, statistical or other specialist software. Where this is the case you will find information on the course webpages.

Please note: full mobile access is not available for all programmes. Proctored assessments will not work on any smartphone, tablet, Chromebook, Linux Operating Systems or other mobile device of any kind.

Additional requirements

- Students may need to use a calculator.
- A headset/microphone may be required to participate in live webinar sessions online.

Students with access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from students with disabilities and those who have access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with a disability, learning difficulty or learning difference or access requirements to have the same opportunity as all other students to successfully complete their studies.

The University is committed to managing the application procedure and the programme itself to ensure that services are accessible for all students and that an inclusive environment is created. Students with a disability, or others who may have a learning difference or need access arrangements to assist in taking time-limited assessments, should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the University of London's [Inclusive Practice Manager](#).

Requests are considered by a University of London panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or learning differences or specific access requirements are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by such arrangements when compared with other students. These considerations remain separate from the academic selection processes, as is the sector standard.

For further information, see the University of London's [Inclusive Practice Policy](#).

Sources of funding and scholarships

Information about potential sources of funding and scholarships is updated annually and where available is included in the prospectus web pages.

For further information see the University of London [website](#).

Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programmes

These programmes aim to offer a challenging, flexible scheme of study invigorated by research, which provides students with the knowledge and skills to engage in planning and decision making to improve the health of populations at global and national levels. This involves understanding the range of actors and institutions influencing global health arenas, the nature of health threats arising from changes in the global landscape, and in-depth understanding of additional health-related topics with global relevance.

These programmes are primarily aimed at professionals who may already be involved in health planning or promotion at local, national, or international levels; but they also welcome undergraduate students with relevant degrees who are working with or planning to work for international agencies with concerns of health and development; or students working with global actors influential in health decision making. LSHTM's Global Health Policy programme is a rigorous educational programme for professionals and students who wish to use academic study to deepen their understanding of and increase their potential for career development in agencies engaged with global health problems, or alternatively to progress to a higher research degree in a field related to public health, global policy, or related areas.

The programmes aim to:

- develop knowledge and understanding of core economics and politics concepts affecting global health;
- enable students to understand key global health challenges;
- encourage independent critical thinking and the development of analytical skills that can be used to apply concepts to practical challenges and evaluate problems facing global health policy making.

The learning outcomes of the programmes are as follows:

Knowledge, understanding, intellectual and cognitive

Students will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of basic concepts of economics and politics/political science in relation to their application to global health issues;
- understand the global nature of the health threats and challenges posed by environmental change and issues;
- demonstrate knowledge of a range of key global health issues;
- demonstrate the ability to analyse and critically discuss complex policy questions;
- apply understanding of the core disciplines of economics, politics, and political economy to real world global health policy debates and challenges;

MSc students who have selected the Project option will:

- carry out supervised independent research and produce a well-researched, well-structured, well-written, and clearly argued report.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

The programme is delivered through LSHTM's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Moodle using a variety of study resources including session notes, a selection of full-text essential and recommended readings, and study activities. Each GHM module is made up of individual sessions.

Each session would usually contain:

- Overview
- Aim of the session;
- Intended learning outcomes;
- Session notes (or textbook chapter);
- Activities to help students self-evaluate their understanding of the material and critical skills, spaced within the sessions. Students are invited to discuss their answers and ideas on the session discussion forums; and
- Summary containing the key learning points of the session;
- A reference list.

Full-text essential and recommended readings are provided for each session in the Library section of each module zone of LSHTM Moodle, using Leganto. Essential readings are a compulsory part of the study materials, while recommended readings are provided for further reference and research.

Students are encouraged to communicate with tutors and fellow students via LSHTM Moodle in module specific, web-based discussion forums. In this way, students can ask questions, engage in discussion, and develop and negotiate conclusions with others (peer to peer learning) which are key components in the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and transferable skills. Students are also invited to participate in optional real time webinars or listen to recordings of these.

Advice and practical information such as study techniques, planning and preparation for assessment is available in the GHP Student Handbook, available to students after registration on the GHM Student Zone on LSHTM Moodle and in the [Academic Writing Handbook](#). Learning is asynchronous and students are expected to manage their own learning and study schedule in accordance with their other commitments. Academic advice can be sought by posting queries on Moodle or by contacting the programme support team at any stage of the academic year. Since assignment submission deadlines are fixed annually, students are expected to plan their learning with a view to meeting these deadlines.

Student learning will be evaluated by a range of methods, including formative assignments, assessed assignments and time-limited assessments.

Formative Assignments (FAs) are available for students to complete in some GHM1 modules. FAs can be submitted only once a year, please check individual module specification documents for submission deadlines. These do not count towards the final award but students are strongly encouraged to complete these. FAs give students an opportunity to (i) apply subject-specific knowledge and skills, allowing them to review their

progress and understanding, (ii) highlight to tutors any difficulties relating to the study materials, and (iii) receive detailed personal tutorial feedback on their work and any highlighted issues.

Some modules are assessed in part or fully by written assessed assignments (AAs). AAs can be submitted only once a year, please check individual module specification documents for submission deadlines. They give students an opportunity to discuss issues in depth, encouraging independent thinking and judgement, as well as to apply knowledge and skills taught in the module in a practical way that sometimes reflects a real-life scenario. Some assessed assignments may involve group work.

Time-limited assessments are usually held in June each year and consist of questions that evaluate students' attainment of the module intended learning outcomes. These include expectations of attainment of appropriate knowledge and understanding of the material, as well as critical, analytical and independent thinking skills. The way that students manage data, solve problems, evaluate ideas and the organisational skills they use to structure answers allows for further assessment of the standard of their academic and transferable skills.

The GHM300 Project module and project report requires students to apply theoretical concepts and demonstrate analytical skills developed in the course of the programme. Students will be able to apply knowledge from both core and elective modules to a global health policy-related topic of their choice, reviewing what is known about the subject, and using various research methods to answer key questions about a gap in knowledge or critical issue.

Assessment methods

Time-limited assessments take place on specified dates in line with the published timetables.

Some GHM1 modules will be assessed solely by time-limited assessments. Some GHM1 and GHM2 modules will be assessed by a combination of written assessed assignments and a time-limited assessment (in these modules the weighting between the time-limited assessment and the assessed assignment may vary). For further information on assessment and assessment weighting for particular modules, please check the relevant [Module Specification document](#).

The time-limited assessments take place on one occasion each year, normally commencing in June.

The GHM300 Project module (MSc only) is assessed by submission of one written report of between 7,000-10,000 words, by 30 September.

Individual modules

A student may choose whether or not to be formally assessed in the credit bearing individual modules for which they are registered. Students who choose to be formally assessed will be assessed in the same way as students studying for a full qualification.

Full details of the dates of all time-limited assessment are available on the University of London [website](#).

Student support and guidance

The following summarises the support and guidance available to students:

Support and guidance from UoL

- University of London [Student Guide](#): This provides information which is common to all students and gives information about matters of importance from the start of a student's relationship with the University of London through to their graduation.
- [Programme Regulations and UoL General Regulations](#)
- [The University of London Online Library](#): This provides access to a range of full-text, multidisciplinary databases where journal articles, book reviews and reports can be found.
- University of London Library: Registered students may use the resources located within the Senate House library
- University of London Careers Service – offers tailored careers and employability support to students whatever their course, wherever they are studying, and whether they are starting, developing, or changing their career. Support includes webinars led by careers consultants, employer and alumni panel events and a range of online careers resources.
- University of London [support and wellbeing services](#)
- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

Support and guidance from LSHTM

- [LSHTM Moodle](#) gives online access to the main module study materials, module discussion forums, information on assignments, links to essential and recommended readings (where available), past examination papers and examiner reports, and study skills' resources.
- [Programme Regulations 2025-26](#) LSHTM Programmes
- [LSHTM Student Charter](#)
- [LSHTM Library - Online resources](#)
- GHPSupport@lshtm.ac.uk - LSHTM Programme administration staff will direct academic queries to the relevant person – e.g. programme directors or members of the teaching teams.
- Dedicated discussion forums are set up over the summer to assist students in choosing their elective modules.
- Each module has at least one Module Organiser (MO) and a team of tutors assigned to it. The tutor team provides academic support to those studying on specific modules, in the following ways:

- assisting in interpreting and understanding the material presented by answering queries on the online discussion forums
 - grading and providing individual written feedback on assignments
 - offering optional real-time webinars in which students can participate.
- A project supervisor also works with students undertaking GHM300 Project.
- GHP Student Handbook is available within the GHM Student Zone on LSHTM Moodle. The handbook provides guidance on all aspects of the programme, including: getting started; studying as a distance learner; organising study time; resources and programme materials; networking and support; and assessment and examination procedures.
- An online discussion forum Student Cafe and a dedicated Student Representative Forum is available in the GHM Student Zone.
- Students are encouraged to introduce themselves in the GHM Student Zone and are welcome to share individual contact details through the Student Network Directory, in order to build up their own networks if they wish (for example, to organise study groups).

Quality evaluation and enhancement

The University of London delivers the majority of its online and distance learning programmes through a collaboration between the University of London and University of London federation members. However some of the online and distance learning programmes draw solely on academic input from the University of London, and are delivered without academic lead by a federation member. The policies, partnerships (where applicable) and quality assurance mechanisms applicable for the programmes are defined in the following key documents: The [Quality Assurance Schedules, Guidelines for Examinations](#), General Regulations and, for each programme, programme specific regulations.

Award standards

All University of London qualifications must comply with the Office for Students' (OfS) [Conditions of Registration](#) relating to quality and standards, which includes ongoing conditions of registration ongoing conditions of registration set by the Office for Students (OfS), including condition B5 ([sector-recognised standards](#)). This is to ensure appropriate standards for each qualification. In addition, every online and distance learning programme that is developed by a federation member of the University of London (or a consortium with representation by more than one federation member) will be developed to the same standard as would be applied within the institution concerned. Proportionate and robust approval procedures, including external scrutiny and student engagement, are in place for all programmes. Learning materials are written and all assessments are set and marked by academic staff who are required to apply the University's academic standards.

Review and evaluation mechanisms

Some of the key mechanisms in place to assure the standards of all University of London qualifications and the quality of the student experience, include:

- Annual programme reports: produced for all programmes in order to review and enhance the provision and to plan ahead;
- Independent external examiners: submit reports every year to confirm that a programme has been assessed properly and meets the appropriate academic standards;
- Annual student performance, progression and completion statistics.;
- Periodic programme reviews: carried out every 4-6 years to review how a programme has developed over time and to make sure that it remains current and continues to provide a good student experience.

Enhancements to review and evaluation mechanisms are made as necessary to ensure that systems remain effective and rigorous.

Student feedback and engagement

The principal channel for collecting feedback from students is the University of London Student Experience Survey (SES). Carried out every year, this collects feedback from the student body on a range of topics relating to the student lifecycle. The results are analysed externally and then considered in a number of different ways, including by the programme

team, principal committees and the senior leadership team at both UoL and LSHTM. Details of any resulting actions taken are published on LSHTM Moodle and the UoL Student Portal. Feedback on individual modules is also collected by UoL from DL students through annual module surveys. Data from these are included within and inform the Annual Module Review and Action Plan documents and these are considered by Programme Postgraduate Taught Committee.

There are also opportunities for students to get involved in governance. An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University of London to the majority of committees through an annual appointment round. The LSHTM programmes also recruit student representatives at the programme level and there is distance learning student representation on the LSHTM Student Representatives Council Executive. Students are frequently invited to take part in quality review processes such as Periodic Programme Reviews, Programme approval, Thematic Reviews, MOOC review panels and ad hoc focus groups. Opportunities such as these are advertised through social media and on the UoL website. More information can be found on the University of London [website](#).

Students can also apply to join the Student Voice Group, which meets four times a year to consider initiatives for enhancing student experience. Notes from these meetings are published on the Student Portal.

After graduation

Further study

Successful completion of the MSc programme can allow students to progress to a higher level qualification in the subject area.

Graduate employment routes

The programmes will be relevant both for those wishing to work in the fields of health planning or promotion, particularly at national or international levels and for those who are planning to work for international agencies engaged with global health problems.

The Alumni Community

Upon finishing a course of study, graduates automatically become members of the University of London alumni community, a diverse global network of more than one million graduates in over 180 countries, providing lifelong links to the University and to each other.

Alumni are encouraged to keep in touch after they graduate and to become active members of the alumni community; in return they receive a number of benefits and services, including an extensive programme of events and engagement opportunities.

More information is available on the alumni [webpage](#).

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine also welcomes former students to its [alumni association](#) and this is [free to join](#).

Follow the alumni community on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)