



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

Programme Specification 2024–2025

Public Health
(with additional specialist
subject streams at MSc
level)

MSc
PGDip
PGCert
Individual courses

Important document – please read



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Important information regarding the Programme Specification

Last revised 5 December 2023

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, registered students should use the *ask a question* button in the [student portal](#) otherwise the *Contact Us* button on each webpage should be used.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the Public Health programme:

Module: 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. The relevant committee of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), as part of its annual review of standards, confirms the programme structure and the educational aims and learning outcomes, and advises on any development in student support.

Where changes have been made which may impact on continuing students, these 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 2024-2025

No significant changes.

Programme title and qualifications

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

The classification system for Public Health is as follows:

Distinction; Merit; Pass

Postgraduate Diplomas and Postgraduate Certificates are classified on a Pass/Fail basis only.

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

Programme titles

Public Health

Public Health (Health Services Management)

Public Health (Health Promotion)

Public Health (Environment and Health)

Public Health (Health Economics)

Qualifications

Master of Science in Public Health

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health

On successful completion of the MSc programme students will receive a Master's degree in Public Health which will reflect their choice of stream:

- Public Health
- Public Health (Health Services Management)
- Public Health (Health Promotion)
- Public Health (Environment and Health)
- Public Health (Health Economics)

Exit qualifications

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health

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An exit qualification is an intermediate qualification for which the student may not have registered at the outset but which may be awarded on completion of specific modules (or credit accumulated) in a longer programme of study, if the student leaves the programme.

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 their study of the same award with the University of London.

Individual modules

There is also provision for individual modules to be studied on a stand-alone basis. Further details on individual module provision can be found in the [regulations](#).

Qualification titles may be abbreviated as follows:

Master of Science in Public Health- MSc

Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health - PGDip

Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health – PGCert

Level of the programmes

The Framework 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 are placed at the following Levels of the FHEQ:

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

Individual modules/courses are offered at Level 7.

Relevant QAA subject benchmarks group(s)

Not applicable

Awarding body

University of London

Registering body

University of London and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Academic direction

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).

Accreditation by professional or statutory body

Not applicable

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Language of study and assessment

English

Mode of study

Flexible and online study

Blended learning

Students may also be permitted to study up to two elective modules by blended learning in place of distance learning modules. Blended learning enables a student to combine distance learning with a period of part-time study at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. An additional fee will be payable.

Programme structure

MSc Public Health consists of:

MSc Public Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four compulsory PHM1 modules• One compulsory stream-specific PHM1 module• One additional PHM1 module selected from a list of options
And either:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four elective PHM2 modules selected from a list of options• Four additional elective modules selected from a list of options
Or:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One elective PHM2 module selected from a list of options• Four additional elective modules selected from a list of options• A Project Report

MSc Public Health (Environment and Health)*
MSc Public Health (Health Promotion)*
MSc Public Health (Health Services Management)*
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four compulsory PHM1 modules• One stream-specific PHM1 module• One additional PHM1 module selected from a list of options

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And either:

- One compulsory PHM2 module; and
- Three elective PHM2 modules selected from a list of options; and
- Four additional elective modules selected from a list of options

Or:

- One compulsory PHM2 module; and
- Four elective modules selected from a list of options
- A Project Report

MSc Public Health (Health Economics)*

- Four compulsory PHM1 modules (including stream-specific module)
- Two additional PHM1 modules selected from a list of options

And either:

- Two compulsory PHM2 modules; and
- Two elective PHM2 modules selected from a list of options; and
- Four additional elective modules selected from a list of options

Or:

- Two compulsory PHM2 modules; and
- Three additional elective modules selected from a list of options
- A Project Report

* Detailed module options are provided in the Programme Regulations.

The PGDip Public Health consists of:

- Four compulsory PHM1 modules; and
- Two elective PHM2 modules selected from a list of options; and
- Two additional elective modules selected from a list of options.

The PGCert Public Health consists of:

- Four compulsory PHM1 modules; and
- Two additional PHM1 modules selected from a list of options.

Full details of the Scheme of Award are included in the [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

Study materials are made available at the start of the academic year after registration and on payment of the applicable fee.

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 Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-awarding Bodies (FHEQ) level indicates the depth, complexity and intellectual demand of learning involved. The UK credits and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) values for the Public Health programme are as follows:

- 10 or 15 UK credits or 5 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 qualification equates to the following number of credits:

- MSc Public Health - 180 UK credits or 90 ECTS credits
- PGDip Public Health - 120 UK credits or 60 ECTS credits
- PGCert Public Health - 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 a generic term for the process by which we recognise and, where appropriate, award credit for learning that has taken place before entry onto this programme of study. Where the prior learning studied elsewhere covered a similar syllabus to a compulsory PHM1 module, exemption from studying that module may be granted and students required to take an alternative module of equal credit (up to a maximum of two modules).

See the General [Regulations](#) (Section 3) and the [LSHTM policy](#) for more rules relating to prior learning.

For the Public Health programmes the University of London may recognise your prior learning. This can only be considered at the point of application for the programme.

Further information on recognition of prior learning is on the [website](#).

Entrance requirements

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

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

Postgraduate entrance requirements

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

Entrance requirements for a postgraduate qualification, or individual module, vary. Full details are provided on the programme page under the Requirements tab.

All details of the programme specific requirements are given on the 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 [Entry 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 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

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- 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.

We are developing further security protocols and therefore you **will** require a mobile device (such as a mobile phone or tablet/iPad), to approve access for our services. Full details, including specifications, will be provided ahead of the implementation.

Please note: *full mobile access is not available for all programmes.*

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/or those who have access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with a disability, learning difficulty 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 need access arrangements to assist in taking assessments, should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the [Inclusive Practice Manager](#). A separate room or other arrangements may be considered.

Requests are considered by a University panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/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.

For further information, see [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 [website](#)

Educational aims and intended learning outcomes of the programmes

The aim of this programme is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and ability to assess and explain, diverse public health issues and key concepts and methods, and critically apply these in low-, middle- and high-income settings; the varied curriculum allows students to opt for one of five alternative streams.

The programme offers a challenging, flexible scheme of study to provide students with the knowledge and skills to improve the health of populations, communities and particular groups within them. Students will acquire knowledge and skills in a range of public health subjects, including: the promotion of health and the prevention of diseases; the provision and evaluation of treatment and care; and the investigation and control of environmental threats to health. Students are encouraged to develop transferable and subject-specific skills to address multi-faceted and current health problems in their local setting, as well as internationally.

These programmes are primarily aimed at professionals who may already be involved in public health at a community, hospital or district level, in research, in ministries of health or other health- or development-related organizations. LSHTM's Public Health programme is a rigorous educational programme for practitioners, policy-makers or researchers who wish to use academic study to deepen their understanding and increase their potential for career development in public health. Successful completion of the MSc will enable students to address local health problems and, at the same time, to progress to a higher research degree in public health or medicine.

The intended learning outcomes (ILOs) of each of the programme streams are shown below:

Common intended learning outcomes (ILOs) (across streams) (reflecting (PHM101-104 and PHM305*))

Students will be able to:

- demonstrate their understanding of, and be able to assess and explain, the fundamental concepts and methods of epidemiology, and critically apply these in public health;
- understand and justify the use of basic statistical methods and how to interpret research results, including use of statistical computer packages;
- recognise and critically evaluate the main concepts, principles, and practices of public health;
- display sufficient knowledge to explain the main contributions of health economics and critically apply this approach to real world health problems;
- demonstrate the critical skills needed to read, appraise, apply or commission social research for public health;
- critically apply knowledge of the core disciplines of public health to real world health problems;

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- carry out a focused project, critically evaluate their own work and produce a public health paper that is well-structured, well-referenced and well-written*.

General Stream: additional ILOs (reflecting PHM105 Issues in Public Health)

Students will be able to:

- demonstrate their ability to answer the question “what is public health?” and understand, assess, and critically apply the main concepts, principles and practises of public health.

Environment and Health Stream: additional ILOs (reflecting PHM106 Environmental Health and Sustainable Development and PHM206 Environmental Public Health)

- demonstrate their understanding of, and be able to assess and explain, the fundamental interactions between the environment, sustainable development and public health;
- demonstrate their knowledge of a range of key methodological tools for assessing and controlling environmental risks to health and critically apply these to real world health problems.

Health Promotion Stream: additional ILOs (reflecting PHM107 Foundations of Health Promotion and PHM213 Principles and Practice of Health Promotion)

- demonstrate their understanding of, and be able to assess and explain, the origins and purpose of health promotion and critically assess theories that inform health promotion activities;
- demonstrate their ability to translate health promotion foundations and theory into practice and describe and demonstrate the critical application of different evidence-based methods and approaches.

Health Services Management Stream: additional ILOs (reflecting PHM108 Health Services and PHM212 Organisational Management)

- demonstrate their understanding of, and be able to assess and explain, how health services function, the development of current health services structures, the basis of various universal, persistent problems, and feasible interventions to address these problems;
- demonstrate their understanding of, and be able to assess and explain, organisational structures, and critically assess theoretical underpinnings and motivations for effective leadership of public health/health care organisations.

Health Economics Stream: additional ILOs (reflecting PHM203 Economic Analysis for Health Policy and PHM204 Economic Evaluation)

- demonstrate their understanding of, and be able to assess and explain, health economics analysis for health policy-making and health systems management;
- demonstrate their understanding of, and be able to assess and explain, methods in the economic evaluation of health care interventions, and critically apply these methods to real world health problems.

Transferable knowledge and skills

Students will be able to:

- use problem solving skills in a range of situations;
- use fluent and effective communication and discussion skills in a written context;
- have a capacity to handle ideas and scrutinise information in critical, evaluative and analytical ways;
- manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines.

Students who pass the PHM1 modules will have the essential introduction to a variety of methods, approaches and concepts concerning public health. MSc students and those registered for the PGDip will study the PHM2 modules and have the opportunity to study specific selected modules offered by some of the other DL programmes. These modules build on the knowledge gained from studying the PHM1 modules. Students will choose from options that advance their knowledge in specific areas.

MSc students

MSc students may also apply the skills they have learnt to a particular problem in an area of their own interest if they elect to do a project report.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

Students are advised to work through the materials, participate in self-learning activities and engage in discussions that take place within the module forums on the Moodle site.

Students are supported by teaching staff who provide feedback through the use of the PH Moodle site. Students are encouraged to post academic questions for the attention of tutors involved in delivering each module.

Advice and practical information, such as study techniques, planning and preparation for assessment is available in the LSHTM programme-specific Student Handbook (which is available online to students after registration) and the [Academic Writing Handbook](#). Students manage their own learning and study schedule, but advice can be sought from the support team at any stage of the academic year.

Students may also communicate with each other via the module-specific discussion forums and via the Student Café forum on the Moodle site. Students will be able to engage in dialogue and develop and negotiate ideas and problem-solving with fellow students and teaching staff, which are key components in the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and transferable skills.

With the exception of PHM305 (Project), each module will be assessed by a time-limited examination and/or one or more assessed assignment(s). Students should check the [module specifications](#) for details of assessment method and the weighting of different assessment elements. Students opting to take the PHM305 project option, are required to submit a report for assessment.

Assessment criteria for the programme take into account the level at which these skills have been achieved.

Assessment methods

All examinations are scheduled using an online delivery method. You must ensure that your device is kept up to date and complies with [University Computer Requirements](#).

Wherever they are held, all examinations take place on the same dates and at specific times in line with the published timetables.

With the exception of PHM305 (Project), each module will be assessed by a time-limited assessment and/or one or more assessed assignment(s). Students should check the [module specifications](#) for details of assessment method and the weighting of different assessment elements.

The Project Report (MSc only) will be assessed by submission of one written report of up to 10,000 words. It should normally be submitted in the final year of the degree.

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

Full details of the dates of all examinations are available on the [University of London website](#).

Student support and guidance

The following summarises the support and guidance available to students:

- University of London [Student Guide](#): This provides information which is common to all students and gives guidance on a range of issues from the start of a student's relationship with the University of London through to their graduation.
- [Programme Regulations](#)
- [The Online Library](#): This provides 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
- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

Support and guidance from LSHTM

- The LSHTM online learning site (Moodle). This gives online access to the module materials (note if the module materials include a textbook, this will be made available to students. Textbooks will be supplied in e-format, where an e-version is available) module discussion forums, information on assignments, links to essential and

recommended readings (where available), past examination papers and examiner reports, and study skills' resources

- [LSHTM online library](#) resources
- LSHTM staff are available to offer help and advice on administrative matters. Programme Directors can also be contacted for personal advice e.g. planning studies, advice on elective module options. Communication may either be via the online 'Student Support Help' discussion forum on Moodle or by email, and sometimes by Skype if needed
- 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 specific modules, in the following ways:
 - assisting in interpreting and understanding the teaching materials by answering queries on the online discussion forums
 - grading and providing written feedback on the assignments
 - offering real-time 'webinars' in which students are encouraged to participate.
- The tutors are specialists in their subject area, and will change according to the module being followed at the time.
- A project supervisor works with students undertaking the project in the final year of the MSc.
- An LSHTM programme-specific Student Handbook, available on the LSHTM Moodle site, provides guidance on all aspects of the programme. It includes background information about the programme; advice on getting started, studying as a distance learner and organising study time; a description of the resources and programme materials available and how to access them; advice on networking and support issues; and details of procedures for assessment and examinations (including programme deadlines).

Students are encouraged to exchange ideas with other students on the programme and to organise mutual support via email or other forms of communication. An online discussion forum 'Student Cafe' is available within the LSHTM Moodle site which is accessible to students only, while individual contact details can be made available through the Student Network Directory (subject to student consent). This contains contact details of other students on the programme so students can build up their own network 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 Worldwide and University of London federation members. However, some of the flexible 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 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 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. 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. Details of any resulting actions taken are published on the Virtual Learning Environment and the Student Portal. The LSHTM also

collects feedback from DL students through annual module surveys. Data and comments from these are included within Annual Module Review and Action Plan documents and considered at the autumn Programme Committee meeting.

There are also opportunities for students to get involved in governance. An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University 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 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 programme can allow students to progress to a higher level qualification in the subject area.

Graduate employment routes

At registration students are asked to complete a small number of questions relating to where they are in their career planning. This data is used to assist with the implementation of employability strategies and interventions.

The Alumni Community

Upon finishing a course of study, graduates automatically become part 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](#)