



**UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON**

# Programme Specification 2023–2024

## Global Health Policy

MSc  
PGDip  
PGCert  
Individual courses

**Important document – please read**



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## Important information regarding the Programme Specification

Last revised 3 May 2023

### 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 2023-2024

No significant changes.

## **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 [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 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.

### **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**

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 study at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. An additional fee will be payable.

## **Programme structures**

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

- Four compulsory GHM1 modules; and

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either

- Five elective modules selected from a list of options and a 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 [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
<b>MSc</b>	Two years	Five years
<b>PGDip</b>	Two years	Five years
<b>PGCert</b>	One year	Five years
<b>Credit bearing individual modules</b>	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 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:

- 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

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- 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 a generic term for the process by which we recognise and, where appropriate, award credit for learning that has taken place at an institution other than the University of London. See the [LSHTM policy](#).

For the Global Health Policy programmes the LSHTM may recognise your prior learning. This can only be considered before applying for the programme.

### 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 [Entry Requirements](#) tab.

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 or MacOS 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
- Mac OS X 10.15 and higher (for some assessments MacOS Big Sur(version 11) as a minimum)

- CPUs newer than 2011 (Intel Sandy Bridge 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/courses 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 disabled students 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 have special educational needs or need access arrangements to assist in taking examinations, should complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the University of London's [Inclusive Practice Manager](#). A separate room or other arrangements may be considered.

Requests are considered by a University of London panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or special educational needs 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 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](#).

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## **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-specific 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, or studying the range of 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.

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## Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

The programme is delivered using a variety of study resources including lecture notes, a selection of essential and recommended readings, and study activities. Each module is made up of sessions.

Each session would usually contain:

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

All essential and some recommended readings are provided for each session in the Library section of each module area of the VLE, 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 the VLE in module specific web-based discussion forums. In this way, students can ask questions, engage in discussion, and develop and negotiate conclusions with others, which are key components in the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and transferable skills. Students are also invited to participate in 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 LSHTM programme-specific Student Handbook, available to students after registration on the GHM Student Zone on Moodle and 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. Advice can be sought from the 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 unseen written examinations.

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 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 examinations are 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 intellectual 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.

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## Assessment methods

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

Some GHM1 modules will be assessed solely by one two-hour 15 minute time-limited examination. Some GHM1 and GHM2 modules will be assessed by a combination of written assessed assignments or a written assignment and one two-hour 15-minute time-limited examination (in these modules the weighting between the examination and the assignment may vary). For further information on assessment and assessment weighting for particular modules, please check the relevant [Module Specification document](#).

The time-limited examinations 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.

## 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 examined in the same way as students studying for a full qualification.

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 information about matters of importance from the start of a student's relationship with the University of London through to their graduation.
- [Programme 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
- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

## Support and guidance from LSHTM

- The LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle). This gives online access to the main module materials (which may also be sent in hard copy, depending on the module), 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 Library - Online resources](#)
- LSHTM staff are available to offer help and advice on administrative matters. Programme administration staff will direct all other 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 written feedback on assignments

- offering optional real-time webinars in which students can participate.
- A project supervisor works with students undertaking GHM300 Project.
- An LSHTM programme-specific Student Handbook is available on the LSHTM VLE, Moodle, within the GHM Student Zone. 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, which is accessible to students only.
- 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).

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## Quality evaluation and enhancement

The University of London delivers the majority of its flexible 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 Framework, the [Quality Assurance Schedules, Guidelines for Examinations, General Regulations](#) and, for each programme, [programme specific regulations](#).

### Qualification standards

All University of London qualifications have to align with the [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies](#) to assure appropriate standards for each qualification. In addition, every 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 information statistics: prepared for all systematic reporting within the University of London;
- 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 up-to-date.

Improvements 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 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 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.

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## **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**

The programmes will be relevant both for those wishing to move into 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**

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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](#)