

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)	2024-25
Module Code	PHM216
Module Title	Sexual Health
Module Organiser(s)	David Reid
Contact email	<p>The LSHTM distance learning programmes and modules are run in collaboration with the University of London. Enquiries may be made via the Student Advice Centre.</p> <p>(Enquiries from face-to-face i.e. London-based the LSHTM MSc or research students regarding study of DL modules should be emailed to: distance@lshtm.ac.uk).</p>
Faculty	<p>Public Health & Policy: The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine</p> <p>Faculty of Public Health and Policy Faculties and MRC units LSHTM</p>
FHEQ Level	Level 7
Credit Value	CATS: 15 ECTS: 7.5
HECoS< Code	100621: 101307: 101317
Mode of Delivery	Distance Learning
Mode of Study	Directed self-study, through online materials (Virtual Learning Environment)
Language of Study	English
Pre-Requisites	<p>The module is recommended for students interested in studying sexual health from a public health perspective. It is recommended that students have some prior knowledge of research methods and health promotion. Students are therefore advised to take Principles of Social Research (PHM104) and Foundations for Health Promotion (PHM107) prior to taking this module, and it is recommended that non-Public Health students have knowledge of the topics covered by these modules.</p>

Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body	None
Module Cap (Maximum number of students)	None
Target Audience	<p>The module is recommended for students interested in studying sexual health from a public health perspective. It is recommended that students have some prior knowledge of research methods and health promotion. Public Health students are therefore advised to take Principles of Social Research (PHM104) and Foundations for Health Promotion (PHM107) prior to taking this module and it is recommended that non-Public Health students have knowledge of the topics covered by these modules.</p> <p>This module is available to students registered for the DL MSc and PGDip in Public Health. It is recommended for students studying the MSc in Public Health: General stream and Health Promotion streams. The module is also open to students on the DL PGDip/MSc Clinical Trials and Epidemiology programmes. Alternatively, it can also be taken as an individual module.</p>
Module Description	This module introduces students to concepts and methods in sexual health from a public health perspective and focuses on how to apply theoretical and empirical aspects of the study of sexual health to public health practice.
Duration	Studies for distance learning modules begin in early October. At this time, module materials will be made available on Moodle once fees have been paid. Students may start their studies at any time from the beginning of October and work through the material until the start of the June assessments. However, students are encouraged to commence their studies in October and work steadily through the materials over the course of the academic year and must adhere to other assessment submission deadlines.
Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)	April 2024

Programme(s) This module is linked to the following programme(s)	Status
MSc Public Health (General stream) (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended Elective

Programme(s)	Status
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
MSc Public Health: Health Promotion (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Recommended Elective
MSc Public Health: Environment and Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Services Management (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip/MSc Clinical Trials (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
MSc Public Health: Health Economics (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip Public Health (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective
PGDip/MSc Epidemiology (Distance Learning - University of London Worldwide)	Elective

Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

Overall aim of the module
<p>The overall module aim is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enable students to apply theory and evidence to address sexual health and public health practice.

Module Intended Learning Outcomes
<p>Upon successful completion of the module a student should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Describe and give examples of sexual health issues, and assess their implications for public health; Analyse risks of poor sexual health and explain causal associations; Describe and give examples of social, cultural and historical influences on sexual behaviour and their implications; Evaluate the influence of different factors related to the classification and measurement of sexual attitudes and behaviour, including political, ethical and research issues; Appraise a range of interventions designed to improve sexual health, including broad spectrum and community-based approaches.

Indicative Syllabus

Session Content

The module is expected to cover the following topics:

- Conceptual and theoretical aspects of sexual health;
- Risk and vulnerability;
- Interventions to improve sexual health;
- Evaluation of interventions to improve sexual health;
- Measuring and assessing sexual health status.

A number of topics cut across these themes:

- Understanding sexual behaviour (theoretical, conceptual and empirical issues);
- The regulation of sexual conduct;
- Historical, cultural, psychological, biological, political and technological influences on sexual attitudes and behaviour;
- Trends in sexual mores and their implications for public health;
- Implications of stigma, sensitivities and taboos for practice of sexual health interventions;
- Pitfalls and possibilities for intervention, research and evaluation.

Teaching and Learning

Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Directed self-study	120	80
Self-directed learning	0	0
Assessment, review and revision	30	20
Total	150	100

Teaching and Learning Strategy

Learning is via directed self-study. A guide to studying the module is provided, together with access to a range of study resources, discussion forums and online webinar discussion sessions. Each session involves reading one or more chapters from the textbook, then completing a learning activity. The textbook that supports this module provides a detailed set of learning objectives at the start of each chapter, and also offers focused reading and various learning activities. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussions and online webinar discussion sessions to obtain tutor support, and to make use of the LSHTM on-line library resources. Written feedback is provided on submitted assignments.

Students may choose to participate in two Moodle-based activities (a content analysis of a sexual health website and a journal club) over the course of the year. Students are also strongly encouraged to participate in the module-specific discussions and real-time tutorials available on Moodle to obtain tutor support, and to make use of the LSHTM online library resources. In addition, written feedback is provided on submitted assignments.

Assessment

Assessment Strategy

This module is assessed via one required summative assessed assignment worth 30% of the student's mark and a summative time-limited assessment that is worth 70% of the student's mark.

Summative assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Length	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Assessed Assignment	Please see the Assignment Instructions for details.	30	All
Time-limited assessment	TBC	70	All

The 30% summative assignment for this module can be submitted only once annually, no later than **31 March** (including resits) and must be submitted via the online Assignment Management System.

Time-limited assessments for DL modules are held once a year, usually in June (including resits).

Assessments are held in accordance with University of London's annual guidance but in 2024-25 they are likely to be held online.

Please note that a separate assessment fee may be payable in addition to the module fee. Further details will be communicated as soon as the final decisions are known.

Resitting assessment

Resits will accord with the LSHTM's [Resits Policy](#).

The Resit assessment will be the same assessment type as the first attempt (see previous table).

Resources

The following materials are provided to students after registration and fee payment for this module in October:

- A brief guide to studying the module
- The textbook *Sexual Health: A Public Health Perspective* by Kaye Wellings, Kirstin Mitchell and Martine Collumbien;
- Additional relevant materials including selected peer-reviewed articles;
- Access to the LSHTM Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) - Moodle, where students can access a range of materials, including the materials listed above; participate in module-specific discussion forums and online webinar discussion sessions and access the LSHTM online library resources;

All other materials may be accessed via the LSHTM VLE – Moodle.

Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to the majority of the module learning materials, including a study guide and online reading list (detailing both essential and recommended readings), and additional resources including supplementary exercises and optional lecture recordings. In some cases, module materials include a textbook that is made available to students in e-format. All materials posted up on Moodle areas, including computer-based sessions, have been made accessible where possible. The LSHTM Moodle has been made accessible to the widest possible audience, using a VLE that allows for up to 300% zoom, permits navigation via keyboard and use of speech recognition software, and that allows listening through a screen reader. All students have access to "[SensusAccess](#)" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

For students with special needs, reasonable adjustments and support can be arranged – details and how to request support can be found on the University of London Worldwide website at: [Inclusive practice and Access arrangements | University of London](#)